

Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County
February 19, 2025 - Commission Meeting Minutes
Note: This meeting was rescheduled from February 12, 2025

Meeting Opened: 1732 hours - 5:32 pm

Attendees:

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Terrell Lewis – President (Rock Valley AmVets #922)	Jesus Pereira – Superintendent
Nancy Clark – Administrative Coordinator (VFW Post #5149)	Debra Hoover – VACWC Secretary
Eric Willard – Finance Coordinator (VVA Post #984)	Francesca Montanez – VACWC
Stephanie Gilberto (Navy Ship Club #1)	Mayra Toral – VACWC
Gary Holmes (American Legion Post #332)	Luz Ortiz-Rivera – VACWC
Dave Davis (American Legion Post #1207)	Timothy Hotchkiss – VACWC
George Meissen (American Legion Post #1207)	Willie Borden – VACWC
Reuben Hernandez (VFW Post #2955)	Ray Richmond – Guest
Gene Schaefer (VFW Post #9759)	Julie Weis – Guest
Ken VanLandeghem (American Legion Post #288)	Ryan Russell – Guest – Rock Valley College
Willie Evans (American Legion Post #340)	Brandon Franco – Rosecrance
John Kline – Zoom (Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29)	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