



**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
JANUARY 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Hays called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at 627 Edwin C. Moses Boulevard, 4th Floor, East Medical Plaza, Dayton, Ohio 45417.

II. ROLL CALL

Administrative Officer Bryan Suddith took the roll call.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X	
William Fried, Vice President	X	
Jim Dare, Secretary	X	
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X	
John Theobald, Commissioner	X	

Staff members present: Kim Frisco, Executive Director, Dan Semsel, Deputy Director, Bryan Suddith, Administrative Officer and Veterans Legal Counsel Steve Strain. Montgomery County Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Shaw and Peterson also were attendance.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commission President Jerry Hays led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Commission observed a moment of silence.

IV. APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2021 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fried moved for approval and Commissioner Dare seconded the motion to approve the December 8, 2021 minutes as presented. Four commissioners in attendance vote Aye and one abstained.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
Jim Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner			X
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

Commissioner Fried moved for approval and Commissioner Fried seconded the motion to approve the December 15, 2021 minutes as presented. Four commissioners in attendance vote Aye and one abstained.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
Jim Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner			X
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

V. WELCOME NEW VFW COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Hays and Director Frisco introduced Michael Howley, USAF (Ret) and VFW Rep, to the staff and commission.

VI. LITIGATION UPDATE

Commissioner Theobald moved and Commissioner Fried seconded the motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussion of pending litigation, ORC 121.22 g (3). All commissioner voted Aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
Jim Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented and the commission entered executive session at 10:08 a.m.

The commission exited executive session at 10:33 a.m.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Former Commissioner Fred Rojas thanked the Assistant Prosecutors and staff for their diligence in regards to the pending litigation.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

a) Approval of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the Period of December 1-31, 2021

A motion to approve the Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance report was made by Commissioner Dare and seconded by Commissioner Fried. All commissioners voted aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
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Jerry Hays, President	X
William Fried, Vice President	X
Jim Dare, Secretary	X
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X
John Theobald, Commissioner	X

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

b) Personnel Matter

A motion to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel matters, 121.22 G (1) was made by Commissioner Fried and seconded by Commissioner Dare. All commissioners voted aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
Jim Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented and the commission entered executive session at 10:49 a.m.

The commission exited executive session at 11:45 a.m.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a) A motion was made by Commissioner Theobald to approve a 2.5% annual pay increase for Executive Director Frisco upon completion of her annual evaluation in recognition of her performance and with the thanks and appreciation of the commission. The pay is to be made retroactive to January 1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fried. All commissioners voted aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
Jim Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved.

b) Election of Officers

Commissioner Theobald made a motion nominating a slate of officers for the year 2022.

- Jerry Hays, President
- Bill Fried, Vice President
- Jim Dare, Secretary

Commissioner Howley seconded the motion as stated. After brief conversation, all commissioners voted aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		

Jim Dare, Secretary	X
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X
John Theobald, Commissioner	X

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented and congratulated the officers for the year.

c) Abnormal Financial Assistance Request

Legal Counsel Steve Strain presented to the commission the circumstances of the request. A veteran came to this office seeking assistance with an outstanding debt for a private ambulance transport. The veteran was transferred during a medical episode and incurred the debt for which the VA won't cover the cost. The amount, almost \$900 would create a significant issue for the veteran.

A motion was made by Commissioner Theobald to approve the payment from our transportation budget in support of the veteran. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dare. All commissioners voted aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
Jim Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved.

d) A brief discussion was led by Deputy Director Dan Semsel to the commission about the process of approving or denying emergency financial requests. Discussions around incomplete applications, and undocumented expenses were detailed, with an emphasis on first time requests and food voucher priority.

X. MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Executive Director presented her report and staff reports from Legal Counsel and Admin officer. These reports are attached in their entirety to these minutes.

The Executive Director also reported on progress toward the launch of a new veterans dental care program. As this program evolves, more details will be shared with the commission.

The Executive Director did share that a little more than \$400,000 of the budget was unused. 75% of that was budgeted Soldiers and Sailors dollars and \$100,000 of that was salaries.

XI. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

President Jerry Hays

- DAV Meeting in person on 1/12 at 7:30
- Attended the state association executive committee meeting and emphasis was made to discuss pending litigation, HB29 (Veterans ID Cards) and HB 407 (Veterans Safe Shelter)

Vice President Bill Fried

- January VVA Meeting 3rd Thursday, Jan 20 at 6:00 in Huber Heights.

Secretary Jim Dare

- Reported the passing of WWII Veteran Dean Goodwin just weeks after his 103rd birthday. Mr Goodwin was also a 75-year member of the American Legion.

Commissioner John Theobald

- District 1 AMVETS meeting will be hosted by Post 24 on January 16.
- AMVETS Statewide Conference is February 18-24
- Reported on Post 24's donation to the VA Snack Shack and the importance of that project to provide a place for recreation and relaxation for residents at the VA.

Commissioner Michael Howley

- No report

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Jerry Hays, President

William Fried, Vice President

James Dare, Secretary

John Theobald, Commissioner

Michael Howley, Commissioner