



**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
April 21, 2022 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

Administrative Officer 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: Dan Semsel, Deputy Director, Bryan Suddith, Administrative Officer and Steven Strain, Veterans Legal Counsel.

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 March 9 meeting minutes as presented and 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.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ray Girard (PR Officer) of the Miami Valley Young Marines presented to the commission an overview of the work and mission of the MVYM program. The group is similar to Scouting or JROTC, but does not have a recruiting component. Three facets of the program are Education/Training/Drill and there is a service component as well.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Consider Approval of Soldiers and Sailor Financial Assistance for the period of March 1 to March 31, 2022.

Kim Frisco, Director, presented the report. Commissioner Theobald asked for clarification on one of the denials presented. The denial was explained with the clarification that the Veteran in question did receive assistance on a subsequent application. However the denial was connected to utilities not in the Veteran's name or a legal spouse's name.

Commissioner Fried moved to accept the report as presented. 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 as presented.

- b) Korean War Memorial Update

Kim Frisco presented an update along with comments by Bryan Suddith regarding the number of qualified vendors that are able and willing to bid on the project. From research in 2021 we have learned that Dodd's Monument company is the only local company able to do the work. They are also the company that built the monument. We have learned that most local granite companies are not interested in cleaning and restoration work and all suggested Dodd's as a company that does restoration work.

Commissioner Fried moved to approve expenses not to exceed \$25,000 for the purpose of cleaning, restoration and repair of the memorial. 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 as presented.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a) Transportation for Compensation Exams

Kim Frisco presented an issue that has come up recently. The office has received requests for VA required Compensation Exams outside of Montgomery County. Historically we have only transported Veterans within the county.

Commissioner Theobald moved to approve staff to formulate a plan to accommodate transportation requests for appointments required by the VA that our located outside of Montgomery County for eligible Veterans. 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 as presented.

b) Ohio D-Day Event in Conneaut Ohio

Kim Frisco presented details around the annual Ohio D-Day re-enactment located in Conneaut Ohio. The event is a 3 day re-enactment of D-Day on the shores of Lake Erie.

Bryan Suddith presented a sample budget to transport 25-30 WWII veterans and aides and staff to Northeast Ohio for a two-day one-night bus trip. That estimated cost was \$15,000.

Commissioner Fried moved for approval in an amount to not exceed \$20,000 to execute a plan to make this trip possible for area WWII veterans. 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 as presented.

c) COVID-19 Special Financial Relief

Dan Semsel presented to staff the status of this program started in April of 2020. In 2022 there have been 8 applications for COVID Special Relief. Most all for lost wages. 5 awards for \$1,000 have been granted and 3 have been denied.

After a brief conversation about the need and purpose of the program, Jerry Hays moved to table the conversation until the July meeting.

d) Personnel Matter

Commissioner Howley moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussions of public employee compensation. ORC 121.22 (g) 1

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 as presented and the commission entered into Executive Session at 11:57 a.m.

The Commission exited executive session at 12:02 p.m.

Commissioner Dare moved to award a 2.5% salary increase to each of the three members of the management team. Deputy Director, Legal Counsel and Administration Officer.

<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 as presented.

VIII. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Frisco reminded the Commission that the 2023 budget proposal will need to be discussed and approved during next month's meeting (May). Director Frisco also commented on the success of the annual Post Commanders' meeting held on April 20.

Food Voucher use is up as expected in response to inflation. All costs are going up and there has been a surge of requests for food assistance. Overall we are on par for budget expenditures.

Legal reported a record 63 appointments in March.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Hays

- No report

Commissioner Fried

- Congrats to staff on the Post Commanders' meeting
- VVA Meeting tonight, 4/21
- Comments about the annual spring commissioner conference success heard earlier in the month.

Commissioner Dare

- No report.

Commissioner Theobald

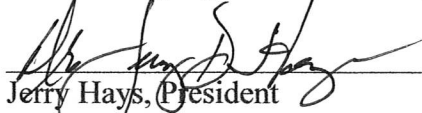
- AMVETS Post 24 New Commander is Rex West, a former Commander.

Commissioner Howley

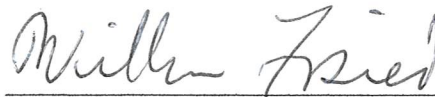
- Post 9927 still in the midst of a leadership change.
- Will be inviting County Recorder Brandon McClain to speak to the post. Very engaging after his presentation at the Post Commanders' meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



Jerry Hays, President



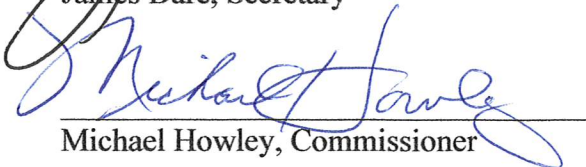
William Fried, Vice President



James Dare, Secretary



John Theobald, Commissioner



Michael Howley, Commissioner