



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

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650  
Email: [vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us)  
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

### MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** November 19, 2020 10:00 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Mel Baher, President  
Christopher Grau, Vice President  
Bob Potts, Commissioner  
Clay Uzell, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director  
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary

**EXCUSED:** Frank Pocci, Secretary  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

**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 Clay Uzell 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, Potts, Uzell. **NAYS:** None. Motion carried.

#### **STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)**

Suspended until the December 2, 2020 meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Client procedures have been revised due to COVID-19. In order to take advantage of training opportunities during this time, the new hires scheduled for 2021 will be moved up to December 7, 2020.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Veterans who did not live in Cuyahoga County upon death but did live in the county for most of their life, may be considered for county owned burial plots upon death. Circumstances will be evaluated by the Board of Commissioners and/or the Executive Director and a decision will be made.

Employee schedules will be determined by the Executive Director and/or the Board of Commissioners. At this time, overtime will convert to comp time for staff and exchange time for management.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Clay Uzell asked how Veteran Service Officers were updated on changes with the VA. Information regarding payment for caregivers of WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War was available in a VFW publication, but the managers were unaware of the change. Per the Executive Director, it is the manager's responsibility to stay up to date on all changes with the VA.

Chris Grau stated that the DAV cancelled upcoming meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for January.

Mel Baher stated that there was a small COVID-19 outbreak at Post 91. The post will be closed until November 30<sup>th</sup> to clean and sanitize.

Jon Reiss explained that, although the current report shows a 1.9-million-dollar variance, 1.2 million in expenses has already been sent to the county. The actual variance is closer to \$700,000. Mr. Reiss is working with the county to encumber the remaining balance for the VSC capital fund.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Chris Grau to go into Executive Session to discuss a certain personnel matters –compensation.


AYES: Baher, Grau, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:22 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:20 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed certain personnel matters regarding employment compensation. Longevity bonuses will be scheduled per the collective bargaining agreement.

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

AYES: Baher, Grau, 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)

Finance Dept.:

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Executive Director:

Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)

Deputy Director:

Commissioners:

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