

Jasper County Commission of Veterans Affairs
Shared Benefits Coordinator Joshua Price
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Phone 1-641-792-7993
Commissioners: Fred Chabot, Marta Ford, Jerry Nelson, Kat Thompson, and Ed Spangenburg

19 February 2025

Minutes

On 19 February 2025, at 1501 hours, Commission Chairperson Jerry Nelson called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Jasper County Veterans Affairs Commission to order. The commissioners in attendance were: Fred Chabot by telephone, Marta Ford, Jerry Nelson, Kat Thompson, and Ed Spangenburg. Also in attendance: Shared Benefits Coordinator Josh Price, Human Resources Director Dennis Simon, Newton News reporter Chris Braunschweig, and 2 guests.

Approve Minutes:

Kat Thompson made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled commission meeting held on 9 January 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. Progress on Joshua Price Certification:

Josh Price's PIV certification has been formally recognized by the Disabled Americans Veterans. However, there has been a delay in its recognition by the American Legion regional office. Josh will follow up on that formal recognition.

2. Pay Raise for Joshua Price:

Dennis Simon confirmed that in light of Josh's receipt of his PIV card and his employment anniversary on 12 February 2025, his pay increased to Step 6, or \$20.05 per hour.

New Business:

1. January 2025 Activity Report:

Commissioners reviewed the January, 2025 Activity Report. Josh explained that the number of telephone calls to the office is artificially increased by the characteristics of the telephone system. Calls are automatically doubled because both office telephone instruments ring at the same time.

2. January 2025 Expenses and Allocation Report:

Commissioners reviewed the January, 2025 Expenses and Allocation Report. Josh commented that he and the county auditor's office staff are carefully reviewing the rental and mortgage assistance line items to insure that we don't exceed the budget.

3. Vietnam Veterans Day on the Hill:to Smokey D's:

Jerry Nelson reminded the commissioners that we have supported financially this event for Vietnam veteran to meet with their elected representatives at the Statehouse. Marta Ford made a motion and Ed Spangenburg seconded to fund one busload of veterans to travel too the Statehouse on 14 May 2025, then to Smokey D's restaurant for lunch, before returning to Newton. The motion passed unanimously. Jerry Nelson commented that County Treasurer Doug Bishop offered to host this event.

4. Training Opportunities:

Ed Spangenburg made a motion and Kat Thompson seconded to approve Josh's attendance at VBMS training in Sigourney, Iowa on 21 February 2025. The motion passed unanimously. Commission virtual training pertaining to the hiring process is planned for 18 March 2025. Those interested should contact Josh. Marta Ford made a motion and Kat Thompson seconded to approve Josh's attendance at the "Spring School" 14-17 April in Johnston, Iowa, with overnight accommodations authorized. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Office Furniture and Equipment:

Marta Ford made a motion and Ed Spangenburg seconded to approve purchase of one computer monitor mount. The motion passed unanimously. It was the consensus of the Commission that Josh should collect quotes for the replacement of the chairs in the JCVA offices due to fair wear and tear and deterioration of the existing furniture.

6. Director/Administrator Candidate Selection Process:

Dennis Simon explained that there were 19 applicants for the JCVA Administrator/Director position. The previously appointed selection committee interviews seven applicants on 13 and 14 February 2025. The committee members were very pleased about the qualifications of two interviewees. He intends to reconvene the selection committee to complete their recommendation to the Commissioners of one applicant. He will then ask for a special commission meeting next week to consider the recommendation.

Public Input: A veteran guest expressed his appreciation for consideration in the selection of the next JCVA Administrator/Director.

Kat Thompson made a motion and Ed Spangenburg seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1550 hours. The motion passed unanimously.

Confirm next meetings: A special meeting to consider the selection of the next JCVA Administrator/Director will occur on a day and time to be determined by Dennis Simon. The next regular Commission meeting will take place on Wednesday, 12 March 2025, 1500 hrs., at the Jasper County Office Building.

/s/ Ferdinand J. Chabot, Secretary