



## 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 Street, Iowa City, IA 52240  
Conference Room 203 B  
February 17, 2026

Meeting called to order at 17:00 by Hingtgen

Present: Larry Hingtgen, Chad Gerdes, Jacob Korbakes, JoAnne Downes, and Mandy Coates.  
Guests: Ryan Maas and Lynn Rose - Johnson County Attorney's Office

Unless noted, all actions were taken unanimously

1. Motion by Korbakes, second by Gerdes to approve the January minutes
2. Motion by Downes, second by Korbakes to approve the January vouchers
3. Budget is at 40% spent for the year. Federal claim revenue for Johnson County in January was \$3,388,269.00. Coates has began to cross train Josh on entering invoices, expense report and budgeting on Workday. Coates is discussing the allocation Grant procedure with Finance and the Grant team, as it is not working out and Coates can't track it accurately as set up. Coates presented the history and a picture of the Iowa City Airport Jet F-86 30750, as there has been talk in the community about moving it and possibly wanting Johnson County to take it. Coates explained that she did not think it would be a good use of taxpayers dollars, as it hasn't been kept up, it would cost too much to fix and maintain, it would cost too much to move and it would most likely be vandalized, as it has before. Coates informed the Commission regarding a landlord who wouldn't accept payment for rent from the County for a Veteran who was being evicted. Coates informed the Commission that the Sherrif's Office has caught the person who stole Herky's Ribbons and they were charged with theft. The cost to replace just he ribbons is \$240.00 with the additional cost to affix ribbons to the damaged uniform. Coates attended Ancillary & Derivative Benefits Training, Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board lunch and learn. CVSO Brown attended Semper Fi & America's Fund housing Insecurity Program and attended Veteran Day on the Hill. Coates introduced CVSO Brown to the manager of the Veterans Liberty Center. Coates met with VA Social Worker Gronseth regarding VA residential care.
4. Coates briefed the Commission on the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference that was held on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Coates informed Commission of changes in ratings and apportionment. Coates informed Commission that the training was top notch regarding information presented.
5. Coates briefed Commission regarding SF 2282, Veterans Excellence Bill that is funneling and reiterated the reasons why it would not benefit Iowa's Veterans. Commission agrees.
6. Coates briefed Commission regarding VA Foster homes and how it may be a recipe for potential elderly abuse, but it may also be a positive program if in the right protected setting. Coates also spoke briefly about the Caregiver Support Programs.

Hingtgen adjourned the meeting at 17:35

Recorded by Mandy Coates

These minutes will be presented to the Secretary for approval during our March 2026 meeting.

3/17/2026  
Date:

Signature on File  
Secretary or Alternate