



COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mandy Coates, Director	JoAnne Downes
Bill Blanchard, Chairperson	Chad Gerdes
Larry Hingtgen, Secretary	Jacob Korbakes

Formal Meeting Minutes
Health and Human Services Building
855 South Dubuque St. Iowa City, IA 52240
Conference Room 203 B
November 18, 2025

Meeting called to order at 17:02 by Blanchard

Present: Bill Blanchard, Chad Gerdes, Jacob Korbakes, Larry Hingtgen, and Mandy Coates.
Guests: Nathan Peters, Johnson County Attorney's Office

Unless noted, all actions were taken unanimously

1. Motion by Gerdes, second by Korbakes to approve the October minutes
2. Motion by Korbakes, second by Hingtgen to approve the October vouchers
3. Coates informed the Commission of the Veterans Day Proclamation from the Board of Supervisors presented to WWII Veteran Pete Peterson. Coates informed the Commission regarding the struggles of Workday with expenses and revenues not going in the correct line items and reports not being able to run correctly. This is making it impossible to track allocation money properly. Coates has reached out to finance, and they are backed up as well as IT. Coates attended a TDIU training, and a Untied Way Lunch and Learn. Coates informed Commission about her presentation at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and showed them the appreciation letter. Coates also provided outreach at the North Liberty American Legion on Veterans Day. Federal claim revenue for Johnson County for the month of October was \$3,236,372.00.
4. Coates shared the preliminary budget planning sheet that was supplied to the finance team
5. Coates shared a DD-214 that had been altered with all identifying information redacted that was provided to her. Coates informed them of the letter she wrote to the Veteran informing them to seek other services due to the misrepresentation, and informed them she contacted the American Legion who took away Power of Attorney for his claim.
6. The Temporary Emergency Policy and Procedures were updated to include a maximum lifetime assistance cap of \$7,500.00, which is the same as the cap at Linn County Veteran Services. This is to be good stewards to the taxpayers of Johnson County. This limits individuals who use this as a yearly entitlement, and not for an emergency as it is intended. The commission also placed wording that if a Veteran has more than one period of service, all periods of service must be honorable to serve them with Temporary Emergency Assistance, this follows Federal regulations and the Iowa Code.
7. Closed Session – Annual Evaluation Veteran Services Director – Mandy Coates
Motion by Korbakes, second by Gerdes to enter into a closed session at 5:37 p.m. pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i); "To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring,

performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Roll call: Aye, Gerdes, Blanchard, Hingtgen, Korbakes, all in favor of entering a closed session. Blanchard adjourned the closed session at 5:47 p.m. and opened into an open session.

Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 17:56

Recorded by Mandy Coates

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

12/16/2025
Date:

Signature on File
Secretary or Alternate