Commissioner Thomas O’Neal called the Clark County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on 2 November 2023. Commissioners present: James R. Ryan, William E. McGee, Thomas O’Neal, and James G. “Grant” Wells. Executive Director Crystal Baker and Assistant Director David Mitchell were also present. James L. Hudson Jr. was absent and excused.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: James G. “Grant” Wells moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of 26 October 2023 and approve them as written. The motion was seconded by William E. McGee and carried by a vote of Yes, 4 No, 0.

**Acting Director Updates:** James R. Ryan moved to cancel the meeting on Thursday 23 November due to Thanksgiving. The motion was seconded by James G. “Grant” Wells and carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Baker advised the board members that she would speak at the New Carlisle’s chapter Rotary Club 19 December, which would be held at the Tecumseh High school from 11:30am-1:00pm.

Gift cards for veterans and widows at Clark County facilities were discussed. Ms. Baker asked if she should include gift cards to individuals residing in independent care at the Springfield Masonic Community. The board members agreed to include them. Ms. Baker also mentioned that more cards will need to be purchased.

Software programs was conversed about. Ms. Baker reminded the board she visited The Greene County Veterans Office to learn about VetPro. She advised the board members that VetPro seems to be a lot easier to understand than eVetassist was. It will cost $2,250 initially and then approximately $2,475 annually. Ms. Baker mentioned that mini iPads would also need to be purchased for each individual for electronic signatures. She is awaiting an answer concerning financial assistance applications. Thomas O’Neal mentioned keeping VIMS on one machine and purchasing VetPro for all five machines as well. Ms. Baker included the $2,250 for the program and $2,000 for mini iPads in the 2024 budget.

The board members received the 2024 training schedule and reviewed the end of month reports.

The board members received, reviewed and signed the Monthly Report to Posts.

The budget was chatted about. Ms. Baker informed the board members she would have all 2024 documents to go over at the next meeting.

Thomas O’Neal mentioned that Mike Cooper from the county would be coming to take pictures after next Thursdays meeting.

**Assistant Director Updates:** Groceryland and St. Vincentare hosting a Holiday Box Program in December 2023. Mr. Mitchell asked the board if they would be interesting in donating money and/or time. The board decided to revisit this matter at the next meeting after Mr. Mitchell gets more information.

Mr. Mitchell updated the board about the Homelessness Task Force meeting he attended in the past week.

James R. Ryan moved to acknowledge payment of the following invoices:

**Advertising & Printing ~** Spectrum $10,000.00 for television ads.

**Assistance ~** Cashstar $16,128.00 for Kroger cards.

**Office Supplies ~** FriendsOffice $61.24 for office supplies.

**Other Expenses ~** MacRay $112.00 for Ken Howards clothing. Annisa Younts $73.16 for travel reimbursements.

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

**Public Comments:** None.

James G. “Grant” Wells moved to enter executive session for the purpose of reviewing financial assistance. William E. McGee seconded the motion. James R. Ryan called the roll: William E. McGee, yes; James G. “Grant” Wells, yes; James R. Ryan, yes; Tom O’Neal, yes; James Hudson, absent; motion carried. The board entered Executive Session at

9:10 a.m. The board reviewed financial assistance applications. The board returned to open session at 9:25 a.m.

William E. McGee moved to approve financial assistance for the following applicants: James G. “Grant” Wells seconded the motion.

**Aaron Rhyan,** 400 Sunset Ct., Apt. 1D, South Charleston, OH 45368, driver, was approved for $595.00 to Country Lane Apartments for rent. Vote: Yes, 4 No, 0.

**Gary Simko,** 235 Prentice Dr., New Carlisle, OH 45344, laborer, was approved for a $400.00 Kroger card for food, $599.60 cash grant to the veteran for rent, $103.29 to CenterPoint for heat, $94.80 to the City of New Carlisle for water, and $75.00 cash grant to the veteran for cable. Vote: Yes, 4 No, 0.

**Phillip Thomas,** 107 Villa Rd., Springfield, OH 45503, medical assistant, was approved for $587.89 to Ohio Edison for electric, $85.99 to City of Springfield for water, and $96.74 to Rumpke for trash. Vote: Yes, 4 No, 0.

There being no further business to come before the board, James R. Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by James G. “Grant” Wells and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thomas O’Neal, President

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