



MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
February 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance Followed by a Moment of Silence
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. January 18, 2022
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Pending Litigation
 - b. Consider Approval of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the Period of January 1 – 31, 2023
 - c. Follow Up Discussion of COLA
- VII. New Business
 - a. Request for Sanction
 - b. Personnel Matter
- VIII. Management Report
- IX. Commissioners' Reports
- X. Adjournment



**Meeting Minutes of the
Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission
February 15, 2023 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, 4th Floor, East Medical Plaza, Dayton, Ohio 45417.

II. Roll Call

Bryan Suddith took the roll.

<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
- Bryan Suddith, Admin Officer
- Nathaniel Peterson from Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office

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 Fried moved to accept the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes with no changes. Commissioner Howley 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. All voted in the affirmative.

V. Public Comments

1. Fred Rojas, reminded the Commission about the monthly breakfast, the last Saturday of the month, at Archer's (Kettering) that now starts at 9:30 a.m.
2. Jason Riley, Army Veteran, presented his service history and submitted a letter to the Commission outlining issues he has with the Greater Dayton RTA (GDRTA) and their Para-Transit transportation program. He requested that the commission work with the GDRTA to help adjust expectations on the app so riders can better plan. He stated he is seeking advocacy from this board.
3. John Reaves addressed the commission in response to the altercation on February 6 during his appointment with Veteran Service Officer Donald North. Commission Fried asked the question of Mr. Reaves, if he grabbed or pushed anyone in the office. Mr. Reaves denied pushing or grabbing the VSO. Mr. Reaves contended he did nothing wrong and that the police, whom he called, arrived hours later and made no arrests and issued no citations.

Commission President Hays stated to Mr. Reaves that any decision made by the Commission will come via mail.

4. Commissioner Howley moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for reasons outlined in ORC 121.22 G 1, discussion of complaints against a public officer. 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 10:21 a.m.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 10:31 a.m.

Commissioner Fried moved that the Commission issue a lifetime ban to Mr. Reaves from this office and its services in response to the incident on February 6, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. 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		

President Hays declared the motion approved.

VI. Old Business

a) Pending Litigation

Commissioner Howley moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for reasons outlined in ORC 121.22 G 3, discussion of pending litigation. Commissioner Dare 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 10:33 a.m.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 10:37 a.m.

b) Consideration of the Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance Report for the Period of January 1-31, 2023

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

Commissioner Theobald noted the number of denials appear to be down. He also noted that Food Assistance wasn't granted for any of the denials. Commissioner Theobald asked that continued attention and consideration be given to those that are denied assistance for food assistance. Commissioner Howley voiced his concern about the "boilerplate" language in approval and denial letters.

Commissioner Howley voiced concern about the stated emergency or lack of emergency. A brief discussion continued about the amount of background information that is needed to understand the decision process.

<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.

c) Cost of Living Adjustment Discussion

Executive Director Frisco continued the discussion from January. Management met with the Bargaining Unit asking they consider allowing the Commission to increase the contracted annual COLA from 2.5% to 4.0% for all bargaining unit members. The Bargaining Unit agreed to the proposal.

Commissioner Howley asked for a comparison of VSO wages from area counties.

Commissioner Fried moved that the Commission accept the proposal to increase the Bargaining Unit annual COLA increase from 2.5% to 4.0% effective April 15. Commissioner Dare 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.

Commissioner Howley moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for reasons outlined in ORC 121.22 G 1, discussion of public employee compensation. 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		

Commission President declared the motion approved and entered into executive session at 11:04 a.m.

The Commission exited executive session at 11:24 a.m.

Commissioner Fried moved to grant a one time COLA increase to non-bargaining unit employees effective April 15, 2023 of 4.0%. 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.

VII. New Business

a) Personnel Matter

Commissioner Theobald moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for reasons outlined in ORC 121.22 G 1, discussion of public employee compensation. Commissioner Dare 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 11:36 a.m.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 11:43 a.m.

Commissioner Fried moved to match the lump sum performance awards of the Bargaining Unit Contract for non-bargaining unit members employed by the Commission. Commissioner Dare 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.

VIII. Management Report

The 2022 Annual Report was presented to the Commission by Admin Officer Bryan Suddith.

Executive Director Frisco noted that April 25 is the date of the Commission’s annual public meeting. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and that the location will be Top of the Market.

IX. Commissioners’ Reports

Commissioner Hays

- Attended a meeting with Tim Espich (Greene County VSC Executive Director/President Ohio Association of County Veterans Service Officers) and local legislative leaders to discuss the proposed changes to 5901.

Commissioner Dare

- No report.

Commissioner Fried

- VVA Scholarship Applications are open for \$1,000 academic scholarships. There are three available.

Applications are available at area

Commissioner Theobald

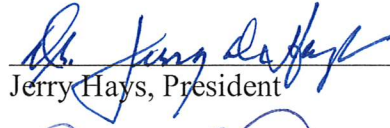
- Asked that the March agenda include a discussion regarding the RTA and ParaTransit service.
- Asked the staff to prepare a letter to the RTA in support of Mr. Riley’s concerns.

Commissioner Howley

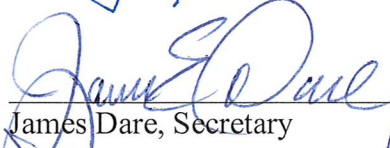
- Will be attending the Veterans’ Breakfast in Kettering at Archer’s on Saturday morning.

X. Adjournment

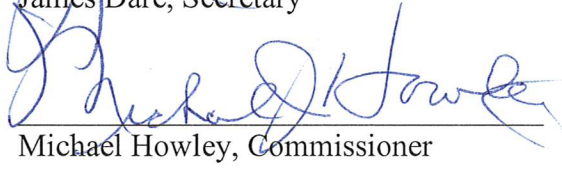
The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.



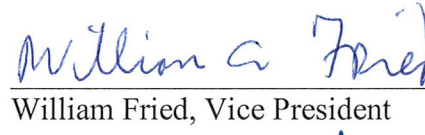
Jerry Hays, President



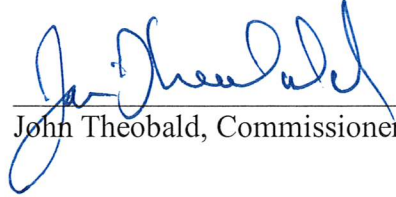
James Dare, Secretary



Michael Howley, Commissioner



William Fried, Vice President



John Theobald, Commissioner



Transportation Report | January – February 2023

Monthly Appointments

February 2023

*Client Appointments	156
2023 Monthly Average	157
2023 YTD Total	313
2022 Total	1,049
2022 Monthly Average	87

Monthly Cost

January 2023

RTA/UBER/Valley	\$5,780.49
2023 Monthly Average	\$5,780.49
2023 YTD Total	\$5,780.49
2022 Total	\$33,470.92
2022 Monthly Average	\$2,789.24

January Trip Totals**

• RTA/UBER	55
• RTA/Paratransit	184
• Valley Transport	62
• RTA Bus Pass (Medical)	3
• RTA Bus Pass (Grocery)	23

*Appointments are generally round trip.

**One-way trips



Legal Services Report
February 2023

New Client Appointments.....44
YTD Monthly Average.....47.5

Practice Areas

Housing Defense.....3
Civil/Family.....14
Estate Planning.....17
Miscellaneous Legal Advice.....10

Service By County

Montgomery.....41
Greene.....5
Clark.....1
Miami.....5
Warren.....3
Butler.....1
Ross.....1
Auglaize.....1

Total Counties Served.....31

Legal Fees Saved.....\$99,300
Cases.....17
Consultations.....377
2021 Total

Legal Fees Saved.....\$198,800
Cases.....4
Consultations.....705
2022 Total

Legal Fees Saved.....\$37,150
Cases.....4
Consultations.....95
2023 YTD Total



**Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission
Soldier and Sailors Report
February 2023**

1. Data Statistics

a. Financial Assistance:

i. *February 2023*

1. Approved 28/\$33,835.14
2. Shelter: 14/\$12,954.69
3. Utilities: 21/\$7,507.45
4. Disapprovals: 14
 - a. 6 – No emergency
 - b. 8 – Incomplete

ii. *January 2023*

1. Approved 37/\$42,658.14
2. Shelter: 11/\$14,297.77
3. Utilities: 25/\$6,315.37
4. Disapprovals: 9
 - a. 8 – No emergency
 - b. 1 – Does not meet requirements

iii. *December 2022*

1. Approved 37/\$26,084.89
2. Shelter: 13/\$10,248.47
3. Utilities: 20/\$4,288.42
4. Disapprovals: 14
 - a. 9 – No emergency
 - b. 4 – Incomplete
 - c. 1 – Does not meet requirements

b. Dental: 1/\$435

- i. 2023 YTD: 4/\$3,897.00

c. Emergency Repair (Assistance): 1/\$1000

- i. 2023 YTD: 1/\$1,000

- d. COVID: 0/\$0
 - i. 2023 YTD: 0/\$0
- e. Indigent Burial: 7/\$6,988.00
 - i. 2023: YTD: 19/\$18,866.00
- f. Kroger Voucher Update: 113 Vouchers/\$5,650 (19 Veterans)
 - i. 2022 YTD: 1,161 Vouchers/\$58,050 (213 Veterans)
- 2. VSO Service Appointments/Information (in-person/phone) – 253 (2022 YTD: 536)
- 3. VSO Financial Appointments/Information (in-person/phone) – 106 (2023 YTD: 237)
- 4. **2023 YTD Service Claims Awarded - \$100,243.60**
 - a. 2022 YTD Service Claims Awarded \$329,341.73