



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

## Cuyahoga County

### Veterans Service Commission

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Email: [vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us)

1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FERONNE WILLIAMS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

### MINUTES

DATE/TIME:

July 26<sup>19</sup>, 2023

9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Bob Potts, President  
Mel Baher, Vice President  
James Riley, Secretary  
Frank Pocchi, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director  
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary – Via Teams  
Matthew Convery, Assistant County Prosecutor

EXCUSED:

None.

VISITORS:

None.

PURPOSE:

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The lease for the Prospect building includes a contingency fund for changes and/or upgrades throughout the terms of the lease. The Executive Director was notified that there is no money left in the contingency fund. The director reached out to Public Works to contact the landlord to find out where the funds were spent.

There is no update on the new headquarters building. We are waiting for the design team to come back with the requested revisions.

A motion was made by Frank Pocchi to move \$1,000,000 to the Capital Fund to fund the Veterans Service Commission headquarters buildout. Motion seconded by James Riley.

AYES: Baher, Pocchi, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Discussion: None.

Jon Reiss was directed to create a binder with all correspondence regarding the headquarters buildout in order to keep track of the updates.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2023-04 for the advertising agreement with Channel 19 to support the VetConnect event. The agreement is a multi-platform advertising campaign specifically for the VetConnect Event. Not to exceed \$10,000. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Discussion: None.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2023-05 for the advertising agreement with FOX8 to support the VetConnect event. The agreement is a multi-platform advertising campaign specifically for the VetConnect Event. Not to exceed \$10,000. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Discussion: None.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Commissioner Pocci attended a Catholic War Veterans meeting. Mr. Pocci gave each person in attendance a 'goodie bag' full of VSC information and items. Mr. Pocci also informed the attendees that the VSC provides flag cases for the families of deceased veterans. The members were very appreciative.

Jim Riley announced that, on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the VFW in North Ridgeville is hosting a BBQ, open to the public, to benefit Purple Heart Homes. He also mentioned that he will be at Rittman Cemetery for Color Guard.

Commissioner Riley will also be a part of honoring Revolutionary War soldiers with unmarked graves by taking part in the Color Guard.


**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to prepare for collective bargaining strategy. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:12 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:13 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed preparations for collective bargaining.

With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Riley to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 a.m. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. 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:  
Financial Operations Manager:  
Executive Director:  
Deputy Director:  
Commissioners:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)  
Jeanne Bell (216-698-2635)  
Colleen Kehoe (216-698-2392)  
Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)  
Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)  
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)