



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

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: March 1, 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
Matt Convery, Assistant County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: Len Vidmer

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING/LEVEL III APPEALS

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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). Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

STATE OF COMMISSION FINANCE REPORT:

A motion was made by Mel Baher to accept the State of Commission Finance Report, presented by the Executive Director, with the necessary corrections and/or additions. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Position descriptions for the Executive Director and Deputy Director were presented. Several changes were suggested. The Board will look over the descriptions and discuss the final changes at the next meeting.

The Executive Director presented a letter regarding Ohio's Homestead Act, that will be sent to all Veterans Service Commissions asking for their support. A signature line will be added to the letter, and it will be signed by the President of the Board at the next meeting. The hope is that all counties will send their support to lawmakers.

The bill to change the procedures for appointing a commissioner to the Ohio Veterans Service Commissions (HB 69) has been submitted with updates. It is believed that the bill has gained traction. The Executive Director will compose a letter to each Veterans Service Commission to make sure the bill is understood.

The safe policy will be reviewed after a few months with the current structure. The board would like to wait until it is determined how the current organization structure is working prior to making any changes.

Director Reiss reviewed design options with the board. Choices will be relayed to the designer in the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jon Reiss presented a draft of the 2024 budget. The board will review the draft and it will be discussed at a future meeting.

Vacation accruals for new employees were discussed. Employees with prior service in OPERS may not transfer vacation hours, but they are able to transfer sick hours and prior service credit will be used for vacation accrual purposes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Riley stated that his VFW post will be hosting a Vietnam Veterans event in June.

Mel Baher requested that a Service Officer attend Post 91's event on Sunday, March 5th.

Bob Potts asked if there was help for veterans to draft wills at the VA. Matthew Convery stated that LOD, Legal Operations Detachment, offers free legal help to veterans and their spouses.

Frank Pocci requested dog tags for several post members. Mr. Pocci was given a supply of dog tag information cards. Once they are returned, the dog tags will be issued. He also stated that he spoke to a veteran who had moved to Virginia and was told he was not eligible to use the VA hospital for 6 months. Commissioner Pocci was informed that the information the veteran received was incorrect. Veterans should be able to go to their local VA hospital with no waiting period.

J. Reiss stated that the VA is discussing changes the VISN structure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher to go into Executive Session to consider the compensation of a public employee. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

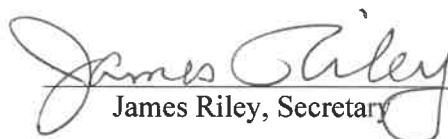
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:10 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:59 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed vacation accruals. The Deputy Director was advised on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Riley to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

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:
Finance/Operations Manager:
Executive Director:
Deputy Director:
Commissioners:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)
Jeanne Bell (216)-698-2635
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)