



Veteran Assistance Commission Will County



2400 Glenwood Ave. Ste 110 Joliet, IL 60432
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12-July-2022
5:00 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

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

- I. **Call to Order:** Jack Picciolo
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. **Opening Prayer:** Singler, James
- III. **Roll Call of Attendees:** Williams

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	P
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 Kestle	Past Chairman	P
John York	Past Chairman	A
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	P
Lisa McGlasson (Name not called)	Judge Advocate	P

BRIEF STATEMENT READ BY JACK PICCIOLO: "WILL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION WILL NOT COMMENT OR MAKE ANY STATEMENTS REGARDING CURRENT INVESTIGATION UNTIL ITS CONCLUSION"

MOTION – Motion to amend current agenda to move VI. Executive Closed Session before V. Public Comment, due to time restraints.

PRESENTED BY: Williams

FIRST/SECOND: Koch/Horne

RESULTS: Passed Unanimous

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

NAME	TITLE
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant	Will County Executive
Mary Tatroe	Chief of Civil Division, Will County States Attorney's Office
Chris Wise	Assistant States Attorney, Will County Assistant States Attorney
Paul O'Grady	Managing member of PJM, retained by commission to do an investigation into an allegation of funds as well as other items that may become before the board.
Joyce Kraus	Will County Citizen in Joliet
Laura Honegger	Social Worker Department Chair, University of St. Francis
Jenna Lanoue	Will County Citizen
Julie Sander	Will County Citizen
Erik Papineau	Interim Superintendent VAC WC
AnnaMarie Deneen	Executive Administrative Assistant VAC WC
Jen Solum	Assistant Superintendent VAC WC
Amy Georgakopolos	Veterans Service Officer VAC WC
Joseph Martin	Veteran Outreach Coordinator VAC WC
Elisa Medina	Administrative Assistant WC VAC
Randall L. Tyner	Illinois Attorney General's Office, Military Veterans Bureau
James Kraft	(Stated he wasn't here) Camera Man-Edgar County Watchdogs
Robert Angone	Post 935, Manhattan
Jamie Kane	Times weekly
Bob Okon	Joliet Herald News-Reporter
Derrick Johnson	Joliet Herald News-Reporter
Mike Dean	Vietnam veteran and citizen
William Sutton	Delegate Plainfield American Legion/VSO Kendal County/Judge Advocate ILVSO
Raj Pallai	Delegate/Alternate Plainfield American Legion
Lou Smith	VFW Post 367
Jim Clausen	Alternate VFW Post 367

MOTION – Motion to enter Executive Closed session per 5ILCS120/2 Sec 2 (c) 11 (Litigation)

PRESENTED BY: Koch

FIRST/SECOND: Koch/Horne

RESULTS: No results

ROLL CALL: None taken

DISCUSSION: ASA Wise states that a reason needs to be stated as to why the Board is going into closed session. ASA Wise suggests section 29 per the Opens Meetings Act.

AMENDED MOTION – Motion to Amend previous motion to enter closed Executive session per enter per 5ILCS120/2 Sec 2 (c) 11 (Litigation)

PRESENTED BY: Koch

FIRST/SECOND: No members first or seconded this motion

RESULTS: Again, wrong Section stated per Opens meeting Act.

POINT OF ORDER: Sutton as delegate attempted to make a motion to continue with meeting

MOTION – Motion to continue meeting

PRESENTED BY: Sutton (Delegate, Plainfield American Legion Marne Post 13)

FIRST/SECOND: No members first or seconded this motion

RESULTS: None

DISCUSSION: Picciolo and Williams said no, and Williams stated that a delegate cannot make a motion in an Executive Board meeting.

MOTION – Motion to enter Executive Closed session per 5ILCS120/2 Sec 2 (c) 29 (Audit)

PRESENTED BY: Williams

FIRST/SECOND: Williams/Koch

RESULTS: Passed-Unanimous

VAC Commission – ROLL CALL VOTE		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	No Vote
Denise Williams	Secretary	Y
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	Y
Jim Singler	Chaplain	Y
Tom Mlynek	Member	Y
Janet Blue	Member	Y
Steve Benicke	Member	Y
John Kestle	Past Chairman	Y
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	Y

MOTION – Motion to end Executive Closed Session-Closed session meeting ended at 6pm

PRESENTED BY: Koch

FIRST/SECOND: Koch/Blue

RESULTS: Passed Unanimously

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	No Vote
Denise Williams	Secretary	Y
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	Y
Jim Singler	Chaplain	Y
Tom Mlynek	Member	Y
Janet Blue	Member	Y
Steve Benicke	Member	Y
John Kestle	Past Chairman	Y
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	Y

