



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: January 21, 2026 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Craig Morice, Assistant County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Jim Hordonski - VFW

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Pocci with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Secretary Bob Potts called roll.

A motion was made by Mel Baher 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, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director gave his weekly building update. A meeting is set to discuss custodial needs and security access to the building. The HVAC team has been working to balance the system. The Executive Director continues to work with the county to secure parking spaces for the VSC Staff. Jon Reiss will attend a meeting next week regarding the VSC storage needs.

Veterans Village is still in the preliminary discussion stage with the county. Director Jon Reiss is communicating with Walter Collins regarding a partnership for low-income veteran housing. Mr. Collins is building an 11-unit home for veterans who qualify for subsidized housing programs. Mr. Hordonski mentioned that this program is similar to the Valor Home in Lorain County.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board discussed a long-term capital plan. Several potential projects were discussed. Director Reiss will continue to work on a list of potential projects and the amount of capital funds to set aside for each.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mr. Hordonski asked what happens to the VSC excess funds at the end of the year. Director Reiss explained the money is returned to the county and the county distributes the funds to veterans' groups. Veteran groups can request a portion of the funds from the county. Color Guard expenses are covered by the Veterans Service Commission.

February 25th is the Grand Opening of the Veterans Service Commission. A list of guests will be compiled and invited.

Commissioner Riley mentioned that the Joint Veterans Council Veteran of the Year luncheon is on April 11th. This year's Veteran of the Year is Rick DeChant. The VSC will purchase a table for the commissioners and guests.

On Aril 25th the Paralyzed Veterans of America will be hosting the Buckeye Wheelchair Games in Genevea, Ohio.

Mr. Riley is on the board for the DD214 Chronicle. He is looking for people to write articles that would interest veterans and published in the paper.

Commissioner Pocci mentioned that a change is coming in real estate taxes for Ohio residents.

Commissioner Baher announced the USS Cleveland is scheduled to be commissioned in May 2026 in Cleveland, Ohio, marking the first time in the U.S. Navy's 250-year history that a warship will be commissioned in Ohio.

Commissioner Wright stated that with the cold weather, there are no beds available at the homeless shelter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher to go into Executive Session to consider discipline of a public employee. Motion seconded by Jim Riley.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:16 a.m.)

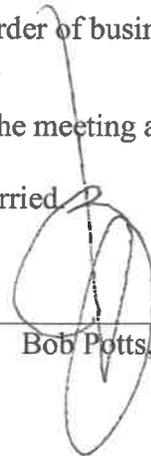
The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:51 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed discipline of a public employee.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m. Motion seconded by Mel Baher.

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



Frank Pocci, President



Bob Potts, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Filing claims with the Dept. of
Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:
Financial Assistance Manager:
Executive Director:
Deputy Director:
Commissioners:

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Geniece Garner (216)-698-4955
Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)