



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

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FERONNE WILLIAMS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: December 20, 2023 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President
Mel Baher, Vice President
James Riley, Secretary
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Craig Morice, Assistant County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Jon Reiss, Executive Director

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

The Deputy Director briefed the Board on building updates. The boiler has not been repaired or replaced. No resolution is expected until after the first of the year. Public Works is obtaining final signatures on the extended lease for the current location.

Mr. Williams informed the board that the design for the new building has been finalized. The job will be posted for bid after the first of the year.

The current plan is to hold a VetConnect event in both May and September. The September event will also be a stand down – providing shoes, clothing, and services for homeless and needy veterans. The team will work with Rocket Mortgage Field House to secure the venue and with community partners to provide as many services as possible.

The board outreach meeting date and location will be discussed at a March board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2023-13 providing for the purchase of a maintenance agreement with Enterprise Resource Partners for the eVetAssist veterans software program for the 2024 fiscal year for Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission.

Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2023-14 providing for the rental agreement with U-Haul Self-storage of Parma for storage needs of excess items. Motion seconded by Jim Riley. Discussion: None.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Two items from Commissioner training were discussed:

Don't Feed the Sharks is a VFW campaign to notify all veterans that it is not necessary to hire an individual or company that charges hefty fees to assist or consult with filing their VA benefit claims. Accredited Veterans Service Officers at Veterans Service Commissions are highly trained and will assist in filing VA claims at no cost to the veteran.

Silent Watch is a veterans suicide awareness program to educate the public of veteran suicides and to raise funds for "at risk" veterans to receive treatment.

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. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:30 a.m.)

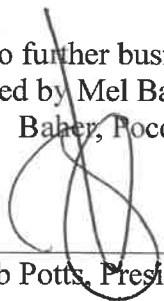
The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:00 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed employment of a public employee. The Executive and Deputy Directors were advised on how to proceed.

A motion was made by Jim Riley to remove Mercedes Hester from probation effective December 12, 2023. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Riley to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 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:
Executive Director:
Deputy Director:
Commissioners:

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Jeanne Bell (216)-698-2635
Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)