



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
AJ THOMPSON
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
JAMES RILEY
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FERONNE WILLIAMS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: August 17, 2023 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President
Mel Baher, Vice President
James Riley, Secretary
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
AJ Thompson, 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.

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, Thompson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Thompson. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:32 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 9:53 a.m. In Executive Session the Board met with a candidate for employment.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to authorize the Deputy Director to bring on Kimberly Dumas in the position Financial Service Officer, with a probationary period of one (1) year, effective September 6, 2023. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

STATE OF COMMISSION FINANCE REPORT

Jon Reiss presented the State of Commission Finance Report. The report was discussed, and changes/updates were suggested by the Board.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to accept the finance report with the necessary corrections and/or additions. Motion seconded by AJ Thompson. Discussion: No further discussion.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The new building is at a stalemate. The design team is unable to move forward until a decision is made as to where the additional funds, to fully fund the project, will come from.

The Executive team walked through the Fulton location in order to determine what space may be available for the VSC. The move will take place as soon as possible, once additional information is available.

2023 VetConnect will be cancelled due to the uncertainty of the VSC temporary location. VetConnect will be planned for the Spring of 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

A small event will be planned for later in the fall to distribute winter coats because VetConnect is being cancelled. Coats will be distributed to homeless veterans first and then at a Saturday event for all veterans.

Holiday turkey/ham certificates were discussed. The Board asked the Executive Director to gather information on the cost of a complete holiday meal in lieu of the certificates.

The Board discussed the purchase of flags for Memorial Day 2024. Flags will be ordered as soon as possible and stored in storage units. This will eliminate any last-minute problems with delivery for Memorial Day.

F. Williams introduced the idea of financial assistance for day care costs. Many parents are unable to afford to pay for day care while they look for employment. A. Reale researched options and the VSC will consider covering the cost of day care for two months - one month for the job search and one to complete the paperwork for the Family Services day care assistance application process. The client must work with Ohio Means Jobs for the employment search. If the client meets all requirements, the VSC may consider a third month of assistance.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Employee T. Delaney reported to the Board that she has been working with Commissioner Thompson and a support group at his Post for veterans who have suffered from military trauma (MST, PTSD). Ms. Delaney discussed triggers and coping skills. While at the support group there was a lot of positive feedback regarding the VSC. Veterans mentioned the differences between the 'old' VSC and the current VSC. Veterans expressed how it is now a whole new experience to come to the VSC, and that veterans owe it to themselves to come down and see what can be done for them.

Commissioner Thompson mentioned that he is working with area banks to help veterans with barriers. Mr. Thompson distributed business cards for his contact at Huntington Bank.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

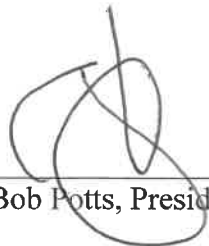
A motion was made by Mel Baher to go into Executive Session to prepare for collective bargaining strategy and to consider discipline of a public employee. Motion seconded by AJ Thompson.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Thompson. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:14 a.m.)

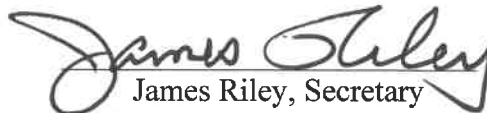
The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:49 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed preparations for collective bargaining and the discipline of a public employee. The Board determined that the correct level of discipline of the employee is a written reprimand.

With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Riley to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Thompson. 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)