

Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF January 13, 2025 REDACTED

Commissioners		
John McAllister -	President	Present
Christine Santiago Foos –	Vice President	Present
Merlin Reimer -	Secretary	Present
Dave Hyatt -	Member	Present
Richard Ray -	Member	Excused
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	Present
Wm. Piwtorak	Social Services	Present
Speaking Guest(s)		

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: President McAllister at 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Approval of minutes concluding at 1733 hrs.

MOTION – 25-0113-01 to approve the minutes from the December 23, 2024 meeting.

1st Reimer 2nd Santiago Foos 4-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION -25-0113-02 to move into executive session at 1734 hrs.

1st Reimer 2nd Santiago Foos 4-0 Vote PASSED

Discussed 1 Financial Request

MOTION- 25-0113-03 to return to public session at 1750 hrs.

1st Hyatt 2nd Reimer 4-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION – 25-0113-04-01 to approve Veteran Redacted waiver for receiving funds greater than the \$3,200 monthly limit.

1st Hyatt 2nd Santiago Foos 4-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION – 25-0113-04-02 to approve Veteran Redacted a waiver for receiving funds greater than \$7,500.00 annually

1st Hyatt 2nd Santiago Foos 4-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION – 25-0113-04-03 to approve Veteran Redacted to receive \$3,291.41 to cover monthly expenditures of the veteran.

1st Hyatt 2nd Reimer 4-0 Vote PASSED

OLD BUSINESS:

Grady Hospital

Bill and Kim G attended a meeting with Grady Hospital staff (Volunteer Supervisor and a Clinical coordinator) to discuss how veteran services can enhance what veterans receive while admitted in the hospital.

Currently, volunteers take care of the veteran program. There are only 2 volunteers for Grady Hospital. They visit on Monday and Wednesdays. However, Dublin Hospital has a more robust program. Veteran Services offered to enhance the program by developing bags of goodies that could be given to the veteran such as office brochure, word search book, puzzle, or light reading material.

The hospital is working internally to see what can be done to identify the veterans more regularly and increase the outreach to veterans at Grady. Over the course of the next couple of weeks, follow up will occur to see how the collaboration is going.

NEW BUSINESS

“Laundry Love” is a collaborative group of churches and other that provide laundry services to those in need twice a month at Delaware’s only coin laundromat. There is a daytime and evening scheduled each month where the group brings in food and will pay for each person’s laundry. Each load costs \$11.00.

The leaders met with financial and outreach partners to discuss opportunities to collaborate and potentially provide financial support to the program. It was explained the collaboration with the VSC can only support veterans of Delaware County.

There was a brainstorming session how this could look but prior to any movement data would have to be gathered to confirm if the partnership is worth it. Laundry Love is to collect data on how many veterans use their facilities regularly. Veteran Services is to ask about the need for laundry services and advertise the service. If veterans need the program and there is an uptick in Veterans using the services...the collaboration will take steps forward to support. This will be looped back to the commission in 4 to 6 months to follow up on the data recovered.

Snack / Refreshments

The DAV requested to have table set up that would be stocked by DAV funds for the Veterans to enjoy some coffee and snacks while waiting for their appointment or when stopping by to visit. This request included to purchase a refrigerator to keep items cold and to keep sugary drinks available in case of a diabetic issue that arises.

Discussion – Due to the electrical setup of the building adding items with a high electrical draw will cause issues with the circuitry of the building. A refrigerator was removed from the offices once already. Secondly, there is no room for a snack table in the proposed space. Placing the table in the hallway will allow anyone in the building to partake. Placing the table inside a secured area will encroach on office space. This can be re-evaluated when the office moves to a larger space, but DAV or any organization is invited to place a small table with snacks for veterans in the main hallway.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wreaths across America:

The discounted offer of buy 2 get 1 free wreath expires soon. Does the commission want to support this program?

MOTION 25-0113-05 to purchase wreaths at the corporate level which costs \$1,700.00. The purchase, due to the discount will get 250 wreaths.

1st Hyatt 2nd Santiago Foos 3-0-1 abstain Vote Passed

Director Galligher will use the proper "P" card to make this purchase.

Gift Cards:

Per the auditor, the gift cards that Veteran Services purchase to give to veterans cannot be given to any other organization. These must be given to veterans/families by the VSO only.

Interviews:

The interviews for the part time intermittent person to work on updating the location of veterans in cemetery have been completed. There were two excellent candidates. One was slightly a better choice due to their knowledge of excel and the use of spreadsheets.

The person recommended to be hired is Fabia Taylor

MOTION 25-0113-06 – to approve to hire Fabia Taylor as the part time intermittent person receiving \$16.00 / hr.

1st Hyatt 2nd Santiago Foos 4-0 Vote Passed

HR will be notified. Start date will be determined by them.

Fraud Training:

Friendly reminder will be sent out to those needing to complete the fraud training. Director will send out an email.

MOVING?

Dawn Huston asked if the commission could meet with Commissioner Merrill on Jan 21st. Initially, it was asked – can they provide any other times?

A heavy conversation continued with the request to move, lease, build, etc.

At the end, the commission will attend the meeting with Hill and McAllister representing on the 21st.

Elections:

A discussion ensued about who will taking over the leadership role of the commission? There could be nominations and a vote or like in the past the position would just be rotated.

If the rotation would be followed:

- Santiago Foos – President
- Hyatt – Vice –President
- Ray – Secretary
- Hill – Member
- McAllister – Member

At the next meeting, this will be discussed and approved.

GOOD FOR THE ORDER:

NEXT MEETING: Jan 27th, 2025 is the next scheduled meeting - 1730 hrs. – At 91 N. Sandusky (Veterans Services).

Motion 25-0113-07 Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1945 hrs.

1st Reimer

2nd Ray

3-0 vote

PASSED

Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF January 27, 2025 REDACTED

Commissioners		
Christine Santiago Foos	President	Excused
Dave Hyatt	Vice President	Present
Ric Ray	Secretary	Present
Jeff Hill	Member	Present
John McAllister	Member	Present
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	Present
Wm. Piwtorak	Social Services	Present
Scott Leonard	Deputy Director	Present
Andrew Apostolec	Transportation	Present
Speaking Guest(s)		

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Vice President Hyatt at 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Approval of minutes concluding at 1733 hrs.

MOTION – 25-0127-01 to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2025 meeting.

1st McAllister 2nd Hill 4-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION -25-0127-02 to move into executive session at 1735 hrs.

1st McAllister 2nd Hill 4-0 Vote PASSED

Discussed 4 Financial Request

Personnel

MOTION- 25-0127-03 to return to public session at 1953 hrs.

1st Ray 2nd Hill 4-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION – 25-0127-04 to approve Veteran REDACTED \$6,575.99 to cover numerous monthly bills including electric, water, car, medical, insurance, and mortgage.

1st Ray 2nd McAllister 4-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION – 25-0127-05 to approve Veteran REDACTED to cover the electric bill due up to \$1,800.00

1st Hyatt 2nd Ray 4-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION – 25-0127-06 to approve Veteran REDACTED to receive \$3,721.48 to cover Car repairs, Car Payment, and car insurance.

1st McAllister 2nd Hill 3-1 Vote PASSED

Motion-25-0127-07 to approve veteran REDACTED \$2,174.80 to cover deposit and first Month's rent.

1st Hill 2nd McAllister 4-0 Vote Passed

OLD BUSINESS:

The “Move”

Director spoke with Vince Villio (Prosecutor's office) regarding the pending lease/move. They support us and understand our position. They are ready to review the lease terms but requested a confirmation that the county will be moving forward on the request and if their legal (Eric Hostettler) would be reviewing the lease instead. If directed, they will move the lease to the top of the list. They are on standby.

The move to Byxbe is also still on the table and in discussion.

After discussion, it was determined that the commission (Two Representatives) attend an upcoming public session to openly discuss this request. Due to the director being deployed, the commission agreed to attend the next meeting Thursday Jan 30th at 9:30 am. The director and two board members will be attending.

New officers

Last meeting, it was discussed to change officers which is normally done this time of year. They discussed changing by simply rotating the position and identified the rotation as:

Santiago Foos – President
Hyatt – Vice President
Ray – Secretary
Hill – Member
McAllister – Member

This was agreed upon but never officially approved by motion.

