

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
November 20, 2024

The meeting called to order at 4:55 p.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room.
Members present were:

Robin Housley
Mike Male
Michael Stigers
Shelly Howsare - absent
vacancy

Minutes of the October 23, 2024 meeting were read. Commissioner Housley made the motion to accept, Commissioner Stigers seconded. Approved by all present.

November reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: The Veteran Appreciation event was discussed. An overview was given of responses. The Commission would like to coordinate and do this again next year. The Administrator will be looking for other entities to join us. We can have tables in the hallway to allow more vendors. The Administrator would like to post pictures in the newspapers. Commissioner Stigers thought that maybe we could do flyers to put at the service posts next time also. It helped using the newsletter and Facebook.

New business: The 2025/2026 budget session will be starting. The Administrator asked the Commission to look at the current lines so that next month when we are discussing the budget they have opinions.

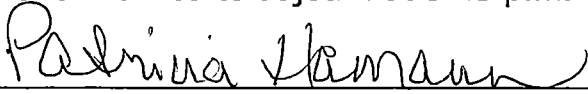
Commissioner VanWaes resigned his position. He informed the Administrator at the beginning of November that he thought it was time to step down. A past Commissioner, who served for over 20 years did state he would like to get back on the board. Bruce Jeffries, who is still very active in the VA and represents Vietnam combat Veterans would be willing to full fill the open position. Commissioner Stigers made the motion to recommend Bruce Jeffries to fill the position, Commissioner Housley seconded. It was a unanimous vote with those present. The Administrator has a letter the Commissioner Male will need to sign for it to go to the Board of Supervisors asking for the appointment.

The Administrator was asked by the soldier's monument group about purchasing the old style of markers for them. They would be willing to pay the difference of what we pay for the new style to what the old markers cost. They prefer the old ones and someone told them that the new markers won't last. I did tell them that the adhesive is actually approved by the national cemetery.

Discussion was held. Commissioner Housley brought up the fact that if we did this, then we are opening up a potential mess and the reason behind the switch was because of the markers getting damaged and stolen. It's a waste of money purchasing the old markers because they don't last due to careless grounds keepers. Commissioner Male agreed. We are trying to sustain these markers for the long term. The Commission waited almost a year before switching to get feedback from the Veterans themselves and more liked the new than the old style. Commissioner Stigers made the motion to deny the request of purchasing the old style for the soldier's group regardless of them paying the difference, as we can't have groups picking and choosing it will create future issues. Commissioner Housley seconded the motion. It was a unanimous vote by those present.

The numbers from the regional office were shared. We had 10 decisions since September, however we still have 17 ready for decision out of 78 claims being processed.

Next Commissioner meeting will be held on December 18th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Motion made by Commissioner Housley, seconded by Commissioner Stigers. Motion carried to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.


Patricia Hamann, Administrator