



## COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mandy Coates, Director  
Bill Blanchard, Chairperson  
Larry Hingtgen, Secretary

JoAnne Downs  
Chad Gerdes  
Ines Beltre

Formal Meeting Minutes  
October 22, 2024

Meeting called to order at 17:00 by Blanchard

Present: Bill Blanchard, JoAnne Downs, Ines Beltre, Chad Gerdes via teleconference, and Mandy Coates.

Unless noted, all actions were taken unanimously

1. Motion by Downes, second by Gerdes to approve the September minutes
2. Motion by Beltre, second by Downs to approve the September vouchers
3. IDVA Fall Training was discussed to include legislative updates including HF 259, IDVA training locations and conditions, VA claim backlog, and additional 3k reimbursement from the State of Iowa for training.
4. Commissioner and Director expectations were discussed encouraging open communication
5. Hiring process was discussed by Commission. Workload and hiring for one additional full-time staff was discussed and Coates will begin process with Human Resources
6. A new distro email of [vacommission@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:vacommission@johnsoncountyiowa.gov) was created for the VA Commission for efficiency and access
7. Will be participating in Operation Green Light this year from November 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> with a proclamation for Veterans Day by the Board of Supervisors on November 7th
8. Home Base Iowa was discussed to include possible more signage and Veteran hiring and local incentives. Commission and Coates discussed compiling goals to complete within 6 months
9. Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 17:45

Recorded by Mandy Coates

These minutes will be presented to the Secretary for approval during our November 2024 meeting.

11/19/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary or alternate

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