



Veteran Assistance Commission of Will County

Glenwood Center 2400 Glenwood Ave. Ste 110 Joliet, IL 60432

Ph: (815)740-8389 Fax: (815)740-4329

September 13, 2022

FULL COMMISSION

MEETING

6:00PM

302 N. Chicago St

Joliet, IL

EDITED AND REVISED ON 12/07/2022 BY ANNAMARIE DENEEN

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance: ALL
- II. A. Opening Prayer: James Singler
- III. A. Roll Call of Executive Board
 - B. Roll Call of Members of the Veterans Assistance Commission

Roll call of the Executive Board		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	P
Vacant	Vice President	
Denise Williams	Secretary	P
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	P
Jim Singler	Chaplain	P
Tom Mlynek	Member	P
Janet Blue	Member	P
Steve Benicke	Member	P
Vic Martinka	Past Chairman	E
John York	Past Chairman	E
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	P
Roll Call of the Commission		
Delegates/Alternates	Post	
James Singler	AL 12059 Carillon	P
No Delegate	AL 2000 Mokena	A
No Delegate	AL 1977 New Lenox	A
No Delegate	AL1291 Crete	A

Janet Blue/David Batzek	AL 1200 Monee	P (Exec. Board Member)
Thomas Horn/Gary Stieg	AL 1080 Joliet (1080)	A
John Kestel/Robert Angone/Richard Smerz	AL 935 Manhattan	P
Joey Smith/Lisa Smith	AL 521 Steger	A
Robert Krueger/Rick Bolanowski	AL 392 Peotone	E
John Gavin/James Shaw	AL 241 Joliet Buffalo Soldiers	A
No Delegate	AL 191 Wilmington	A
Steve Benicke/Steven Daley/Tiffany Jackson	AL 52 Romeoville	P (Exec. Board Member)
Dale Fraher/James Chappell	AL 39 Braidwood	A
Mike Myers/Tom Jost	AL 18 Lockport	A
James Castenada/Raj Pillai	AL 13 Plainfield	P
No Delegate	VFW 9545 New Lenox	A
No Delegate	VFW 8283 Steger	A
No Delegate	VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	A
Keith Carberry/Ernest Errico	VFW 5788 Lockport	P
No Delegate	VFW 5819 Lemont	NOT IN WILL COUNTY
No Delegate	VFW 5422 Wilmington	A
No Delegate	VFW 2199 Joliet (Stone City)	A
Amanda Koch/Daniel Koch	VFW 1493 Frankfort	P (Exec. Board Member)
James Hogan/No Alternate	VFW 725 Mokena	A
Lou Smith/Jim Clausen	VFW 367 Joliet (Cantigny)	P
QUARUM ANNOUNCED BY	JACK PICCIOLO	YES

IV. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees:

No new guests or first-time attendees

V. Public Comment

Kirk Allen – Edgar County Watchdogs

Raj Pillai Alternate/Delegate – American Legion Plainfield Post 13

John Kraft – Edgar County Watchdogs

Motion for more time

MOVER: Koch

SECONDER: Pallai

Motion for more time passed

Will Sutton – Delegate Plainfield American Legion

Motion for more time

MOVER: Koch
SECONDER: Angone
Motion for more time passed

Dan Miller - Veteran

Tim Conrad – Will County Resident

Robert Angone – Veteran Delegate Manhattan Post #935

Lisa McGlasson – Veteran – Judge Advocate Will County VAC

Motion for more time
MOVER: President Picciolo
SECONDER: Alternate Blue
Motion for more time passed

ANNOUNCEMENT:

President Picciolo speaks regarding the current state of the delegates in Will County; President Picciolo announces that Mlynek is currently the delegate of Plainfield American Legion Marne Post #13

Point of Order: Sutton challenges Mlynek’s delegate status; Sutton states he is the delegate of American Legion Marne Post #13

Point of Order: Lisa McGlasson references Article V context of the bylaws.

Point of Order: Mike Deane regarding the delegate for the Plainfield American Legion Marne Post #13

VI. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion to pass Minutes of 14 June 2022

MOVER: Koch
SECONDER: Blue

Point of Order: Mike Deane regarding meeting minutes

Point of Order: Will Sutton stating that he is listed as the Judge Advocate on the June 14, 2022, meeting minutes

Discussion: Williams declines the minutes of 12 July 2022

Discussion: Koch states that we always make a motion in the affirmative, so we all need to vote no.

