



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**VACANT**  
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**JAMES RILEY**  
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FERONNE WILLIAMS**  
DEPUTY 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: February 22, 2023 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING/LEVEL III APPEALS

The meeting was called to order by Bob Potts, President.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The board reviewed and discussed updated plans for the new building. The Executive Director was advised on how to proceed.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to go out of the regular order of business to discuss items for Executive Session; to consider the appointment/employment of a public employee, to consider the discipline of a public employee, and to discuss client cases and appeals. Motion seconded by James Riley.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried (9:30 a.m.)

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:03 a.m. In Executive Session the Board considered the appointment/employment of a public employee and the discipline of a public employee, discussed the option of a forensic accountant, and client cases and appeals.

A motion was made by Jim Riley to authorize the Deputy Director to bring on Mercedes Hester in the role of Operations Specialist, with a probationary period of six (6) months. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher to proceed with the dismissal of a T. Ness. Motion seconded by Jim Riley.  
Discussion: None.

YES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley. Abstain: None. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

The votes for further assistance, recorded by the Secretary, of the client cases and appeals that were discussed in Executive Session, are attached. The Executive Director and Deputy Director were instructed on how to proceed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Veterans Service Commission's organizational structure was discussed at length. The decision has been made to appoint Deputy Director, Feronne Williams, over daily operations. Mr. Williams will report to Executive Director, Jon Reiss.

The topic of forensic accountant was moved to Executive Session.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2023-02 to purchase up to 250 flag cases for the clients of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission Flag Case Program. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Frank Pocci stated that after discussing flag protocol at a previous post meeting, he also mentioned that residents could turn in their old, damaged flags for a new flag from the commission. The response he received has been very positive.

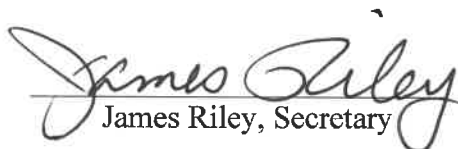
With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Riley and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

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



---

Bob Potts, President



---

James Riley, Secretary

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Financial Assistance Manager:

Executive Director:

Deputy Director:

Commissioners:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Jeanne Bell (216)-698-2635

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)

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