



**Meeting Minutes of the
Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission
November 8, 2023 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

Bryan Suddith called the roll.

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

Staff members present:

- Kim Frisco, Director
- Steven Strain, Veterans Legal Counsel
- Bryan Suddith, Deputy Director
- Nathaniel Peterson, Assistant County Prosecutor
- Josh Shaw, Assistant County Prosecutor

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Fried moved to approve the October 11, 2023 minutes. 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		

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

Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

V. Public Comments

- a) Dwight Wilkinson Veteran addressed the commission during public comments. Asking for assistance from the commission. Recently moved back to Ohio from Kentucky. Works and is paid in cash, working part time, and has no documentation to meet the requirements on the financial application.

Deputy Director Bryan Suddith spoke with Mr. Wilkinson and offered some guidance. Mr. Suddith escorted Mr. Wilkinson to the front desk to meet with a VSO.

- b) Fred Rojas spoke to the commission about the hiring of a civilian for a position that was not opened up to Veterans first. Mr. Rojas stated his concern that the commission is not adhering to the intent of the Ohio Revised Code. Steven Strain responded explaining the intersection of county, VSC and bargaining unit processes and procedures for hiring and that reviews by ODVS, County Prosecutor and County Commission HR found the Veterans Commission in compliance with 5901.

Mr. Rojas reported that the Veterans Breakfast stays at Archer’s Kettering at 10:00 on the last Saturday of each month.

Mr. Rojas reminded the commission that the remains of a Korean War Veteran were returned to Dayton this week and a funeral for this Veteran will be Saturday November 11 in West Carrollton. Visitation on the 10th with military honors on the 10th at 7:00 p.m.

VI. Old Business

- a) Consideration of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for period October 1 – October 31, 2023

Commissioner Theobald moved to approve, Commissioner Friend seconded the motion.

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

President Hays declared the motion approved. 5-0

- b) Pending Litigation

Commissioner Dare moved to enter executive session for purposes outlined in ORC 121.22 G (3), to discuss pending litigation. Commission 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
James Dare, Secretary	X
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X
John Theobald, Commissioner	X

President Hays declared the motion approved. 5-0

Commission entered executive session at 10:15 a.m.

Commission exited executive session at 11:38 a.m.

- c) AVHC Lincoln Statue Update
 - a. Staff presented an brief update and asked the Commission for support to finish this project on the Dayton VA campus. Any support would be appreciated.

Commissioner Fried moved to approve a commitment of partnership with the AVHC Lincoln Project in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 in 2024, 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		
James Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved. 5-0

VII. New Business

- a) Clerical Support Specialist – Staff and Commission Personnel committee have a selection and references have been checked satisfactorily. Stacy Schulte is the preferred candidate at this time.

Commissioner Fried moved to approve a motion to authorize staff to extend an offer of employment to Stacy Schulte, and Commissioner Hays seconded the motion.

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

President Hays declared the motion approved. 5-0

- b) Mentor Coordinator/Veteran Service Officer – Staff and Commission Personnel committee have a selection and reference checks are in process. Cliff Montgomery is the preferred candidate at this time.

Commissioner Hays moved to approve a motion to authorize staff to extend an offer of employment to Cliff Montgomery pending positive references, and 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		
James Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved. 5-0

c) Employee Compensation –

Commissioner Theobald moved to enter executive session for purposes outlined in ORC 121.22 G (1), to discuss employee compensation. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion.

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

President Hays declared the motion approved. 5-0

Commission entered executive session at 12:22 p.m.
Commission exited executive session at 1:06 p.m.

d) Upcoming Bargaining Unit Contract negotiations

Commission agreed to create a committee to include President Hays and Commissioner Theobald who negotiate the new contract with the bargaining unit.

e) Facility Lease Update

Bryan Suddith updated the commissioners on the current status of the lease renewal for our current office space. That update includes a 5% increase in the contracted price beginning in January 2024.

VIII. Management Report

- Executive Director Kimberly Frisco presented reports from Staff
 - Veterans Day Holiday, the office will be closed on Friday.
 - Director Frisco will be out of the office on 11/9 to be part of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame event
 - Director Frisco shared details about a new PTSD research study out of Wright State looking for Veterans to participate.
 - Lisa Lewber's (VSO) last day is November 15.
 - The last VSO vacancy is open for application until the end of day 9 November 2023.
 - Ohio Commissioner training is Friday 17 Nov through 19 Nov.
- Steven Strain presented the legal report.

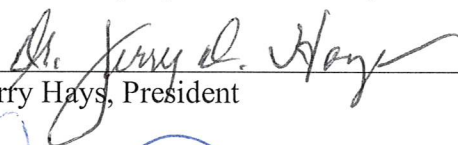
- 81 Appointments in October.
- Will Clinics are working giving more time to other appointments.
- Updated on one piece of pending litigation regarding a client who has passed away.
- Bryan Suddith presented the Budget, Outreach, and Transportation reports.
 - Transportation Report was presented, 54 veterans, 3 new clients and 276 appointments.
 - Aldi Gift Cards, 180 committed, 20 rejected.
 - Budget in good spot, most unused funds come from Salaries and Fringe Benefits line. Estimated \$250,000 in unused funds back to the county.

IX. Commissioners' Reports

1. Commissioner Hays – DAV meets tonight at Kettering American Legion.
2. Commissioner Fried – Jewish War Veterans ceremony will be held on 11 November at 11:00 a.m.
 - i. Plans to be part of the Coat Giveaway on 17 November. Commissioner Fried shared the news article about Hamilton County and their expenditures.
 - ii. Happy Birthday to the Marines.
3. Commissioner Dare – No report.
4. Commissioner Theobald – Shared the Aldi Gift Card and Coat Giveaway programs with his post and region. Very thankful for these programs.
5. Commissioner Howley – VFW post 9927 met last night, 7 November, and presented about the Aldi Gift Cards and winter coats. Most members stated that the paperwork to qualify for the card was too much for the card. The post has set aside \$2,000 to create holiday meal boxes for members to include all the items needed for a holiday dinner.

X. Adjournment

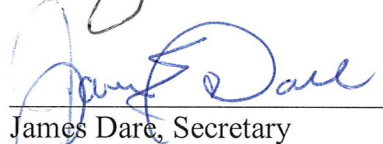
The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.



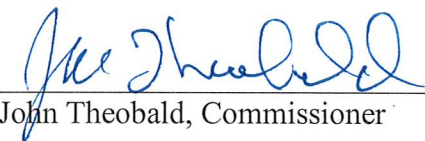
 Jerry Hays, President



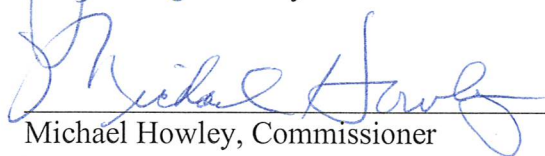
 William Fried, Vice President



 James Dare, Secretary



 John Theobald, Commissioner



 Michael Howley, Commissioner