



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

## Cuyahoga County

### Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### MINUTES

DATE/TIME: December 2, 2020 10:00 a.m.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to suspend the reading of the Commissioner's Reports until the next meeting.

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 with the necessary corrections and/or additions.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Executive Director updated the Commissioners on fiscal outstanding expenses and the projected budget surplus. Mr. Reiss is working with the county to encumber the remaining balance for the VSC capital fund.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Frank Pocci reported that he was contacted by the food bank where he delivered shopping carts. Mr. Pocci was asked if a cart could be given to the spouse of a veteran. It was also reported that two of the carts broke. He will reach out to determine if the carts were overloaded or defective.

Bob Potts reported that he heard from the son of a veteran. The son was very happy with the service he received, wanted to let Mr. Potts know the VSC process was working, and thank the Commission.

**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 and employment, matters of collective bargaining, and Level III appeals.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:52 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:00 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed certain personnel matters regarding employment and compensation, matters of collective bargaining, and Level III Appeals.

President Mel Baher stated that the Board considered six (6) client appeals today.

The votes for further assistance, recorded by the Secretary, of the client appeals that were discussed in Executive Session, are attached.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell for Terrence Ness to assume the responsibilities of the Financial Operations Manager for a period of 90 days. The position will be re-evaluated at that time.

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

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Chris Grau to increase the maximum salary of the Executive Director.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to increase the salary of Service Manager, Charlene Amos, effective immediately.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to increase the salary of the Deputy Director, Feronne Williams, effective immediately.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to increase non-bargaining salaries for 2021, effective final pay of 2020. The approved increase is 4% for those below the position maximum and 2% for those at or above the position maximum.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 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)  
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: