



**Meeting Minutes of the  
Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission  
December 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM**

**I. Call to Order**

President Jerry Hays called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m. at 627 Edwin C. Moses Boulevard, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Medical Plaza, Dayton, Ohio 45417.

**II. Roll Call**

Bryan Suddith took the roll call.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</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, Director, Dan Semsel, Deputy Director, Steven Strain, Veterans Legal Counsel, and Bryan Suddith, Admin Officer.

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Dare moved to accept the November 16 meeting minutes with changes detailed by Commissioner Fried. Commissioner Theobald seconded the motion.

Changes include:

Old Business:

- Entered Executive Session 10:45 a.m. and exited at 10:46 a.m.
- Motion to impose a sanction: Fried moved, Howley seconded, lifetime sanction be imposed to veteran and spouse for a fraudulent application. The party sanctioned will be notified by letter.

New Business:

Entered Executive Session 10:04 a.m. and exited 10:19 a.m. For Nathan's Presentation.

<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. Minutes were edited and signed by commissioners at the conclusion of the meeting.

#### V. Public Comments

None

#### VI. Old Business

- a) Consideration of the Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the Period of November 1-30, 2022

Commissioner Fried moved to accept the report without changes and Commissioner Dare seconded the motion.

Commissioner Fried asked about December numbers, Director Frisco noted that those end of year Soldiers and Sailors numbers will be available in January.

Commissioner Theobald noted on one of the denial letters, the text had numerous grammatical errors. Commissioner Theobald commented on one more of the denials, Semsel clarified that the applicant was approved at a later date.

Commissioner Howley asked about another denial, and questioned the request made.

<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.

#### VII. New Business

- a) Financial Case Review

Director Frisco presented an application for assistance and requested input from the Commission on how to proceed.

Commissioner Fried moved to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential client information per ORC 121.22 G Commissioner Theobald seconded the motion.

<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 and entered Executive Session at 10:13 a.m.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 10:33 a.m.

b) Personnel Matter

Commissioner Dare moved to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters per ORC 121.22 G1. Commissioner Fried seconded the motion.

<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 and entered Executive Session at 10:34 a.m.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 11:01 a.m.

c) Salary Consideration for the Executive Director

Commissioner Dare moved to award a 2.5% raise for 2023 and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Theobald.

<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) One Time Performance Lump Sum Payment to the Executive Director

Commissioner Fried moved to award a one time payment of \$6,000.00 in recognition of success in meeting goals and going above and beyond on the commissioners' requests of the office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dare.

<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	

Motion passes 4-1 with one commissioner abstaining from the vote.

### VIII. Management Report

Director Frisco shared the legal, transportation and outreach reports as well as a review of the financial report from Deputy Director Semsel

Deputy Director Semsel presented the financial report. Estimated return to the county will be around \$285k. Will be at 90% expended. Commissioner Theobald requested a comparison of 2021 vs 2022 Soldiers and Sailors expenditures.

Coat and ALDI giveaway went better than expected. Record number of Coats and a quick distribution of the 250 ALDI cards. Commissioners were very pleased with the work on the giveaways.

Legal report was discussed by Steven Strain. Discussion occurred discussing the calculatable rate Strain is using to report veterans savings.

The Veterans Treatment Court graduated 5 Veterans in December.

Transportation Report presented by Bryan Suddith. Zip Code break down to be added to the report.

Executive Director Report, the December financial planning class was cancelled. Next class is January 10. The Director's Regional Roundtable will meet again in January. Kim detailed the MCVSC's involment in SOCHE's Veterans Program grant awart with the dispersal of \$100 Meijer Gift Cards to referred Veterans in Need.

We plan to advertise and hiring an additional VSO in the new year. Commissioner Theobald has been asked to join the Commission's Personnel Committee in preparation for the hiring.

### IX. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Hays

- Added to the comments from Commissioner Fried about HB 729 on the makeup of county Veteran Service Commissions.

Commissioner Fried

- VVA decorated wreaths last weekend at the National Cemetery for Vietnam Veterans buried there.
- Monthly meeting included a presentation from Honor Flight and resulted in a few new signups.
- January's meeting starts the cycle for the annual scholarship. (Three \$1,000 scholarships for 2023)
- At the Fall Commissioner meeting expressed concerns about House Bill 729 now to be taken up in January in the new legislative session.
- Question for clarification on travel.
- From the Fall Conference: Warren County created a coalition for prevention of Veteran Suicide.
- From Veterans Treatment Court: Using the Dave Ramsey program for financial literacy.
- Butler County also created a coalition for prevention of Veteran Suicide.

Commissioner Dare

- No report.

Commissioner Theobald

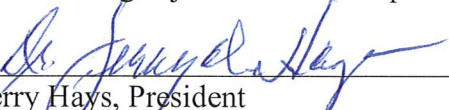
- Issue at the post concerning a member of the LGBTQ community needing bathroom accommodations. The local post has elevated the issue to the State AMVETS for consideration and guidance via policy. The local post solved the issue by creating a family bathroom.

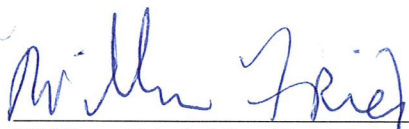
Commissioner Howley

- Stated that he volunteered the staff for a presentation about the services available to the Veterans community.

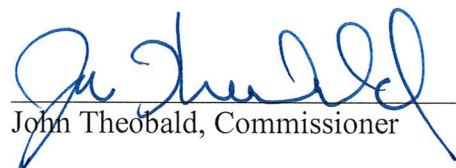
## X. Adjournment

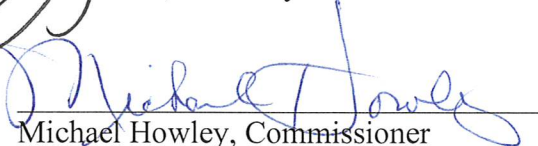
The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

  
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Jerry Hays, President

  
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William Fried, Vice President

  
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James Dare, Secretary

  
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John Theobald, Commissioner

  
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Michael Howley, Commissioner