

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
June 21, 2023

The meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the small meeting room. Members present were:

Robin Housley
Mike Male
Greg Bell
Stephen Wheeler
Bill VanWaes

Senator Grassley's community engagement person, Taylor Maas came to the meeting. He addressed issues that the Commission and the office are seeing. Multiple topics were discussed from the TAP (transition assistance program) for those on active duty being discharged, VA federal code addressing who is considered a Veteran, and the issue of military retirement being cut by the amount of VA compensation for those service connected.

Shelly Howsare, potential Commission candidate, asked if she could comment on issues she is seeing with Veterans in her position with Iowa Workforce Development. She reiterated the drop off with the TAP program. There are things that IWD could be involved in with transitioning service members. Discussion continued.

The Commission held the interview with Ms. Howsare, she was fine with Mr. Maas staying during the interview. The Commission members asked multiple questions regarding her military experience, what she feels she could bring to the Commission, and her availability for monthly meetings, trainings, and any outreach the office may do.

The Commission thanked both Ms. Howsare and Mr. Maas for attending

Minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting were read. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to accept, Commissioner Male seconded. Approved by all present.

June reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

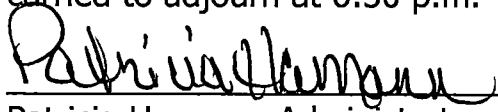
Old business: None to discuss.

New business: The upcoming Commission opening and the candidate was discussed. Commissioner VanWaes made the motion to recommend the appointment of Ms. Howsare to the Commission, Commissioner Housley seconded, the recommendation was unanimously approved.

Commissioner VanWaes appointment to the Commission is up. Commissioner Housley made a motion for recommendation of re-appointment, Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously approved.

The new Iowa Hunting/Fishing license application was shared with the Commission.

Next Commissioner meeting will be held on July 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Motion made by Commissioner VanWaes, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler. Motion carried to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.



Patricia Hamann, Administrator