



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCI**  
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: April 19, 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  
Matthew Convery, Assistant County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Jon Reiss presented the 2024 Budget for discussion. Changes were recommended.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to accept the 2024 Budget with changes/corrections. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

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

The Deputy Director presented options for the transfer of vacation hours for new hires that were OPERS employees. After discussion it was decided that a resolution will be presented at the next meeting for a recently transferred employee and a policy will be drafted for future employees who request to bring their vacation time over.

Director Reiss sent a letter to the RTA regarding the all-day tickets that will be expiring and the Veteran Ride Free Program. There are no updates at this time.

Mr. Reiss sent a letter to County Council regarding budget shortfalls for the new headquarters project. There has been no response yet.

Also discussed were clients who wish to address the Board. If a client requests to address the Board and personal information is likely to be disclosed, it should be in Executive Session. If there is no Executive Session scheduled, the client can opt to present his/her case on public record or wait until the next meeting with an Executive Session.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to go out of the regular order of business for client cases and appeals, to consider compensation and employment of a public employee, to consider employment of a public employee, and to discuss strategy in preparation for collective bargaining negotiations. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

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

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher to go into Executive Session for client cases and appeals, to discuss fraud/misrepresentation procedures, to consider compensation and employment of a public employee, to consider employment of a public employee, and to discuss strategy in preparation for collective bargaining negotiations. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:20 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 12:52 p.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed client cases and appeals, considered compensation and employment of a public employee, and discussed strategy in preparation for collective bargaining negotiations.

A motion was made by Jim Riley to increase the salary of Deputy Director Feronne Williams, due to increased responsibilities, effective March 10, 2023. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to return to the regular order of business and discuss New Business and Good of the Order. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Pocci stated that the change in reporting structure seems to be going well. He also asked that individual meetings between the executive team and the commissioners be scheduled regularly during the first meeting of each month and emphasized that if an individual from the executive team would like to address the Board at any time, they are welcome.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

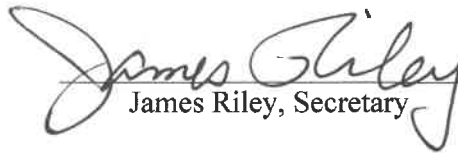
Commissioner Baher suggested the board members go back to reporting their monthly activity outside the VSC. Reports will be given at the first meeting of each month and recorded in the meeting minutes.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 1:03 p.m. Motion seconded by Mel Baher.

YES: 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)