Commissioner Thomas O’Neal called the Clark County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on 9 November 2023. Commissioners present: James R. Ryan, William E. McGee, James L. Hudson Jr., and Thomas O’Neal. Executive Director Crystal Baker was also present. James G. “Grant” Wells was absent and excused.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: James R. Ryan moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of 2 November 2023 and approve them as written. The motion was seconded by William E. McGee and carried by a vote of Yes, 3 No, 0 with James L. Hudson Jr. abstaining due to last week’s absence.

**Acting Director Updates:** The Veterans Informational Fair was discussed. Ms. Baker advised the board that forty-six veterans attended the fair with nine of the forty-six being new to the office. The veterans were asked how they heard about the event: twelve said flyers, twelve people said newspaper, seventeen said friends or family, two said Facebook, two were emailed from the Dayton VA Medical Center, and one heard it on the radio. The board decided that if a vendor was also a veteran they could participate in the door prize drawing. Next year the event will be held on 2 November 2024 from

11am-2pm in Crabill Hall.

The Grocery land/St. Vincent de Paul event was discussed. Ms. Baker advised the board that she sent an email to Dan Harkins and is checking to see if we may donate to this event. Ms. Baker stated she was also asked if the office could donate to a Scholarship Fund for a deceased veteran. She is also checking with Dan about this as well. Mr. Mitchell had called St. Vincent de Paul and was told they would call us back and never did.

A veteran using our transportation system was chatted about. This veteran has been bringing her dog on the van stating the dog is a service dog however, the letter she provided stated that the dog is an emotional support animal. The VA only allows service dogs therefore; we will not transport her emotional service dog. The board members signed a letter that would be sent to the veteran by certified mail.

Gift cards for Thanksgiving/ Christmas were discussed. Ms. Baker advised the board there were thirty-four extra cards when considering veterans who had applied for assistance January through October. Ms. Baker asked the board if they wanted to provide applicants who applied in November and December with a $150.00 gift card. The board all agreed.

Ms. Baker advised the board members she received a postcard for a Veterans event for MercyHealth held at the Springfield Regional Medical Center on 10 November from 11:30am-noon.

Vendors were discussed. Ms. Baker suggested sending a Holiday gift to some of the smaller vendors that were used throughout the year. The board members decided to revisit this at the next meeting when Ms. Baker provides a list of vendors.

Ms. Baker asked the board their thoughts on providing hats and gloves to the homeless in Clark County. Thomas O’Neal said he thought it was a great idea. Mr. Mitchell has a call into the Homelessness Task Force to get numbers. Annisa is calling Sheltered Inc. and Ms. Baker has contacted the Dayton VA Homeless Shelter to get a count.

Ms. Baker advised the board that other counties provide flag cases to next of kin and thought that would be a nice gesture in the future where the budget allows.

All members received, reviewed, and discussed the 2024 budget.

William E. McGee moved to acknowledge payment of the following invoices:

**Advertising & Printing ~** Alpha Media $3,750.00 for radio advertising. 4 imprint $542.56 for bags.

**Assistance ~** Cashstar $3,748.50 for Kroger cards.

**Equipment Lease** ~ US Bank $89.88 for copier lease and overages.

**Office Supplies ~** FriendsOffice $137.89 for office supplies.

**Other Expenses ~** Clark County Historical Society $1,962.00 for November lease.

**Outreach** ~ Carmae Catering $2,362.50 for catering the Veterans Informational Fair.

The motion was seconded by James R. Ryan and carried by a unanimous vote.

**Public Comments:** None.

James R. Ryan moved to enter executive session for the purpose of reviewing financial assistance. James L. Hudson Jr. seconded the motion. James L. Hudson Jr. called the roll: William E. McGee, yes; James G. “Grant” Wells, absent; James R. Ryan, yes; Tom O’Neal, yes; James Hudson, yes; 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 9:15 a.m.

William E. McGee moved to approve financial assistance for the following applicants: James L. Hudson Jr. seconded the motion.

**James Tossey II,** 2508 Mayfair Dr., Springfield, OH 45505, driver, was approved for a $500.00 Kroger card for food, $562.34 to Pennymac for mortgage, $104.48 to Ohio Edison for electric, $146.00 to Columbia Gas for heat, and $158.84 to City of Springfield for water. 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 William E. McGee and carried by a vote of Yes, 4 No, 0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ William E. McGee, Vice President

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