

Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 9TH 2026

Commissioners		
Ric Ray	President	Present
Dave Hyatt	Vice President	Present
John McAllister	Secretary	Present
Jeff Hill	Member	Excused
Richard Mason	Member	Present
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	Excused
Wm. Piwtorak	Deputy Director	Present
Foxx Schneider	Social Services	Present
Speaking Guest(s)		
Mike Draper	Mission Court	Present
Tim Funk	Stockhands	Present

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: President Ric Ray in 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Approval of minutes concluding at 1734 hrs.

Motion – 26-0309-01 to approve the minutes from 02-23-2026 as written

1st McAllister

2nd Hyatt

4-0 Vote

PASS

Guest:

Mike Draper: Mission Court

Mike Draper, representing Mission Court, addressed the Board to express his gratitude for their ongoing support. He requested the approval of funds for five staff members to attend the “ALL RISE” Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, at the end of July. Mr. Draper provided a document outlining the specific personnel and a detailed cost breakdown for the Board's review. This conference serves as essential training to ensure the continued success of the Mission Court team.

Tim Funk: Stockhands Horses for Healing

Tim Funk and Angie Mack, representing Stockhands Horses for Healing, presented to the Board regarding the organization's impact on the general and veteran communities. Their presentation detailed current costs and identified specific future needs for the 501(c)(3) non-profit, which provides a wide range of services for the community and veterans within. They requested new funding allocations; further discussion on this request is scheduled to follow.

Motion-26-0309-02 to move into executive session at 1800 hrs.
1st McAllister **2nd Ray** **4-0 Vote** **PASS**

Motion- 26-0309-03 to return to public session at 1820 hrs.
1st McAllister **2nd Mason** **4-0 Vote** **PASS**

The board discussed the individual cases of Veterans REDACTED and REDACTED to determine how the office and the Veteran Service Commission can best provide support. The conversation focused on an overall approach, moving beyond immediate financial assistance and resource allocation to provide progress in their overall situations.

Motion-26-0309-04 to continue to reach out to other posts for funds to work alongside our financial service officer to develop a plan for Veteran REDACTED bathroom issue based on the most recent estimate provided.

1st Hyatt **2nd McAllister** **4-0 Vote** **PASS**

Motion-26-0309-05 to allow the payment of \$5,000.00 to assist with Veteran REDACTED rent and provide \$200.00 in Meijer cards

1st McAllister **2nd Mason** **4-0 Vote** **PASS**

OLD BUSINESS:

Cemetery Policy:

The Director has requested input from the Veteran Service Commission regarding the implementation of the cemetery policy. Members are encouraged to submit questions or suggestions via email or wait to discuss the matter upon the Director's return.

Software Contract Update:

A legal issue was identified involving the county's legal team. We are making a consistent effort to implement the necessary changes while ensuring our office and the legal team remain closely aligned to ensure successful software initialization. Regular updates will follow as progress is seen.

250 Project:

Due to the cost, the project must go to bid. This is in process. The director is working with the committee and legal to get this done.

Zoo- May 23rd project:

The auditor requested a policy to be developed addressing the use of Vouchers to support veteran-related activities. The policy was written and turned in. In return the auditor requested that the board of commission approve the policy. The board was given the document via email, handed a hard copy to review and accepted via a motion.

Motion-26-0309-06 to allow policy titled "Use of Voucher Cards for Veteran Related Events.

1st Hyatt

2nd Mason

4-0 Vote

PASS

NEW BUSINESS

ALL RISE CONFERENCE

As the outreach coordinator and Social Service Officer for the office are part of mission court and the treatment team. the board would like to send both personnel to the "All RISE" conference in July. The conference would provide training for our office personnel to best assist in the areas needed with Mission Court.

Motion-26-0309-07 The Board moved to approve the attendance of Foxx and Kim at the "All Rise" Conference in Nashville, TN. This approval includes the five individuals from Mike Draper's group, with a total funding allocation not to exceed \$21,000.00.

