



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
CHRISTOPHER GRAU
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
JAMES RILEY
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650

Email: vsccmail@cuyahogacounty.us

1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FERONNE WILLIAMS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: April 20, 2022 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Christopher Grau, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director – arrived at 10:55 a.m.
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 Jim Riley 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, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Employees will be relocated during the heavy drilling stage of construction. Relocation options have yet to be finalized. The county leased building on Fulton Ave. will likely host the administrative staff. They currently are not allowing in office interviews. Veterans Service Officers are expected to be located at local libraries.

Public works will be working with the Prospect Ave. owner to negotiate the lease. If the VSC enters a long-term lease with the Fulton Ave. location, rent will be discussed.

The Executive Director attended the County Council meeting today to ask for approval for the purchase of the new headquarters building in order to finalize the purchase by the April 27, 2022 closing date.

The Deputy Director briefed the Board on the new car program. F. Williams has been working with two credit unions who have agreed to work with veterans on financing options. Carvana and Carmax are also on board. Both are willing to accept the VSC vouchers and release the car immediately. They also agreed to provide an extended warranty.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2022-04 for the advertising agreement with Fox8 for the Veterans Service Commission to support the VetConnect event. The agreement is a multi-platform advertising campaign specifically for the VetConnect event, expenses will not exceed \$10,000.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2022-05 for the advertising agreement with Channel 19/WOIO for the Veterans Service Commission to support the VetConnect event. The agreement is a multi-platform advertising campaign specifically for the VetConnect event, expenses will not exceed \$10,000.

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

The Cleveland VA inquired about space for women veteran's training. Commissioner Baher and Commissioner Riley will check with their post about hosting.

J. Reiss presented options for a new VSC challenge coin. The Board made the decision to keep the current design but requested the Space Force logo and the VSC 800 number be added to the coin.

The Board discussed a pilot program to include an attorney and a mentor coordinator for the veterans' courts. More research will be done, and information will be presented to the Board at a future date.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Pocci informed everyone that service connected reservists can now be buried in the national cemeteries and shop at the Exchange.

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.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:04 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:34 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed certain personnel matters regarding employment. The Director and Deputy Director were advised how to proceed.

A motion was made by Mel Baher by Bob Potts to authorize the Director to bring on Carly Wilder in the roll of Veterans Service Officer, with a probationary period of one (1) year.

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

The Board accepted Laura Scullin's resignation, with regrets, effective May 3, 2022.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

AYES: Baher, 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:

Finance Dept.:

Executive Director:

Deputy Director:

Commissioners:

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)