



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
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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Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: August 19, 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
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Feronne Williams, Deputy Director

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 Chris Grau 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.

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)

A motion was made by Chris Grau and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the report of the Executive Director, as given.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made to modify the indigent burial application. The application will be updated from \$999 in assistance to \$1,000. The total allowable cost of the indigent funeral will be updated from up to \$4,925 to up to \$7,500.

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

The Executive Director will prepare and distribute a memo to staff regarding child only applications. A child only application may only be submitted by the veteran. The VSC will no longer accept applications from the child's mother/father without the veteran present.

The Executive Director has been authorized to use any remaining budget in client services to purchase food and clothing cards by the end of the year.

An SOP will be created regarding mail distribution and sent to all staff for review.

The VSC will maintain the current COVID 19 schedule, with occasional modifications, until further notice.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board of Commissioners has authorized the Deputy Director to attend classes to obtain a Certificate in Public and Nonprofit Leadership for Veterans. The cost will come from the training budget.

The agenda for Board meetings will now be posted on the VSC Facebook page and VSC website the Monday prior to each open public meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The VA has proposed compensation assistance for caregivers.

Frank Pocci has requested shopping carts for food banks. Beginning next week Commissioner Pocci will distribute the shopping carts. The food bank will verify veteran status.

Bob Potts reported that a picture from the Veteran of the Year ceremony was posted in the Department of Veteran Services newsletter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and matters to be kept confidential.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:19 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:18 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed matters to be kept confidential and collective bargaining.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 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:

Finance Dept.:

Executive Director:

Deputy Director:

Commissioners:

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)

Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)

Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)