



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

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: June 26, 2024 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
James Riley, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Bob Potts, 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 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, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to consider employment of a public employee, consider compensation of a public employee, pending court action, and client cases and appeals. Motion seconded by Jim Riley.

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

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:37 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed employment of a public employee, compensation of a public employee, pending court action and client cases and appeals.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to correct the salary of Ashlee Reale, due to a miscalculation, effective June 17, 2024. Motion seconded by Jim Riley. Discussion: None.

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

A motion was made by Jim Riley to bring on Tricia Gravette in the position of Financial Service Officer, with a probationary period of six (6) months, effective June 26, 2024, and a start date of July 15, 2024. Motion seconded by Bob Potts. Discussion: None.

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

The votes for further assistance, recorded by the Secretary, of the client cases and appeals that were discussed in Executive Session, are attached. The Executive Director and Deputy Director were instructed on how to proceed.

The Board returned to the regular order of business at 11:44 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

The elevator in the current building is up and running. The situation will continue to be monitored. The new headquarters building will go to County Council soon for final approval to move forward with the design.

Team building/Diversity training is scheduled for July 12th. Active shooter is scheduled for August 16th. Due to the importance of both trainings, all staff is expected to be in attendance.

Quotes for the new vehicle were discussed. The Deputy Director was directed how to proceed.

A motion was made by Jim Riley to move forward with the purchase of the new vehicle, expense not to exceed \$85,000. Motion seconded by Bob Potts. Discussion: None.

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

VetConnect is scheduled for September 21, 2024. Planning is on pace with the timeline.

Attorney C. Morice met with a law firm that specializes in probate and estate planning regarding working with the VSC to provide wills and POA documents for its clients. The law firm will not charge a retainer. C. Morice will have more conversation with the law firm to stress that there will be no conversation with VSC clients regarding VA claim work.

The VSC is working with the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial to provide software support. Details will be worked out when the director is able to meet with them directly.

Craig Morice notified the Board that he spoke with Mike Chambers from the County Fiscal Department regarding an early retirement incentive plan for the VSC. Mr. Chambers will reach out the Director Jon Reiss.

Deputy Director Feronne Williams updated the board on current and future staffing levels. Several positions will be filled in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

The VSC has begun working with Ohio Desk, a Cuyahoga County approved vendor, to procure furniture for the new headquarters.

GOOD OF THE ORDER


Commissioner Riley requested the VSC add the VFW Legislative Updates to the website. After further discussion Mr. Riley will find other avenues of making the information available to veterans.

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


Commissioner Potts will be having surgery and may miss the next board meeting.

With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Riley to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Bob Potts.

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



Mel Baher, President



Jim Riley, 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)