

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

14 May 2025

Minutes

On 14 May 2025, at 1545 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, Marta Ford, Jerry Nelson, Kat Thompson, and Ed Spangenburg. Also in attendance: JCVA Director Ray Maxey, Shared Benefits Coordinator and County Veterans Service Officer Josh Price, Human Resources Director Dennis Simon, Newton News reporter Chris Braunschweig, and guests Lloyd Jones, American Legion representative, and Robert Suesakul.

Approve Minutes:

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

Unfinished Business:

1. Progress on PIV Card for Ray Maxey:

This is in process due to a name error made by the VA. All five veterans services organizations have certified Ray.

2. Vietnam Veterans Day on the Hill:

This event today was a success. The ceremony began at 11:00 a.m. Governor Reynolds and Iowa VA Department head Todd Jacobus attended. Our two contracted buses carried 105 plus veterans to the ceremony then to Smokey D's for lunch on-their-own. Newton News interviewed participants at the American Legion where the buses loaded participants. Jerry Nelson reported that he chatted with Iowa VA Department head Todd Jacobus who commented that this 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam conflict will likely be the last year for the ceremony.

New Business:

1. April, 2025 Activity Report:

Commissioners reviewed the report. Staff noted that there was improvement seen in veterans signing in at our VA office upon their visit in comparison to last month.

2. April, 2025 Expenses and Allocation Report:

Commissioners reviewed the report. The 2025 \$10,000 State of Iowa allocation will be mostly used by today's bus charter costs and 2025 staff training costs. The purchase of flag cases is pending.

3. JCVA Logo Change Approval:

Staff proposed a new JCVA logo. Marta Ford made a motion and Ed Spangenburg seconded to approve the proposed logo horizontal and vertical orientations. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Contest for Jasper County Veterans (Added):

Staff proposed a drawing for a Jasper County veteran to be held at the end of August, 2025, for a one-night stay in the cabin at the Uhlenhop Arboretum. The winning veteran will have one year to schedule the reservation. The offer will be advertised only on the JCVA web page. Kat Thompson made a motion and Ed Spangenburg seconded to approve the contest and award. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Human Resources:

Dennis Simon reported about the process used by the Commission-appointed committee in reviewing applications and holding interviews for a commission appointee to replace outgoing commissioner Fred Chabot. The committee unanimously recommended Robert Suesakul. Ed Spangenburg made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to recommend Robert Suesakul to the county supervisors as the new commissioner effective 1 July 2025 for a three year term. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Input: None

Announcements: None

Fred Chabot made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1625 hours. The motion passed unanimously.

Confirm next meeting: Wednesday, 11 June 2025, 1500 hrs., Jasper County Office Building.

/s/ Ferdinand J. Chabot, Secretary