



## **COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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

JoAnne Downes  
Chad Gerdes  
Ines Beltre

Formal Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2025

Meeting Called to order at 17:03 by Blanchard

Present: Bill Blanchard, JoAnne Downes via teleconference, Larry Hingtgen, via teleconference, Ines Beltre dismissed before adjournment, Mandy Coates, and Josh Brown. Guests: Nathan Peters, Johnson County Attorney's Office, Rod Sullivan, Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and Calvin Ver Mulm, Retrieving Freedom

Unless noted, all actions were taken unanimously

1. Presentation by Calvin Ver Mulm with Retrieving Freedom regarding the service dog training and placement process for Veterans. Service dogs are no cost to the Veteran other than travel and application costs. VA prosthetics assists with veterinary care and travel after placement
2. New County Veteran Service Officer, Joshua Brown, was introduced
3. Motion by Beltre, second by Hingtgen to approve the January minutes
4. Motion by Downes, second by Hingtgen to approve the January vouchers
5. Department is at 36% spent on budget. Expenditures will increase with potential name change and training for Josh to receive accreditation. Federal Revenue from Disability and Pension Claims for Johnson County was \$2,882,772.00 in the month of January. Spring CVSO school was discussed, and initial expenses were presented. Outreach was provided at the Swisher American Legion and Iowa City Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in February
6. Bill Blanchard signed on behalf of the Commission the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission and the Board of Supervisors to allow the Johnson County Veteran Affairs office to operate as Johnson County Veteran Services. Motion was passed, submitted the MOA to the Board to be placed at their formal meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
7. Veteran Appreciation Event and USS Iowa SSN 797 Watch Party will be held at Big Grove in Iowa City on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 08:00-11:00. Veteran plus 1 guest are welcome to join for breakfast.
8. IACVS Commissioner training is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 after regularly scheduled meeting from 18:30-20:00 on Zoom.

Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 17:47

Recorded by Mandy Coates

These minutes will be presented to the Secretary for approval during our March 2025 meeting.

3/18/2025

Date:

Signature on file

Secretary or Alternate

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