VI. Public Comment

SPEAKER/COMMENTER	TITLE
John Kraft	Edgar County Watch Dog Media
Raj Pallai	Navy Veteran-Delegate/Alternate, Plainfield American Legion; upset that an agenda item he requested to talk about was removed
Elizabeth Caparelli Roff	Will County Regional Office Education Board Trustee
Sam Erkonen	Lawyer that appeared at March meeting and spoke to Raj about allegations
Colleen Persey	Citizen Plainfield
Victoria Tullock	Female Veteran (LCSW, Social Worker)
David Lombardo	Veteran
Gretchen Fritz	Will County Board member since 2014 spoke about the no-bid contracts
William Sutton	Kendall County VSO, Delegate American Legion Plainfield, Purple Heart Veteran
Tom Kane	Marine Veteran, member of Marine Vets MC
Mike Deane	Veteran
Jim Landau	Citizen

VII. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

MOTION – Motion to table acceptance of Minutes of June 14, 2022, meeting

PRESENTED BY: Williams

FIRST/SECOND: Williams/Horne

RESULTS: Passed Unanimous- no roll call taken

MOTION – Motion to accept Minutes from the May 17, 2022, Special Meeting

PRESENTED BY: Koch

FIRST/SECOND Koch/Mlynek

RESULTS: Passed Unanimously

VIII. Superintendents Report:

- a. Detailed Proposed Budget
- b. Award Log: 2015 – Present \$122.8M
- c. Project 150 Report 06/29/2022
 - 1. Emergency Shelter: Spent \$124,495.30; Remaining \$35,504.70 (ESG-CV funded)
- d. Financial Assistance Report: (8) Veterans
 - 1. Shelter: \$1400
 - 2. Gas: \$86
 - 3. Electric: \$185
 - 4. Water: \$36
 - 5. Personal Products: \$200
 - 6. Food: \$0

MOTION – Motion to pass Financial Assistance Report

PRESENTED BY: Blue

FIRST/SECOND Koch/Horne

RESULTS: Passed Unanimously-no roll call taken

IX. Old Business

- a. Website Update: (Documents attached)
- b. Locks Installed
- c. County Auditor

Discussion: Denise insists that the Preliminary Report needs to go to the board in “closed session,” only and it cannot be presented in “open session”

Discussion: Auditor Blackburn encouraged the VAC staff to strengthen internal controls, review reports as distributed, and seek appropriate support to develop and compile specific reports, for purchasing, minutes, and other recommendations to develop and enhance the value of your board.

- d. Attorney General
- e. Detailed Proposed Budget

X. New Business

- a. New FOIA
- 1. Received new FOIA request from Gerianne Weisbrook on June 14, 2022, at 10:06 p.m. (documents attached)

XI. For the Good of the Commission

- a. Outreach
 - 1. Every Tuesday – VAC Orland Park Vet Center – G. Wiza
 - 2. Every Monday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center – A. Georgakopoulos
 - 3. Every Thursday – Together We stand, Peer Support Group @ VAC office
 - 4. Second Monday – VAC at Manhattan American Legion Breakfast – E. Papineau
 - 5. Every Wednesday – Housing Wednesday – J. Martin
 - 6. Shorewood Glen Veterans Group – A. Georgakopoulos
 - 7. Senior Services of Will County – A. Georgakopoulos
 - 8. Will County by Name List case Conference – J. Martin
 - 9. Recovery Meeting – J. Martin
 - 10. Webinar for social media in a Crowded VSO Landscape 07/14/2022 – AnnaMarie Deneen

XII. Executive Closed Session

- a. Discussion of closed session minutes
- b. Personnel

MOTION – Motion to Move into executive session in accordance with 5ILCS 120/2 Sec 2 (c) 1 (Personal) Motion is Amended

PRESENTED BY: Horne/Williams

FIRST/SECOND: Horne/

RESULTS: Passed Unanimously

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	No Vote
Denise Williams	Secretary	Y
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	Y
Jim Singler	Chaplain	Y
Tom Mlynek	Member	Y
Janet Blue	Member	Y
Steve Benicke	Member	Y
John Kestle	Past Chairman	Y
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	Y

MOTION – Motion to close Executive Session

PRESENTED BY: Koch

FIRST/SECOND: Koch/Blue

RESULTS: Passed Unanimously

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	No Vote
Denise Williams	Secretary	Y
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	Y
Jim Singler	Chaplain	Y
Tom Mlynek	Member	Y
Janet Blue	Member	Y
Steve Benicke	Member	Y
John Kestle	Past Chairman	Y
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	Y

MOTION – Motion to remand Erik Papineau to Veterans Service Officer

PRESENTED BY: Koch

FIRST/SECOND: Koch/Williams

RESULTS: Passed Unanimously

Discussion: Koch clarified for staffing purposes that Assistant Superintendent Jen Solum will “take up the lead right now,”

MOTION – Motion to Adjourn

PRESENTED BY:

FIRST/SECOND: Koch/Williams

RESULTS: Passed Unanimously

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING AUGUST 9, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

**NEXT FULL COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
OCTOBER 11, 2022, LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED**