



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCI**  
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

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FERONNE WILLIAMS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

### MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** March 12, 2025 9:30 a.m.

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

**EXCUSED:** None.

**VISITORS:** Saniyah, Mia and Jada – students from Nordonia High School

**PURPOSE:** TO DISCUSS LEVEL III BOARD APPEALS/REGULAR MEETING

President Jim Riley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and stated that the Board would be hearing one (1) appeal today and voting on three (3) cases of misrepresentation. Secretary Lenon Wright called roll.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2025-13 providing for the rental agreement with UHaul Self Storage of Parma, not to exceed \$28,402.60. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci. Discussion: None.

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

Deputy Director Williams explained how detrimental it can be to the veteran to collect a VA pension while also collecting Social Security and/or working. This practice is prohibited by the VA and the Veteran Service Officers often warn the veterans of the consequences, but the veterans rarely listen. When the VA does become aware, the veteran owes large amounts of money back to the VA. The board is in agreement with Mr. Williams. The Service Officers will now notify the VA of a potential overage in addition to filing the veterans claim.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Director Reiss explained that from a VA funding standpoint, veteran cemeteries and housing will continue funding as approved in the 2024 budget and there will be additional funds for veterans' health and benefits.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mel Baher to go into Executive Session to consider client cases and appeals and to consider employment/compensation of a public employee. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:00 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:47 a.m. In executive session the board discussed client cases and appeals and employment/compensation of a public employee.

A motion was made by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2025-14. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

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

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to bring on De'Lynia Mills in the Veteran Case Manager position at the appropriate grade and step, with a probationary period of 180 days. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Wright NAYS: None.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci to bring on Suzanne Slimak in the Office Support Specialist position at the appropriate grade and step, with a probationary period of 180 days. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

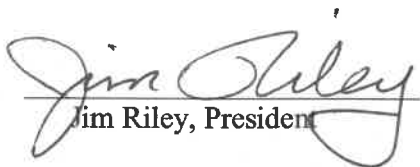
AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Wright NAYS: None.

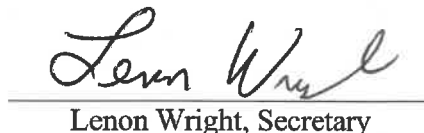
A motion was made by Frank Pocci to bring on Matthew Purves in the Outreach Coordinator – Digital Marketing position at the appropriate grade and step, with a probationary period of 180 days. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Wright NAYS: None.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 p.m. Motion seconded by Mel Baher. Discussion: None.

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

  
Jim Riley, President

  
Lenon Wright, Secretary

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Financial Assistance Manager:

Executive Director:

Deputy Director:

Commissioners:

John Rosine, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Geniece Garner (216)-698-4955

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)

Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)