



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**CHRISTOPHER GRAU**  
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**JAMES RILEY**  
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

### MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** March 2, 2022 9:30 a.m.

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

**EXCUSED:** Mark Musson, Assistant County Prosecutor

**VISITORS:** None.

**PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING/LEVEL III BOARD APPEALS

The meeting was called to order by Frank Pocci, 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.) One item was set aside for Executive Session.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Executive Director, Jon Reiss, updated the Board on the building construction. The owners are waiting for the final drawings so they can start the heavy construction. It will be at least two months before we must vacate the Prospect building.

There is no update on the new building. The offer was accepted, but County Council has not voted on the purchase yet. J. Reiss was instructed to meet with J. Nanni regarding any updates.

The Director and Deputy Director continue to explore options for temporary relocation during heavy construction.

The Board updated the VSC COVID protocol. Masks will be recommended, but not required. Clients and staff are free to make their own decision.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2022-01 for the purchase of boots and shoes for the Homeless Stand Down, providing support services for the veterans of Cuyahoga County who are experiencing homelessness, expenses not to exceed and agency total of \$20,000.

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

The VSC FMLA Policy has been updated with new contact information.

J. Reiss and F. Williams will begin drafting the 2023 Budget. Mr. Reiss has been notified that the County has shown an increase in property tax collections which will in turn increase the 2023 Budget.

Staffing levels were discussed. The VSC is currently at 25 full-time employees and will increase to 28. The Director was instructed to budget for 32 as numbers rise post-COVID.

Deputy Director Williams presented a new program he referred to as a COVID reset. Many Americans, including veterans, failed to use the government assistance provided during COVID to pay their day to day expenses because of forbearances, etc. Many are behind now and facing potential homelessness. The VSC will work with veterans to reset their finances by bringing them up to date. Compliance letters will be issued. The veteran will be required to comply with the items listed in order to receive future assistance.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

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

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:27 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed certain personnel matters regarding discipline/employment and client case and appeals review. The Executive Director was advised how to proceed.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to terminate W. Vissi, as discussed in Executive Session.


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

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

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



Frank Pocci, President



Mel Baher, 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)

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)

Finance Dept.:

Executive Director:

Deputy Director:

Commissioners: