Commissioner William E. McGee called the Clark County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on 11 January 2024. Commissioners present: James R. Ryan, William E. McGee, Thomas O’Neal, James G. “Grant” Wells, and James L. Hudson Jr. Executive Director Crystal Baker and Assistant Director David Mitchell were also present.

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 4 January 2024 and approve them as written. The motion was seconded by James R. Ryan and carried by a vote of 4-0 with Tom O’Neal abstaining due to last week’s absence.

**Executive Director Updates:** Ms. Baker advised the board members that the office filed 497 claims in 2023 compared to the 447 claims that were filed in 2022. She stated that she was not sure if that was due to the PACT ACT or new clients but either way the numbers are increasing each year.

Ms. Baker along with Thomas O’Neal stated they thought the formal budget hearing held last Thursday went well.

Ms. Baker advised that she sent a letter to Jason Rush by email to advise him that the Commission would not be paying on his mortgage due to his lack of accountability. Ms. Baker has not heard from the veteran. Thomas O’Neal suggested sending a letter certified mail in future instances like this. Ms. Baker agreed that was a good idea.

**Assistance Director Updates:** Mr. Mitchell followed up on the letter that was mailed to a veteran 12/28/23 concerning personal hygiene issues. Mr. Mitchell opined that veteran passed away a few hours after that letter was mailed. He also suggested the supervisors of the transportation program review and possibly re-write the contract to include personal hygiene and start sending those out to all riders.

Thomas O’Neal moved acknowledge payment of the following invoices.

**Advertising & Printing ~** OpenEye Studio $2,771.43 for videography, Alpha Media $1,950.00 for radio ads.

**Contract Services ~** Spectrum $167.97 for internet.

**Equipment Lease ~** US Bank $59.00 for copier lease.

**Other Expenses ~** Fastlane $23.31 for car wash.

The motion was seconded by James G. “Grant” Wells and carried by a unanimous vote.

**Public Comments:** None.

Thomas O’Neal moved to enter executive session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing financial assistance. James R. Ryan seconded the motion. James R. Ryan called the roll: William E. McGee, yes; James G. “Grant” Wells, yes; James R. Ryan, yes; Thomas O’Neal, yes; James Hudson, yes; motion carried. The board entered Executive Session at 8:42 a.m. The board reviewed financial assistance applications. The board returned to open session at 9:00 a.m.

Thomas O’Neal moved to approve financial assistance for the following applicants: James G. “Grant” Wells seconded the motion.

**Gary Gaines,** widow,908-1/2 Limestone St., Springfield, OH 45505, factory worker, was approved for a $300.00 Kroger card for food and $550.00 to Future Sights for housing. Vote: Yes, 5 No, 0.

**Chris Higginbotham,** widow, 17 W. Johnson Ave., Apt. 105, Springfield, OH 45506, laborer, was approved for a $300.00 Kroger card for food and $210.00 to Tubman Towers for housing. Vote: Yes, 5 No, 0.

**Anthony Jones,** 1810 N. Limestone St., Springfield, OH 45503, laborer, was approved for $2,000.00 to Scanlan Construction for housing, $126.64 to Ohio Edison for electric, $178.00 to Columbia Gas for heat, and $171.00 to City of Springfield for water. Vote: Yes, 5 No, 0.

**Wayne Shafer,** 25 Larchmont Ave., Springfield, OH 45503, laborer, was approved for a $300.00 Kroger card for food and a $100.00 Kroger card for gasoline. Vote: Yes, 5 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 Thomas O’Neal. and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

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

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