



**Meeting Minutes of the  
Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission  
September 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM**

**I. Call to Order**

President Jerry Hays called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m. at 627 Edwin C. Moses Boulevard, 4<sup>th</sup> 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, Administrative Officer

**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**

Commission Member Theobald moved to table the Aug 9, 2023 minute approvals. 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			
James Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner			
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

Motion passed unanimously 3-0. Approval of minutes tabled for one month.

**V. Public Comments**

a. Habitat for Humanity – David Mauch

1. Brought a thank you for the Commissioner’s support of the Veterans Critical Repair program earlier this year. Galen Curry and Onetha Black joined David for the presentation. Galen leads the Veterans program, Onetha is part of the development team. Galen reported back on the three Veterans that were assisted earlier this year.
2. Kim presented that Habitat for Humanity asked for \$25,000 for 5 additional Veteran centric projects. Staff and Commissioners agreed to take up this question after a budget review in the October meeting.

b. Veteran Oasis – Frank Thames

Working toward creating a meeting place and base of operations to house this new Veterans non-profit. Frank Thames reiterated the program Veteran Oasis will be facility based and programs will be conducted from there. He stated that he sees folks like Invite a Vet as partners in their work. They are in the research and development stage completing the foundational work now. Current task is locating the physical location.

Staff offered to be a resource to Veteran Oasis as they reach out to area Veteran Service Commissions. He is currently working with Rico Rojas to present to the regional VFW body.

**VI. Old Business**

a) Consideration of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the Period of Aug 1 – Aug 31, 2023.

Commissioner Theobald moved to accept the report without changes 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			
James Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner			
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved. 3-0

**VII. New Business**

a) COVID Assistance program

Staff shared that the current financial assistance program would cover instances of loss of income due to COVID.

Commissioner Theobald moved to suspend the current COVID assistance program. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dare.

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

President Hays declared the motion approved. 3-0

b) Personnel Issue(s)

Motion by Commissioner Dare to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussion of employee compensations, appointments and interviews (*ORC 121.22 G 1 to discuss employment and compensation*) seconded by Theobald.

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

Entered Executive Session at 11:21 a.m.

Commission exited Executive Session at 12:27 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Theobald moved to give staff permission to post and recruit for the position of Clerical Support Specialist the current listed pay range. 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			
James Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner			
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved. 3-0

Motion by Commissioner Theobald moved to authorize the Director to offer the position of Deputy Director to internal candidate Bryan Suddith with an effective date of October 1, 2023. The offer and negotiations to include the Commission President Jerry Hays to be in line with current established salary range. 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	
James Dare, Secretary	X
Michael Howley, Commissioner	
John Theobald, Commissioner	X

President Hays declared the motion approved. 3-0

**VIII. Management Report**

Executive Director Kimberly Frisco presented reports from Staff:

- Frisco presented the budget update on schedule and on track for year end.
- Dan Semsel’s going away luncheon in on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Steven Strain presented the legal report.

- Strain explained the new process for Veterans seeking assistance for Wills and Estate Planning.
- Strain also detailed the volume of folks coming from outside Montgomery County.
- Strain stressed the need for finding the right fit for the Mentor Coordinator position that is now open for recruiting.

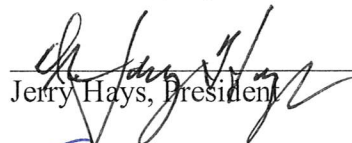
Bryan Suddith presented the Outreach and Transportation reports.

**IX. Commissioners’ Reports**

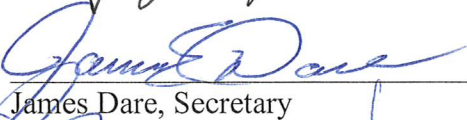
1. Commissioner Hays – DAV meeting tonight. November is the date for the next statewide Commissioners Training in Columbus.
2. Commissioner Dare – Meetings are resuming on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. Commissioner Theobald – Post 24 just met on the 12<sup>th</sup>. They are hosting the District 1 AMVETS meeting this weekend. Commissioner Theobald had the chance to tour the new 23 hour ER facility at the St. Elizabeth’s medical complex to address addiction emergencies. Meant to acts as a short term care facility for folks facing addiction and as a referral agency for additional services if needed beyond 23 hours of care. Commissioner Theobald is working with the Wexner Medical Center on aging issues. His work is starting to touch on Veterans Aging issues here in Ohio. He hopes to have Wexner’s staff to present to the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Commissioners meeting in April 2025.

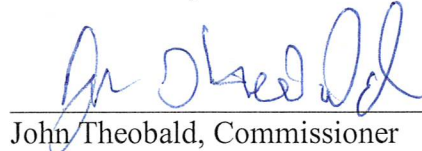
**X. Adjournment**

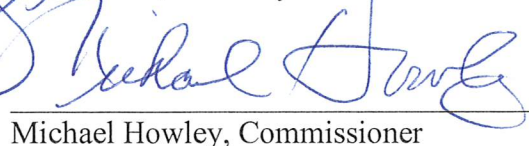
The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

  
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 Jerry Hays, President

*ABSTAIN*  
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 William Fried, Vice President

  
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 James Dare, Secretary

  
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 John Theobald, Commissioner

  
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 Michael Howley, Commissioner