



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
LENON WRIGHT
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: vsccmail@cuyahogacounty.us

1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FERONNE WILLIAMS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: July 10, 2024 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Bob Potts, Commissioner

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mel Baher with the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President 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, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:34 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:23 a.m. In Executive Session the Board considered employment of a public employee, client cases and appeals and discussed a pending court action.

A motion was made by Jim Riley to bring on Lena Thompkins in the Financial Assistance Officer Position at the appropriate grade and step. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

After discussion, the decision was made to realign the Office Support Specialists with daily operations. The Office Support Specialists will now report to Patricia Smith, Administrative Coordinator.

The titles of the executive staff have been changed to the following:

- Executive Director to Executive Director / Chief Executive Officer
- Deputy Director to Deputy Director / Chief Operating Officer
- Executive Secretary to Executive Secretary / HR Manager

Position descriptions will be updated with the new titles.

The Board returned to the regular order of business at 11:23 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Mel Baher – American Legion

- June 13, 2024 - attended the Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
 - presented updated financial reports as Post Finance Officer
- June 14, 2024 – participated in annual Post 91 Flag Day ceremonies.
- June 24, 2024 – attended 13th District ex-board meeting held at Post 469
 - presented updated financial reports as District Finance Officer
 - filed the Secretary of State form and the 990n for the district
- June 27, 2024 – attended the American Legion Post 91 Executive Board meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
 - presented updated financial reports as Post Finance Officer

Initiated several DD-214 requests with Mary at the CCVSC office

Volunteered at Post 91 with planned activities and work parties, as needed.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- attended the AMVETS meeting and gave financial report
- attended the Italian American War Veterans
- presented a flag to a veteran in need of a new one
- working with two veterans to file claims
- referred a veteran to file for unemployment

James Riley – VFW

- June 4th – attended military funeral and presented Battlefield Cross to surviving spouse
- June 10th – Guitars for Vets lesson and jam session
- June 11th – Conducted Joint Veterans Council meeting – finalized plans for upcoming Naturalization Ceremony on June 14th
- June 14th – presided over Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County Naturalization and Army birthday ceremony at the Rock Hall Plaza. 25 new US citizens and 25 new Army recruits were sworn in
- June 18th - attended monthly VFW Post 2533 meeting as Adjutant
- June 30th - travelled to Mentor VFW Post for annual district budget meeting

Lenon Wright - DAV

- June 3rd – visited with the veterans at the men's homeless shelter. Donated bus tickets on behalf of the DAV
- June 19th – attended the DAV monthly meeting. Served as Treasurer and Adjutant for the chapter
- June 20th – attended the DAV State Conference
- June 21st – completed service officer training for the DAV
- June 22nd – elected as Executive Officer for the DAV
- June 23rd – attended a memorial service for the DAV

NEW BUSINESS:

The board discussed increasing costs for necessities and whether current financial assistance levels are adequate considering today's economy. The decision was made to temporarily increase food assistance by \$100. The limits will be visited again in 3 months.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Pocci stated that he continues to work with a veteran in filing his VA claim.

Jon Reiss informed the board that there is an article in the DD214 Chronicle that outlines the VSC's new programs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss a client case and to discuss pending court action. Motion seconded by Lenon Wright.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:01 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:52 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed a client case and a pending court action.

After discussion, the board signed the pending court action settlement agreement and instructed the Executive Director how to proceed with the client case.

With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Riley to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m. Motion seconded by Lenon Wright.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley, Wright. 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)