Financial Assistance Policy:

The Board held a discussion regarding the reorganization and structural correction of the current Financial Assistance Policy. The Deputy Director presented an updated draft, which categorized the policy into sections to improve clarity and transparency. During the meeting, the Board reviewed Sections One and Two, proposing revisions designed to enhance veteran support and ensure the program's stability and progress. These sections will be revised for further review, and discussions on the remaining sections will continue in future meetings. Additionally, the Board discussed authorizing the Deputy Director and the Financial Service Officer to attend a budgeting course in June. This training is intended to strengthen the office's operations on this subject and ensure the delivery of services to our veterans.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Wave Report:

Distributed to all board members

GOOD FOR THE ORDER:

March 29th at the Historical Courthouse Steps will be a ceremony for Vietnam Veterans

Commissioner Hyatt mentioned a hope for attendance to be had on Monday March 16th at 3PM for a WWII Veteran at the Kinston Care Center to celebrate his birthday. Any updates on this event as the date approaches will follow.

NEXT MEETING: March 23rd, 2026, is the next meeting scheduled-1730 hrs. At 91 N. Sandusky Street (Veterans Services).

Motion 26-0309-08 to adjourn the meeting at 1915 hrs.

1st McAllister

2nd Hyatt

4-0 Vote

PASS

Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 23rd 2026 REDACTED

Commissioners		
Ric Ray	President	Present
Dave Hyatt	Vice President	Present
John McAllister	Secretary	Present
Jeff Hill	Member	Present
Richard Mason	Member	Present
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	Present
Wm. Piwtorak	Deputy Director	Present
Foxx Schneider	Social Services	Excused
Speaking Guest(s)		
Zach Burris	Veteran Sled Hockey Team	Present
Andrew Apostolec	Transportation Manager	Present

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: President Ric Ray in 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Approval of minutes concluding at 1734 hrs.

Motion – 26-0323-01 to approve the minutes from 03-09-2026 as written

1st McAllister

2nd Hill

5-0 Vote

PASS

Guest:

Zach Burris – Veteran Sled Hockey Team – Waldo, Ohio

Came to the board explaining what the team is and how it helps veterans cope with their disabilities. The cost for practice time and proper equipment is a lot of money. Mr. Burris came to see if the board would consider a donation to help the team continue this very important opportunity to those. Examples of needs:

Equipment for 1 veteran = \$2,000.00

Ice time to practice – \$350.00 per hour.

The VA has changed their policy on helping veterans with disabilities participate in these kinds of activities. This is why the team is out asking other organizations for assistance.

Andrew Apostolec – Came in to provide an annual report regarding transportation services that Veteran services provides the office. In summary, the transportation

services activities have been increasing in activity every year for the past 5 years. Report will be available for review.

Motion-26-0323-02 to move into executive session at 1756 hrs.

1st McAllister **2nd Ray** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Discussion with the Transportation

- A. Needs a New Vehicle
- B. Replacement of a part-time driver
- C. Hire a new intermittent employee
- D. Banning a Veteran who is abusive to employees from transportation Services.

No Financial Request this meeting

Motion- 26-0323-03 to return to public session at 1833 hrs.

1st McAllister **2nd Hyatt** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

OLD BUSINESS:

Stockhands Horses for Healing:

The discussion from last meeting continued. In review, the request was for Veteran Services to up the monthly amount from \$3,000.00 to \$10,000.00 and to help pay for two Percheron horses for their activities totaling \$35,000.00. The total amount is \$155,000.00.

The board discussed and expressed as a consensus that Stockhands does EXCELLENT work. What they struggle with is that due to the law that is in place is that any funds provided MUST be solely for the use of veterans. The request is vague and can be interpreted as the funds would support the entire mission and not just the veteran community.

The board recommends that Stockhands come back and provide documentation and a request that supports only the veteran community.

Cemetery Policy

The director will be putting pen to paper developing a policy for headstones purchases for Veterans of Delaware County. He is taking input to fine tune the document that will be drafted and shared in an upcoming meeting. If anyone has suggestions to make the policy a rock-solid document, get with the director so the ideas can be discussed and published.

