



MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
March 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. February 15, 2023
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Consider Approval of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the Period of February 1-28, 2023
 - b. Follow up Discussion on Surrounding County VSO Wages
- VII. New Business
 - a. Interviews for Potential Employment of a Public Employee
 - b. Habitat for Humanity Veterans Critical Repair Program
- VIII. Management Report
- IX. Commissioners' Reports
- X. Adjournment



**Meeting Minutes of the
Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission
March 15, 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 took 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
- Dan Semsel, Deputy Director
- Steven Strain, Veterans Legal Counsel
- Bryan Suddith, Admin Officer

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Change

Commissioner Fried moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for the purposes of considering employment of a public employee. 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		
James Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:02 a.m.

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

Commissioner Theobald moved to authorize staff to extend an offer to Mark Woffindale first and then Jeff Tudor as a second choice should the first candidate decline or otherwise be disqualified. Motion seconded by Commissioner Fried.

<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		

IV. Approval of Minutes

President Hays moved to accept the minutes as presented with two changes noted by Commissioner Fried, 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		

V. Public Comments

a) Bryan Suddith read an email from Fred Rojas about Mr. Gard's 100th Birthday in April.

VI. Old Business

a) Commissioner Fried inquired as to the progress on our communication with the GDRTA, Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority.

b) Consideration of the Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance Report for the Period of February 1-28, 2023

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

Commissioner Howley asked the staff about the high volume of incomplete applications. Director Frisco explained that many times it is the lack of documentation for large volumes of cash purchases that leads to the designation of an incomplete application.

<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.

c) Follow up to discussion on surrounding county VSO wages and Commissioner wages

Commissioner Theobald suggested an increase to the bottom entry level

VII. New Business

a) Habitat for Humanity Veterans Critical Repair Program

Bryan Suddith presented the program to the Commission with an ask of \$15,000 pending approval from Nathaniel Peterson.

Commissioner Fried moved to approve \$15,000 to Habitat of Humanity for Veterans Critical Repair Program, with a matching fund provision and with approval from the County Prosecuting Attorney. This partnership will be tied to specific Veterans and specific property projects located in Montgomery County. An additional \$15,000 may appropriated for future projects that meet the same requirements listed above. The motion seconded by Commissioner Theobald.

<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		

VIII. Management Report

Dan Semsel presented a budget update to the Commission.

Steve Strain presented his monthly report for Legal Services rendered to Veterans. Steve will be presenting to the Veterans Breakfast at Archers Tavern in Kettering on March 25.

Bryan Suddith offered the Transportation Report.

Director Frisco presented information regarding the annual meeting on April 28. Also March 28, Director Frisco will be presenting to the County Commissioners during the 9:30 a.m. meeting.

Director Frisco also reminded Commissioners of the Vets Moving Forward event at the Wright State Student Union on May 24.

IX. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Hays

- Reminded Commissioners that invites will be coming soon for Veterans dinners around Memorial Day.

Commissioner Dare

- Buckeye Boys State is happening again in June at Miami University and the American Legion is responsible for this program. Jim will be interviewing students at area high schools

Commissioner Fried

- American Legion blood drive later this month.
- VVA will have elections soon.

Commissioner Theobald

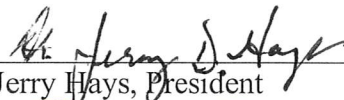
- Suicide Prevention continues to be a big issue of discussion and concern for area AMVETS posts. He asked if there is there concise and conclusive data that supports the 22/day statistic. He also asked how we as an organization can better amplify the messages provided to Veterans from reputable mental health services. Commissioner Theobald called for training for each employee and commissioners on responding to those phone calls that come to the office. **Commissioner will report back on his training with Mental Health First Aid class.**

Commissioner Howley

- Attended the monthly Veterans breakfast at 9:30 at Archers in Kettering, the last Saturday of each month. Very well attended.
- Attended a VFW meeting and presented the annual report to the members. One question to Steve about the appeal process.
- Commissioner Howley will be absent from the April meeting.

X. Adjournment

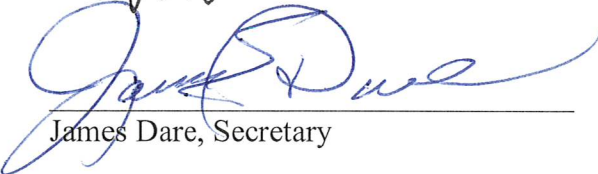
The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.



Jerry Hays, President



William Fried, Vice President



James Dare, Secretary



John Theobald, Commissioner

Michael Howley, Commissioner



Transportation Report | January – February 2023

Monthly Appointments

March 2023

*Client Appointments	173
2023 Monthly Average	162
2023 YTD Total	486
2022 Total	1,049
2022 Monthly Average	87

Monthly Cost

February 2023

RTA/UBER/Valley	\$6,165.01
2023 Monthly Average	\$5,972.75
2023 YTD Total	\$11,945.50
2022 Total	\$33,470.92
2022 Monthly Average	\$2,789.24

February Trip Totals**

• RTA/UBER/Lyft	74
• RTA/Paratransit	141
• Valley Transport	61
• RTA Bus Pass (Medical)	8
• RTA Bus Pass (Grocery)	33

*Appointments are generally round trip.

**One-way trips



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

1. Data Statistics
 - a. Financial Assistance:
 - i. March 2023
 1. Approved: 44/\$26,262.12
 2. Shelter: 6/\$7,976.39
 3. Utilities: 20/\$8551.13
 4. Disapprovals: 11
 - a. 8 – No emergency
 - b. 3 – Incomplete
 - ii.
 - iii. 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
 - iv. 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

- b. Dental: 2/\$1,805.00
 - i. 2023 YTD: 6/\$5,702.00
- c. Emergency Repair (Assistance): 1/\$1000
 - i. 2023 YTD: 4/\$3,079.60
- d. COVID: 0/\$0
- e. Indigent Burial: 0/\$0
 - i. 2023 YTD: 19/\$18,866.00
- f. Kroger Voucher Update: 98 Vouchers/\$4,900 (15 Veterans)
 - i. 2023 YTD: 330 Vouchers/\$16,500 (55 Veterans)
- 2. VSO Service Appointments/Information (in-person/phone) – 254 (2022 YTD: 790)
- 3. VSO Financial Appointments/Information (in-person/phone) – 72 (2023 YTD: 309)
- 4. 2023 YTD Service Claims Awarded - \$676,465.49



Legal Services Report
March 2023

New Client Appointments.....57
YTD Monthly Average.....50.6

Practice Areas

Housing Defense.....4
Civil/Family.....9
Estate Planning.....34
Miscellaneous Legal Advice.....10

Service By County

Montgomery.....44
Greene.....3
Miami.....2
Preble.....1
Warren.....1
Allen.....1
Ashtabula.....1
Clermont.....4

Total Counties Served.....32

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.....\$50,100
Cases.....4
Consultations.....152
2023 YTD Total