

Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County
 February 18, 2025 - Commission Meeting Minutes
Note: This meeting was rescheduled from February 12, 2025
 555 N. Court Street, Room 115, Rockford, IL 61103

Meeting Opened: 1732 hours - 5:32 pm

Attendees:

American Legion Post # 288	Present	Ken VanLandeghem
	Absent	Raymond Dhom
American Legion Post # 332	Present	Gary D. Holmes
	Absent	Amy Mullen
American Legion Post #340	Absent	George Blake
	Present	Willie Evans
American Legion Post #1207	Present	A.C. Dave Davis
	Present	George Meissen
Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29	Absent	Todd Burton
	Present via Zoom	John Kline
Marine Corps League Post # 083	Absent	Donald Reynolds
	Absent	Al Laskie
Navy Club Ship #1	Present	Stephanie Gilberto
	Absent	Debra Nelson
Rock Valley Am Vets Post #922	Present	Terrell Lewis
	Absent	
Vietnam Veterans of America #984	Present	Eric Willard
	Absent	Jerome Egilske
VFW Post #342	Absent	Lana McCants
	Absent	Jeff Greer
VFW Post #2955	Present	Rueben Hernandez
	Absent	Dave Draeger
VFW Post #5749	Present	Nancy Clark
	Absent	Fernando Delgado
VFW Post #9759	Present	Gene Schaefer John Hood

Additional Attendees: Jesus Pereira – Superintendent, Debra Hoover – VACWC Secretary, Francesca Montanez – VACWC, Mayra Toral – VACWC, Luz Ortiz-Rivera – VACWC, Timothy Hotchkiss – VACWC, Willie Borden – VACWC, Ray Richmond – Guest, Julie Weis – Guest, Ryan Russell – Guest – Rock Valley College, Brandon Franco – Rosecrance, Elmo Down – Guest, Darryl Joseph – Guest

- Motion to Allow Zoom Attendees: Dave Davis 2nd – Reuben Hernandez – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Elected Official Roll Call – 12 attendees from 11 posts
- Motion to Waive reading of Agenda: Motion – 2nd – Stephanie Gilberto – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Motion to Adopt County Board Public Comments Policy: Stephanie Gilberto 2nd Reuben Hernandez – Voice Vote Unanimous

- Recognition of Guests: Brandon Franco – Rosecrance – spoke to the services the The Rosecrance Veteran Services Program can offer to our veterans, share his business card with commission, answered questions from Guest Darryl Joseph
- Public Comments: (Max. 3 minutes each)
 - Ray Richmond
- Motion to Waive reading of Minutes: Dave Davis 2nd – Stephanie Gilberto – Voice Vote Unanimous

President’s Report – Terrell Lewis – Welcome

- Reminder to refer all questions regarding legal matters to the Superintendent
- Nomination letters were sent – must respond before March 1, 2025 – new appointments take effect March 1, 2025. As of this meeting only five (5) forms have been received.
- Tonight we will do a 2nd reading of the by-laws
- Shared details on the County Board meeting that he attended

Admin Coordinator Report – Nancy Clark

- Presented dates for upcoming meetings

Services and Personnel Coordinator – Lana McCants – not present – no report

Finance Coordinator – Eric Willard

- We will soon run short of fund to provide general assistance and emergency assistance to our veterans
- We are currently giving approximately \$30,000 per month in general assistance and emergency assistance
- Discussed the need for commissioners to have personal vs. county devices and county e-mail addresses – this is being worked on by the VACWC Secretary
- Would like to request a vote to submit the Supplemental Budget prepared by Superintendent Jesus Pereira to the Winnebago County Board
- Motion to vote on Supplemental Budget: Gene Schaefer 2nd – Reuben Hernandez – Unanimous vote in favor of submitting Supplemental Budget to Winnebago County

Superintendent Report – Jesus Pereira

- Reported on VAC business

Correspondence - none

Unfinished Business

- 2nd Reading of By-laws
- Motion to read the revised by-laws by paragraph and vote on any and all changes – Motion: Eric Willard 2nd – Nancy Clark – voice vote unanimous
- VACWC Secretary proceeded to read each paragraph of the updated by-laws and a voice vote was taken after each section was read:
 - Consider Changes to Article II – Motion: Nancy Clark 2nd – Dave Davis – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
 - Make Change to legal term in Article II from “rt to ct” – Motion: Gary Holmes 2nd – Eric Willard Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
 - Consider Changes to Article IV – Motion: Gary Holmes 2nd – Stephanie Gilberto – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
 - Consider Changes to Article V Section I – Motion: Stephanie Gilberto 2nd – Nancy Clark – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
 - Consider Changes to Article V Section II – Motion: Rueben Hernandez 2nd – Gary Holmes – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous

- Consider Changes to Article V Section III – Motion: Gary Holmes 2nd – Stephanie Gilberto – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
- Consider Changes to Article V Section IV – Motion: Dave Davis 2nd – Gene Schaefer – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
- Consider Changes to Article V Section V – Motion: Nancy Clark 2nd – Stephanie Gilberto – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
- Consider Changes to Article VI Section I-IV – Motion: Dave Davis 2nd – Rueben Hernandez – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
- Consider Changes to Article VI Section V – Motion: Dave Davis 2nd – Gene Schaefer – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
- Consider Changes to Article VI Section VI – Motion: Gary Holmes 2nd – Gene Schaefer – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
- Consider Changes to Article VI Section VII – Motion: Stephanie Gilberto 2nd – Rueben Hernandez – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
- Consider Changes to Article VI Section VIII – Motion: Nancy Clark 2nd – Gene Schaefer – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
- Consider Changes to Article VII Section II – Motion: Gary Holmes 2nd – Gene Schaefer – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
- There will need to be another By-Laws committee meeting to discuss changes from MVO to MVSO

New Business

- Superintendent Jesus Pereira presented a change to the VACWC Structure to remove the Part Time VSO 30 Hour Position replacing it with a Full Time 40 Hour VSO Position – Motion: Rueben Hernandez 2nd – Stephanie Gilberto – Voice Vote Unanimous

Closing: Next Full Commission Meeting March 12, 2025– 5:30 pm – 555 N. Court St., Room 115, Rockford

Commencement of Meeting – 7:11 pm

- Motion to adjourn Dave Davis – 2nd Stephanie Gilberto Voice Vote: Yes - unanimous