Software Contract

There is a slight delay in the software project due in part of miscommunication regarding what the project entails. It appears that two different projects were interpreted to be the same, causing confusion. Further, IT feels that they may have software they can complete our needs and if so, it is already vetted software where approval would not have to occur through the data board. IT personnel will be coming to our office to discuss the abilities and needs. Legal is also involved speaking with Butler County to make sure the sharing of the product is ok to complete.

250th Project

The director finally received the inputs for the statue / granite projects. It can now be developed to go to bid. The director will be working with the committee to get this done and follow through with the entire process.

Financial Assistance Policy:

Review the policy – Section 1 and 2 as a second read. All items addressed is confirmed to stay.

Section 3 and 4 – reviewed – discussed Assets – 2nd discussion next meeting.

Sections 5,6, 7 are assigned to discuss at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Zach Burris – Veteran Sled Hockey Team – Waldo, Ohio

The board discussed the request. Based upon the location and make up of the team it is difficult to approve a funding request. The board appreciates the mission of the team and all its attributes but cannot provide funding to the team in general based upon the laws that have been established. However, if the team has a Veteran residing in Delaware County, they can petition the board to provide funding for equipment and other needs of that specific veteran. Communication will be sent out to Mr. Burris explaining this discussion.

VCAS(Veteran Companion Animal Services) – May 16th is their Gala for 2026. In support of their organization the board discussed supporting them again this year, just like last year to approve 4 Tickets.

Motion- 26-0323-04 to approve to purchase 4 tickets to send veterans to the VCAS GALA that is scheduled for May 16th, 2026.

1st Hyatt **2nd McAllister** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

2026 Purchases

Veterans Services approved a blanket purchase back in December 2025 for 2026. Due to an unexpected opportunity to send people to a national event to learn about treatment courts and how to improve programs, the board has elected to send two people. To allow this opportunity the board needs to increase the amount from \$4,000.00 to \$11,000.00 to cover all the projected costs this training will require.

Motion 26-0323-05 to approve the increase for the 2026 Approval of Purchases: National and Local Conference Attendance line from \$4000.00 to \$11,000.00.

1st Ray **2nd Hill** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Delco Transit requires an agreement between themselves and Veteran Services. This agreement has not changed over the years except for the cost per ride. The board appreciates the collaboration they provide to enhance the service provided to the board of directors.

Motion 26-0323-06 to approve the agreement between Delco Transit and Veterans Services authorizing the director to sign the agreement for 2026 agreement.

1st Mason **2nd Hill** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Parking issue @ 91 N. Sandusky Street.

The director let the board know that parking is becoming an issue again where open spots are limited, creating visitors to the surrounding buildings to park in spots that are

4. The transportation manager has requested to ban veteran REDACTED from transportation requests due to his numerous inappropriate outburst and threats to employees. This request will remain in effect until the veteran can prove he has sought treatment and provides documentation showing his improvement of his disposition to others.

Motion 26-0323-10 to ban Veteran REDACTED from any transportation request until he provides documentation showing improvement of his disposition to others.

1st Hyatt **2nd McAllister** **5-0 Vote** **PASSED**

5. When a veteran comes into Veteran Services requesting copies of 1 page or all pages of their personal records, they will be required to sign a document. This document will annotate their name, Date of Birth, last 4 of their social and their signature authorizing the release of their record(s) to themselves.

Motion 26-0323-11 to mandate that all veterans coming into the office requesting copies of their records shall be signed by the Veteran using a designated signature form that will be kept on record following the record retention policy timeline.

1st McAllister **2nd Mason** **5-0 Vote** **PASSED**

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Wave Report:

Distributed to all board members

GOOD FOR THE ORDER:

March 29th at the Historical Courthouse Steps will be a ceremony for Vietnam Veterans Commissioner Hyatt mentioned a hope for attendance to be had on Monday March 16th at 3PM for a WWII Veteran at the Kinston Care Center to celebrate his birthday. Any updates on this event as the date approaches will follow.

NEXT MEETING: April 13th, 2026, is the next meeting scheduled-1730 hrs. At 91 N. Sandusky Street (Veterans Services).

Motion 26-0323-12 to adjourn the meeting at 2003 hrs.

1st McAllister

2nd Hyatt

5-0 Vote

PASS