



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

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650

Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us

1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FERONNE WILLIAMS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: June 12, 2024 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: None.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Jim Riley to approve Resolution 2024-23, modifying the amount of the original resolution providing for the purchase of marketing/advertising for the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission from \$162,000 to 187,000. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: Discussion held.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

The headquarters project has been approved and the contract awarded for the complete project minus the addition of movable partitions in the waiting room. After discussion with the Board, the Veterans Service Commission will fund the partitions.

A motion was made by Jim Riley to cover the cost of partitions for the new headquarters. Motion seconded by Bob Potts. Discussion: None.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Deputy Director Williams informed the Board that an employee from the Pension Management Center spoke at Service Officer training. After training, Service Officer C. Wilder spoke with the speaker regarding a veteran's overpayment and explained that she and the veteran felt the overpayment amount was incorrect. After looking into it, the speaker not only agreed that the amount was incorrect, he had the whole debt waived. Ms. Wilder's persistence on behalf of the veteran has changed the veteran's life.

Commissioner Baher reminded those present that Post 91's Flag Day ceremony begins at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Riley will be at the Joint Veterans Council Flag Day ceremony at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. There is also a new citizen ceremony and the swearing-in ceremony for several Army cadets, who will take the Oath of Enlistment. A. Reale will be at a table representing the VSC at the event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to consider employment and compensation of a public employee and a client case and appeal. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:39 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:21 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed compensation and employment of a public employee and a client case and appeal.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to approve the position change Financial Service Officer to Outreach Coordinator – with up to a 180-day probationary period, effective immediately. Motion seconded by Jim Riley. Discussion: None.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to authorize the Director to bring on Andrew Smith in the position of Outreach Coordinator, with a probationary period of six (6) months, effective June 12, 2024, and a start date of July 1, 2024. Motion seconded by Jim Riley. Discussion: None.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m. Motion seconded by Jim Riley.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, 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)