

Commissioner James G. "Grant" Wells called the Clark County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) meeting to order at 8:30a.m. on 20 January 2022. Commissioners present: Bill McGee, James G. "Grant" Wells, James R. Ryan, Thomas O'Neal and Ronald Coss. Assistant Director Crystal Baker was also present.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Tom O'Neal moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of 13 January 2022 and approve them as written. The motion was seconded by Jim Ryan and carried by a vote of 4-0 with Ron Coss abstaining.

**Assistant Director Updates:** Ms. Baker informed the board that she is working on the GAAP Report and the ODVS Annual Reports. She hopes to have them complete and submitted Friday.

The Caregiver Support Program (CSP) was discussed. Ms. Baker advised the board that she attended the CBOC stakeholders meeting Wednesday and listened to a presentation given by Dr. Carmela Daniels, the CSP Coordinator at the Dayton VA Medical Center. She advised the stakeholders this program is expanding eligibility to offer support for caregivers of eligible Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2011 to include those Veterans who served on or before May 7, 1975. All remaining eras will be included on October 1, 2022. This is an eight step program. The service officers in our office can submit a VA Form 10-10CG for any veteran who is 70% service connected or higher. Once that is complete the CSP team will conduct a clinical assessment with the veteran, a functional assessment, a clinical assessment with each Family Caregiver, and review the medical records. If all that goes well, the caregiver will complete caregiver training, the CSP will conduct a home-care assessment, and the final eligibility will be determined. A member of the CSP team will notify the veteran with a determination within 90 days of the application being received. The Veteran will need to reassess every year to determine if he or she still qualifies.

Ms. Baker asked that the board members extend the Families First Coronavirus Act until December 31, 2022 to allow for up to forty hours of paid sick leave when an employee is unable to work due to being quarantined. Jim, Tom, and Grant asked what the county's policy is. More specifically, they want to know if an employee can only use it once per lifetime or if it starts all over at the beginning of the year. Jim Ryan stated he has heard of people getting COVID more than once. Ms. Baker advised she would find out the county's policy and let them know at the next meeting. The board decided to table the issue until the next meeting.

Jim Ryan moved to cancel the meeting for Thursday February 3, 2022 due to the office closure from January 27- February 6, 2022. The motion was seconded by Tom O'Neal and carried by a unanimous vote.

Jim Ryan moved to adopt the 2022 holiday schedule provided by the county. The motion was seconded by Ron Coss and carried by a unanimous vote.

Transportation issues were discussed. Ms. Baker advised the board the newest white wheelchair van is currently not being used due to mechanical issues. Steve Cook, the van supervisor is checking to see if the problem is under warranty. He is taking the van to White Ford in Urbana next week.

Assistant Director Crystal Baker left the meeting.

Executive Director Catherine Wood joined the meeting.

**Executive Director Updates:**

Ms. Wood was contacted by Sydney Dawes of the Springfield News Sun last week. Ms. Dawes was interested in the resolution by the BoCC regarding ARPA funds and assistance granted by the VSC. Ms. Wood forwarded the figures for assistance granted in 2021 to her. Mr. O'Neal expressed his concern at the last BoCC meeting regarding the reimbursement of assistance granted from ARPA funds. Commissioner Wilt told him they would look into it again. Mr. O'Neal was told \$10,000,000 would be transferred to the general fund from less restrictive ARPA funds. Mr. O'Neal's concern was that not all assistance granted was necessarily "emergency" assistance that may qualify for ARPA reimbursement.

Members discussed updating the VSC guidelines to include the grant of appliances. Ms. Wood will work on the updated language for the guidelines and determine a total cost allowable for basic appliances to include: cooking stoves, refrigerators, washers, and dryers. The board will review the information next week and possibly approve or make changes.

Motion by Ron Coss to authorize Ms. Wood to set up an appointment with Legal Counsel Dan Harkins to obtain clarification on the following: ORC 5901.16, 22, 23, 24, 32, 34, and 35 regarding burial plots, markers and upkeep of burial sites. The motion was seconded by Bill McGee and carried by a unanimous vote.



Ms. Wood received a follow up email from Ken Fryman regarding bronze flag holders for Pleasant Hill Cemetery. He feels strongly that holders should be provided to the cemetery to include replacement of holders when needed. He is hoping the VSC will supply the cemetery with 64 holders from the Civil War to the present. He knows of another county who provides the holders to the cemetery. The VSC views flag holders as a benefit to the family. Mr. Coss said there is still a problem with theft of the holders at Rose Hill Burial Park. Ms. Wood previously looked into plastic holders but the cost is similar to that of bronze holders. Discussion ensued. Board members instructed Ms. Wood to compose a letter to Mr. Fryman indicating it is not possible to provide holders to the cemetery.

Mr. O'Neal asked what else needed to be done in the counseling room at the new office location. Ms. Wood doesn't think much more will need to be done. She received advice from a local psychologist who treats several veterans suffering from PTSD. He suggested staying away from decorating the space with military items. He thought it would be best to keep the space inviting with possible prints of nature or other calming items. Mr. Ryan spoke with an individual about painting a mural on the back wall of the office. Other options were also discussed.

Board members decided to have the next meeting scheduled for 27 January at the new office location.

Jim Ryan moved to acknowledge payment of the following invoices:

**Contract Services** ~ Shred-it \$553.36 for shredding services.

**Other Expenses** ~ Cathy Wood \$307.94 for Counseling Room Updates and Surge Protectors.

The motion was seconded by Bill McGee and carried by a unanimous vote.

**Public Comments:** None.

Ron Coss moved to enter executive session for the purpose of reviewing applications for financial assistance. Tom O'Neal seconded the motion. Bill McGee called the roll: Bill McGee, yes; Grant Wells, yes; Jim Ryan, yes; Tom O'Neal, yes; Ron Coss, yes; motion carried. The board entered Executive Session at 9:23a.m. The commissioners reviewed applications for financial assistance. The board returned to open session at 9:59 a.m.

Bill McGee moved to approve financial assistance for the following applicants: Jim Ryan seconded the motion.

**Michael George**, 812 Applewood Drive, New Carlisle, Ohio 45344, computer support, was approved for a \$200.00 Kroger card for food, \$382.98 to Ally for a car payment and \$200.28 to State Farm for insurance. Vote: Yes 5, No 0

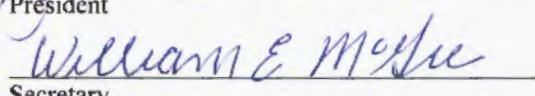
**Cynthia Harshaw**, widow, 1900 Falmouth Ave., Springfield, Ohio 45503, administrative, was approved for \$70.00 to OSU Wexner Medical Center for a medical bill, \$111.91 to William A. Lord, D.D.S. for dental care, \$287.51 to Columbia Gas for heat, \$240.26 to Ohio Edison for electric and \$98.09 to Rumpke for trash removal. Vote: Yes 5, No 0

**Matthew Smith**, 522 Caldwell Circle, New Carlisle, Ohio 45344, laborer, was approved for \$1,757.17 to Ohio Edison for electric and \$880.00 to Exeter for car payments. Vote: Yes 5, No 0

There being no further business to come before the board, Tom O'Neal moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Ryan and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:05a.m.

ATTEST:

  
President

  
Secretary