Motion 25-0127-08 to approve the implementation of officers as agreed upon by last meeting's discussion. They are, for 2025:

Santiago Foos – President
Hyatt – Vice President
Ray – Secretary
Hill – Member
McAllister – Member

1st Ray

2nd McAllister

4-0 Vote

PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Poverty Guideline update

The Social Service officer (Financial) went over the changes to the Federal Poverty Guidelines from 2024 to 2025. Also reminded the board of the common practice to tweak the 250% and 300% categories by increasing the family size thresholds by a specific amount and forgo the Poverty Guidelines. Since this amount has not changed for the past two years, the director suggested increasing the amount from \$7,000.00 to \$7,400.00.

Available for review in 2025 Financial Assistance: Minutes: 2025: 0127

2024 Financial Assistance Annual report

The other item presented was the 2024 End of Year Report showing the financial assistance provided to the qualified Veterans of Delaware County.

Available for review in 2025 Financial Assistance: Minutes: 2025: 0127

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Interviews for CVSO

The interviews were completed and had a standout that is being recommended to the board for approval to hire. This candidate's name is Derrick Zanders.

Motion 25-0127-09 to approve the hiring of Derrick Zanders into the open CVSO position at a beginning rate of \$25.00 per hour.

1st McAllister 2nd Ray 4-0 Vote Passed

Pending Deputy Director opening

Due to the scheduled retirement (April 4th, 2025) of the current Deputy Director – Scott Leonard, it is recommended to post and interview candidates for this pending opening. The board reviewed the recommended job description and then made the following motion

Motion 25-0127-10 to post the job description for Deputy Director/ CVSO as soon as possible and prepare for pending interviews.

1st Hyatt 2nd McAllister 4-0 Vote Passed

SPACE LEFT OPEN

2025 Approval of Purchases

The director has presented his annual list of items that the board of commission supports regularly. Instead of having multiple motions to approve, this list and subsequent motion will support all line items to be managed by the director.

Veteran Services

2025 Approval of purchases

NAME	Amount
Stockhands Horses for Healing - Funding Veteran's Nights	\$36,000
Forever Grateful Dinner at the Fair	\$12,000
Veterans' Day Breakfast	\$8,000
Veterans' Day Parade	\$8,000
Brushpile Veterans' Fishing Tournament	\$1,000
National Veterans Memorial Rental	\$2,500
Qfm 96	\$22,000
National Cinmedia	\$9,000
ABC6 - Sinclair Communications	\$22,000
WBNS 97.1 the Fan	\$16,000
North American Broadcasting 99.7 the Blitz	\$22,000
ICS Communications (local)	\$13,000
Charter Communications (Spectrum)	\$22,000
National/Local Conference Attendance	\$4,000
2025 Bus Trips	\$10,000
2025 Vet Shoot Day	\$700
2025 Honor Flight Attendance	\$900
2025 Outreach Coordinator Special Projects	\$25,000
2024 Increase in DelcoTransit	\$1,000
2025 DelcoTransit	\$75,000

Motion 25-0127-11 to approve the 2025 Approval of Purchases list allowing the director to spend using each line item as its specific budget.

1st Ray

2nd McAllister

4-0 Vote

Passed

Community Based Outpatient Care (CBOC)

There is momentum building to ask for the new CBOC coming to be named after veterans of Delaware County. There is an upcoming meeting requesting all of the veteran organizations to provide their input regarding whose name(s) should be

used. Currently the names recommended are Myers and Hoffman. Each of them have provided a service to this nation and Delaware County.

This meeting is scheduled for 5 Pm on Thursday January 30th at Delaware County Veteran Services.

Update regarding the director

The director will be temporarily moved to in charge of his military unit until the person in that position returns from deployment.

GOOD FOR THE ORDER:

NEXT MEETING: Feb 10th, 2025 is the next scheduled meeting - 1730 hrs. – At 91 N. Sandusky (Veterans Services).

Motion 25-0127-12 Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2058 hrs.

1st McAllister

2nd Hill

4-0 vote

PASSED