



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 17, 2024 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
James Riley, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Bob Potts, Commissioner
Craig Morice, Assistant County Prosecutor

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mel Baher with the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Frank Pocci called roll.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci 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 Jim Riley. Discussion: None.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There are no updates for the CCVSC's current space. The new headquarter project will go out for bid tomorrow. The project includes a provision that occupancy must be an option by the end of May 2025. All bids are due within 30 days of the posting.

Active shooter training has not been scheduled. The Executive Director will reach out to the City of Cleveland to see if they are able to provide the training. Outback Team Building and Training has been contracted for diversity, equity and inclusion training. A meeting was held with the company to discuss focus issues so personalized training can be provided.

Quotes for both electric and gas vehicles were obtained for the purchase of a new agency vehicle. Gas cars are more economical and the lack of charging stations for electric vehicles is a concern. Updated quotes will be gathered and include leather seats for durability and a navigational system to ensure staff is not using their personal cell phones while driving.

Planning for VetConnect has started. J. Reiss is meeting with employees at the Food Bank to discuss the possibility of them hosting the VSC. VetConnect will be in September and include a Stand Down for homeless veterans.

The 2025 Budget has been reviewed and it is ready to be submitted with suggested changes.

C. Morice has submitted a legal opinion regarding additional death benefits for veterans. The Director will draft a memorandum for Board approval prior to briefing the staff.

A motion was made by Jim Riley to approve Resolution 2024-16 providing for technical support and product enhancement of CCVSC call center/call management communication software from Five9, expenses not to exceed \$11,000. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Memorial Day flag distribution has begun. C. Kehoe was unable to reach several groups. The Commissioners will look into contact information for those who were unable to be reached.

A motion was made by Jim Riley to approve Resolution 2024-17 requesting authority for the Executive Director to utilize funds as necessary for staff training and development, expenses not to exceed \$16,000.

Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

A motion was made by Jim Riley to approve Resolution 2024-18 requesting authority for the Executive Director to purchase up to 11,000 military service branch pins for the clients of the Cuyahoga County Veteran Service Commission in recognition for their service. The pins will be purchased from Novak supply, expenses not to exceed 22,000. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: Discussion held.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Pocci mentioned that, at the Italian American War Veterans state conference, the Lorain County VSC announced that they have an attorney that will provide wills and POA paperwork for clients. Director Reiss will follow up with more information.

Commissioner Baher reminded the commissioners that online training must be completed by November 30th.

Commissioner Riley announced that there will be an 'End of the War' ceremony on April 30th at the Bay Village Senior Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Jim Riley to go into Executive Session to consider employment of a public employee and compensation of a public employee. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:13 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:41 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed employment and compensation of a public employee. Compensation of a public employee has been postponed until the next meeting. The Director and Deputy Director were advised on how to proceed.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to authorize the Director to payout unauthorized overtime. The Executive Team was advised how to proceed. Motion seconded by Jim Riley. Discussion: None.

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

A motion was made by Jim Riley to terminate Rebecca Stacy effective immediately. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

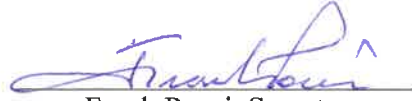
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley. Abstain: None. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 a.m. Motion seconded by Jim Riley.

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



Mel Baher, President



Frank Pocci, 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)