ROLL CALL VOTE	
Denise Williams	Nay
Amanda Koch	Nay
Jim Singler	Nay
Tom Mlynek	Nay
Janet Blue	Nay
Steve Benicke	Nay
Wayne Horne	Nay
Robert Angone	Nay
Keith Carberry	Nay
Jim Claussen	Nay

Motion Fails

Discussion: Sutton inquires about the status of the Plainfield American Legion vote.

Motion to table minutes of 14 June 2022

No first or second

Motion to pass 12 July 2022

MOVER: Koch

SECONDER: Singler

Motion to pass minutes of 12 July 2022 passed

Discussion: Williams declines to accept the minutes of July 12, 2022

Discussion: Pillai requests additional time to review minutes; minutes were never circulated to the commission.

Discussion: Deneen confirms minutes were sent to Executive Board

Motion to table the minutes of 12 July 2022

MOVER: Koch

SECONDER: Blue

Discussion: Sutton questions Dominck Lanzito on his role at the meeting

Discussion: Dominick Lanzito confirms he is not providing legal advice; providing guidance for proper procedure

Discussion: Williams states “the motion we are voting on is to postpone the minutes of the 12 July 2022

Discussion: Blue states that the motion to table minutes should encompass all the outstanding unapproved meeting minutes.

Motion to postpone the acceptance of all the minutes that includes 14 June 2022, 12 July 2022, 9 August 2022, Special Executive Meeting 29 August 2022, Special Executive Meeting 01 September 2022, Closed Session of 30 March 2022

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Singler

ROLL CALL VOTE	
Denise Williams	Aye
Amanda Koch	Aye
Jim Singler	Aye
Tom Mlynek	Aye
Janet Blue	Aye
Steve Benicke	Aye
Wayne Horne	Aye
Robert Angone	Aye
Keith Carberry	Aye
Jim Claussen	Aye

Motion Carries per Picciolo

VII. Superintendent's Report

- A. Greg Wiza discusses Award Log
- B. Jen Solum Discusses Project 150
- C. Jen Solum Financial Assistance Report

Motion to pass Superintendent Report

MOVER: Koch

SECONDER: Pallai

Discussion: Sutton/Pillai/Angone/Williams regarding vote for Plainfield American Legion Post #13

ROLL CALL VOTE	
Denise Williams	Aye
Amanda Koch	Aye
Jim Singler	Aye
Tom Mlynek	Aye
Janet Blue	Aye
Steve Benicke	Aye
Wayne Horne	Aye
Robert Agone	Nay
Keith Carberry	Aye
Jim Claussen	Aye

Motion carries

VIII. Old Business

- A. Approve appointment of Peterson, Johnson & Murray as the Executive Board’s attorneys, retroactive to August 4, 2022, and direct staff to enter into a retainer agreement.

Motion to approve appointment of Peterson, Johnson & Murray as the Executive Board’s attorneys, retroactive to August 4, 2022, and direct staff to enter into a retainer agreement.

MOVER: Koch

SECONDER: Blue

Discussion: Pillai discusses to request table agenda items until after the conclusion of the pending lawsuit

Motion to table confirmation of the appointment of Peter, Johnson & Murray

MOVER: Raj Pillai

SECONDER: Angone

Discussion: Blue/Pillai/Dominick Lanzito discusses procedures for superseding motions

Discussion: Horne reads excerpt from James Glasgow, Will County States Attorney’s office regarding payment of legal fees

Point of Order: McGlasson clarifies the context of aforementioned letter

ROLL CALL VOTE	
Denise Williams	Nay
Amanda Koch	Nay
Jim Singler	Nay
Tom Mlynek	Nay
Janet Blue	Nay
Steve Benicke	Nay
Wayne Horne	Nay
Robert Angone	Aye
Keith Carberry	Aye
Jim Claussen	Aye

N 7 A 3

Restatement of original motion on table

Motion to approve appointment of Peterson, Johnson & Murray as the Executive Board’s attorneys, retroactive to August 4, 2022, and direct staff to enter into a retainer agreement.

MOVER: Koch

SECONDER: Blue

ROLL CALL VOTE	
Denise Williams	Y
Amanda Koch	Abstain
Jim Singler	Y
Tom Mlynek	Y
Janet Blue	Y
Steve Benicke	Y
Wayne Horne	Y
Robert Angone	N
Keith Carberry	N
Jim Claussen	Y

**6 Y 1 A 2 Nay
Motion Carries**

Discussion: Sutton and Pillai state that they would vote “No” for AL 13

Discussion: Request for clarification from Jen Solum regarding the signature of the retainer.

Discussion: Solum questions the status of the signing the retainer.

Point of Order: Lisa McGlasson wants to the record to reflect since a member of the board left the meeting that a quorum needs to be established to continue.

Re-establish quorum - Roll call of the Executive Board		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	P
Vacant	Vice President	
Denise Williams	Secretary	P
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	A
Jim Singler	Chaplain	P
Tom Mlynek	Member	P
Janet Blue	Member	P
Steve Benicke	Member	P
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	P
Roll Call of the Commission		
Delegates/Alternates	Post	
Robert Angone	Manhattan American Legion Post 935	P
Keith Carberry	VFW 5788 Lockport	P
Jim Claussen	VFW Joliet Cantigny #367	P
Will Sutton	Plainfield American Legion Post #13	P

Raj Pillai (Alt)	Plainfield American Legion Post #13	P
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Quorum is established

- B. Confirming the Appointment of Pat Walsh as the Executive Board’s Special Litigation Counsel and direct staff to enter into a retainer agreement for legal services

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Blue

Discussion: Pillai requests to table the retention of legal counsel due to pending lawsuit.

Discussion: Solum states that a discussion must be had regarding the budget to request funding from the county for the attorney because we do not have it in our current FY budget. Solum states that she needs it in the minutes to approve and go to the county for more money for the attorney. Solum states that we have no money in the current fiscal year budget for an attorney.

Discussion: Williams/Solum/McGlasson - regarding funds appropriations and transfers in FY 2022 and FY 2023 for legal services.

Point of order: McGlasson – must be more specific as to who the commission is directing and what specific steps are the commission directing the individual to take.

President Picciolo denies Point of Order

ROLL CALL VOTE	
Denise Williams	Yes
Amanda Koch	Absent
Jim Singler	Yes
Tom Mlynek	No
Janet Blue	Yes
Steve Benicke	Yes
Wayne Horne	Yes
Robert Angone	No
Keith Carberry	No
Jim Claussen	No

Y 5 N 4

Motion carries

- C: Investigation Progress Repost, Atty. Paul O’Grady/PJM Chicago

Dominic Lanzito reports investigation is ongoing, and they hope to have it concluded before the next meeting once they have finished interviews.

- D: Progress report from Will County Auditor

Jen Solum: Spoke to Auditor who stated they had nothing to report

IX. Old Business

- a. Proposal to amend bylaws to limit public comment

Motion to approve amendments to bylaws to limit public comment to 3 minutes and 30 minutes total.

MOVER: Horne

SECONDER: Blue

Discussion: Pillai/Williams/Blue

Motion: Motion to amend limit from three minutes to five minutes and 30 minutes to one hour total and extendable at the discretion of the President.

MOVER: Raj Pillai

SECONDER: Angone

Discussion: Williams/Pillai – regarding time and functionality of meetings with 5 min limit vs. 3 min limit

ROLL CALL VOTE	
Denise Williams	No
Amanda Koch	Absent
Jim Singler	No
Tom Mlynek	No
Janet Blue	Yes
Steve Benicke	Yes
Wayne Horne	No
Robert Angone	Yes
Keith Carberry	Yes
Jim Claussen	Yes
Raj Pillai	Yes

Y6 N 4

Motion carries

Motion to approve amendment to the bylaws to limit public comment to five minutes and one hour total, which can be extended at the discretion of the President.

MOVER: Blue

SECONDER: Benicke

Pass

ROLL CALL VOTE	
Denise Williams	Y
Amanda Koch	Absent

Jim Singler	y
Tom Mlynek	y
Janet Blue	y
Steve Benicke	y
Wayne Horne	n
Robert Angone	y
Keith Carberry	y
Jim Claussen	y
Raj Pillai	y

Y 9 N 1

Motion carries

b. Appointment of Superintendent

Motion to appoint Andrea Jordan as Superintendent for Will County Veterans Assistance Commission

MOVER: Williams

Secunder: Blue

Point of Order: Blue requests Picciolo inform the commission a little bit about the new Superintendent. Williams responds in agreement with Blue.

Point of Order: Sutton states Section 12, Article 1: fifty percent plus one that the commission must approve. Also states that they do not have a quorum to vote on this motion.

Discussion: Pillai/Picciolo/Kraft: requests that the commission can review resumes and then appoint candidates.

Motion to adjourn meeting immediately

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Benicke

Discussion: commission requested for additional roll call since another board member (Horne) exited the meeting. Discussion between commission, public, and board as to the direction of the meeting.

President Picciolo Adjourns meeting

Williams exits meeting

President Picciolo exits meeting

Janet Blue confirms there is not quorum