



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

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

MINUTES

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

PRESENT: Frank Pocci, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Mel Baher, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Mark Musson, Assistant County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Christopher Grau, President
Clay Uzell, Commissioner

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Frank Pocci, Vice President.

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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, Pocci, Potts. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

AMVETS Post 80 Events

- I completed the financial reports for Post 80 but was unable to attend the meeting held on October 5th.
- The honor guard will continue to perform funeral honors at the National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.
- We now meet at the Walton Hills City Hall.

Other Activities

- ITAM Post 34 held their regular meeting during September.
- The Catholic War Veterans have decided to continue operating for the time being as a significant number of members attended the last meeting in September.
- I referred a veteran who has type 2 diabetes to one of our Service Officers at the CCVSC to file for an increase in compensation.

- The AMVETS Department of Ohio is holding their fall conference at the Crown Plaza in Columbus, Ohio - October 14th through the 17th.

WASHINGTON – Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough said on October 5th that the department will embark on designing a new integrated access and care coordination model to better deliver seamless care.

The VA's top priority is providing veterans timely access to high-quality care. With implementation, we remain laser-focused on getting veterans the right care, at the right time, in the manner that works best to meet the needs, preferences, and safety during pandemic conditions.

The first phase involves realigning the financial functions of Community Care under the Veterans Health Administrations' Office of Finance and beginning the design of the new integrated access and care coordination model.

The second phase will include the realignment of the Office of Community Care and Office of Veterans Access to Care, establishing oversight for the completion and implementation of the integrated access and care coordination model.

The third phase will include deploying the integrated access and care coordination in the field, with nationwide training of involved staff. The VA will make iterative adjustments to the model based on veteran and employee feedback.

Bob Potts – VVA

- September 1st – I attended the CCVSC Open Public and Level III Appeal meeting.
- September 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.
- September 15th – CCVSC Open Public meeting - cancelled.
- September 16th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting.
- September 22nd - I attended the CCVSC Open Public and Level III Appeal meeting.
- September 29th – I attended the CCVSC Open Public and Level III Appeal meeting.

Clay Uzell – VFW

Excused.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of August 2021. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of August 2021.
- Wednesday, August 4th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Thursday, August 12th – I conducted the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting as Post Commander.
- Monday, August 23rd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive meeting held at American Legion Post 469 in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Thursday, August 26th – As Post Commander, I conducted the Post 91 Executive Board meeting.
- Friday, August 27th – I departed for Phoenix, AZ to attend the American Legion National Convention.
- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of September 2021. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of September 2021.
- Sunday, September 5th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council Fall Conference held at American Legion Post 703 in Parma, Ohio.
- Thursday, September 9th – I conducted the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting as Post Commander.

- Thursday, September 23rd – As Post Commander, I conducted the Post 91 Executive Board meeting.
- Monday, September 27th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Executive board meeting held at American Legion Post 703 in Parma, Ohio.
- Christopher Grau – DAV
- September 1st – I attended the CCVSC Open Public and Level III Appeal meeting.
- September 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal meeting.
- September 10th – I attended the ‘Lone Sailor’ Dedication (USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation) at the Great Lakes Science Center.
- September 12th – I participated in the Never Forget 9/11 20th Anniversary Ceremony at Veterans Park in Brook Park, Ohio. The Metroparks ‘cancelled’ the processional ride to Edgewater Park in Cleveland because of a horse show in the parking lot. I rode independently to visit the Ohio Flags of Honor display.
- September 15th – CCVSC Open Public meeting - cancelled.
- September 16th – DAV Chapter 108 meeting – cancelled.
- September 16th – I attended the DAV 6th District Meeting held at the Summit County VSC. This was the first meeting since October 2019.
- September 22nd – I attended the CCVSC Open Public and Level III Appeal meeting.
- September 24th – I attended the DAV Chapter 108 Executive meeting.

Note: JVC of Lakewood/Rocky River – the next scheduled meeting is 1/12/2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

J. Reiss briefed the Board on the first meeting with the developers. Required spaces and potential size of each space was discussed. The architect will put floor plans together for review and discussion at the next meeting with the developers.

The Executive team will visit possible spaces for relocation during renovations and brief the Board at the next meeting.

J. Reiss has directed the Financial Operations Manager to contact moving companies to get quotes for moving and storing office furniture and supplies during the renovation.

The procurement process will continue as-is until the Executive Director can meet with the County Fiscal Department.

The County has fleet vehicles that the VSC can use during renovations to travel from space to space.

Action Items:

1. Website electronic submissions – work in progress.
2. Advertising/Marketing/Social Media – work in progress.
3. Contract with Clemons, Nelson and Associates – work in progress. J. Reiss submitted a modified contract for review.
4. Garage cleaning – the garage will be fully cleaned during renovations.
5. Quick Series – waiting on quotes.
6. Car purchase program – put on hold until after renovations.
7. Warrior Serve – put on hold until after renovations.
8. Wall Calendars/last burial rights folders – waiting on quotes.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss a certain personnel matter – employment, and a client case and appeal.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:49 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:02 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed certain personnel matters regarding compensation, and a client case file.

The votes for further assistance, recorded by the Secretary, of the client appeal that was discussed in Executive Session, is attached.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to sanction A. Green for one year due to aggressive and threatening behavior.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to remove a probationary employee, as discussed in Executive Session.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

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



Frank Pocci, Vice President



Bob Potts, 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)

Terrance Ness, Financial Supervisor (216-698-2391)

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)

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

