



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

Cuyahoga County

Veterans Service Commission

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Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us

1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: January 20, 2021 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chris Grau, President.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts 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 completed the financial reports for December for Post 80 and presented the details at the monthly meeting.
- No other in person meetings were scheduled.

Other Activities

- During December I attended the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC either in person or via Zoom.
- I participated in negotiation sessions at the VSC.

Bob Potts – VVA

- November 25th – Attended WWII veteran’s funeral.

- December 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 9th - The scheduled meeting was cancelled as there were no appeals.
- December 12th – Attended a Navy veteran’s funeral.
- December 16th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 16th – Referred a Vietnam veteran for a compensation claim.
- December 23rd – Meeting cancelled for Christmas holiday.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- December 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting via Zoom.
- December 7th – Remembering Pearl Harbor Day.
- December 8th – Sent the winner information for the State law Enforcement/Firefighter/EMT for National Citations to VFW Nationals.
- December 9th - The scheduled meeting was cancelled as there were no appeals.
- December 16th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting via Zoom.
- December 18th – VFW State post participants and District 7 have plaques made for State Law Enforcement/Firefighter/EMT winners and participant District 7 winners. Plaques from Mentor Post 9295 and fire/EMT from No. Olmsted Post 7646.
- December 30th – Conducted VFW Memorial Service for life member Cliff Campana, Lyndhurst Post 7536 held at St. Pascal’s Church, Highland Hts. Five members participated.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of December 2020. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of December 2020.
- Sunday, December 6th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council on-line virtual meeting at 10:00 a.m. I presented the executive board approved October 2019 Finance report as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, December 10th – 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. Under Good of the Legion, planned activities for January 2021 were discussed and finalized.
- Wednesday, December 23rd – As Post Commander, I conducted the Post 91 Executive Board meeting. After all updated reports were given, a discussion was held concerning planned events for November. The board approved the reverse raffle for January 30, 2021.
- Monday, December 28th – I attended the District Executive board on-line virtual meeting at 7:30 p.m. I presented the November 2020 finance report for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- December 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting via Zoom.
- December 9th – The scheduled meeting was cancelled as there was no appeals.
- December 16th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting via Zoom.

Note: There is no DAV Chapter 108 meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for 01/15/2021.

The Joint Veterans Council (JVC) of Lakewood & Rocky River next meeting is scheduled for 01/12/2021.

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT

Next report February 17, 2021

OLD BUSINESS:

Additional masks will be purchased for staff by the Executive Director.

NEW BUSINESS:

An updated organization chart was presented by the Executive Director for approval. Changes included updating the Commissioner’s elected offices.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2021-01 for the purchase of Feedback Now, a customer service feedback system, not to exceed the total amount of \$6,000.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2021-02 for the purchase of an advertising agreement with DD214 Chronicle for six (6) months of advertising, not to exceed \$4,000.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to ratify the final tentative agreement with AFSCME. The contract will now go to County Council for final approval prior to taking effect.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Chris Grau and Frank Pocci both stated that all organization meetings have been cancelled for the month of January due to COVID 19 concerns.

Mel Baher stated that vaccines are being offered at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Interested citizens must register prior to the vaccine date.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss certain personnel matter, employment, and collective bargaining.

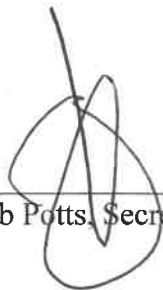
AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:03 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:04 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed certain personnel matter regarding employment and matters of collective bargaining.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

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


Chris Grau, President


Bob Potts, 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)
- Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)
- Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)

Finance Dept.:
Executive Director:
Deputy Director:
Commissioners: