



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
CHRISTOPHER GRAU
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: August 5, 2020 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Christopher Grau, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Clay Uzell, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Feronne Williams, Administrative Coordinator
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mel Baher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda and to accept the agenda with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

AMVETS Post 80 Events

- I submitted the financial reports for the post.

Other Activities

- During July I attended the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC.
- I worked with a veteran's sister to help with issues at the funeral home.

Bob Potts – VVA

- I attended all CCVSC meetings for the month.
- I am working with the Board of VVA Chapter 249 to determine how to proceed during the pandemic.
- VVA Chapter 249 meetings will not return until September 2020.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- July 1st - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- July 15th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 20th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting which was held outdoors. Masks were worn and social distancing guidelines were followed. New year upcoming programs were discussed.
- July 22nd – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

Note: I referred two veterans to the CCVSC while out at the store.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- July 1st - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- July 15th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- July 22nd – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

Note: DAV Chapter 108 – No meetings until 9/17/2020 due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Note: JVS of Lakewood/Rocky River – Scheduled meetings will resume in January 2021.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of July 2020. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of June 2020.
- Wednesday, July 1st – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 469, Memphis Ave., Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m., and I presented the executive board approved May 2020 Finance report, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, July 9th – I conducted the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting as Post Commander. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with minutes of previous meetings approved, a finance report was presented to the body, a membership report was given, and an activities report was presented. The canteen will be open from 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. during the month of July. A St. Pat's Day in July is planned for July 17th, with corned beef sandwiches, Rueben's and Slyman's stackers on the menu.
- Thursday, July 23rd – As Post Commander, I conducted the Post 91 Executive Board meeting. Updated reports were given and new canteen hours were discussed and approved for August 2020.
- Monday, July 27th – Due to the COVID 19 pandemic I participated in a virtual American Legion 13th District Executive board meeting at 7:30 p.m. I presented the June 2020 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.

OLD BUSINESS:

The new county vehicle purchase is in progress. The county has authorized contacting the dealer to get the process started.

Employees with more than the maximum amount of vacation time, per county policy, can either donate it to a vacation 'bank' or lose the time. The Executive Director will give each employee the option.

Child only applications will no longer be taken. The veteran must apply in person for the child. A new policy will be written and presented at the next Board meeting.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to accept the report of the Executive Director with the necessary corrections and/or additions.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to approve new Social Media/Social Networking policy dated August 5, 2020 to become effective once it's reviewed with the union.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Funeral home packets will be developed to send to funeral homes in the area explaining what the VSC can do for deceased veterans and benefits that the deceased or the family may be eligible for.

The Executive Director will develop and implement a survey for the funeral homes to determine if any changes should be made to the indigent burial policy.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Frank Pocci reported that all post activities have been postponed until further notice. Membership fees will also cover 2020 memberships.

Clay Uzell attended a funeral at Rittman Cemetery for Robert Poole. Mr. Poole served as the VFW State Commander and was also a Veteran Service Officer.

Chris Grau reported that post meetings will resume in September.

Mel Baher reported that American Legion Post 91 is now open for activities while observing state mandated regulations regarding social distancing, etc.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and certain personnel matters.


AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:23 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:58 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed Collective Bargaining and certain personnel matters.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to change Feronne Williams from Administrative Coordinator to Deputy Director, effective August 17, 2020.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.


Mel Baher, President


Frank Pocci, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance/
Filing claims with the Dept. of
Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Charlene Amos, Service Officer Mgr. (216-698-3831)
Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)
Larry Amato, Financial Operations Mgr. (216-698-2391)
Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)

Finance Dept.:
Executive Director:
Commissioners: