



COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mandy Coates – Director

Bill Blanchard – Chairperson, Larry Hingtgen - Secretary

Jacob Korbakes, Tera Denial, Nathan Rose

Formal Meeting Minutes

Health and Human Services Building

855 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA 52240

Conference Room 203 B

September 15, 2026

Meeting called to order at 17:00 by Blanchard

Present: Bill Blanchard, Larry Hingtgen, Jake Korbakes, Tera Denial, Nathan Rose and Mandy Coates

Guests: Nathan Peters, Johnson County Attorney's Office

Unless noted, all actions were taken unanimously

1. Call to order
2. Pictures were taken of the commission and will be updated to the website
3. Motion by Hingtgen, second by Korbakes to approve the August minutes
4. Motion by Korbakes, second by Denial to approve the August vouchers
5. FY27 budget is utilized at 12.74%. Federal revenue for Johnson County from VA Compensation and Pension payments for the month of July was \$3,661,401.00. Coates informed Commission that she was falling behind on a goal due to increased workload with assistant being on extended leave. Coates attended the National Women's Association of County Veteran Service Officer Meeting, training from the Des Moines VBA regional office regarding award, narrative and code sheets, and provided outreach at the Honor Guard Orientation in Cedar Rapids.
6. State Allocation Grant acceptable and non-acceptable usage guidelines were presented. The 10k allocation check still hasn't been received from the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs which was to be issued in July.
7. Training opportunities from the IDVA and Iowa Association of County Veteran Service Officers were presented. Commissioners stated that they did not receive the email from the IDVA regarding this that was sent out today. Coates will ensure that the IDVA has the new Commissioner's emails, however, the IDVA has confirmed knowledge of three of the Commissioner's emails whose terms were appointed before this year.
8. Coates requested clarification regarding how the public shall reach the commission with any possible correspondence or complaints. It was determined that Temporary Emergency Assistance appeal issues will be handled in accordance with the policy. A person who may want to address the commission may do so during a public comment at the monthly meeting, limited to three minutes, directed at the Commission. Any written correspondence will be supplied and acknowledged at monthly meetings in accordance with open meeting laws.
9. Coates has previously informed Commission of complaints from disabled Veterans regarding no signage at the Administration building that would direct them to the Veterans Affairs Office. After much back and forth, one last request was made to place a sign in the vestibule of the Administration building with all the departments listed on the Health and

Human Service Building and inform them where they are located. This month, Coates asked for an update on the status of this request and the reply was that the vendor hasn't come back with the design and if it were prudent, then a paper sign could be placed. Coates stated that if it wasn't important, then she wouldn't have made the request. It was responded with that the Special Projects manager is working hard on the request with long standing direction from the Board of Supervisors, that individual requests make sense with the overall county wayfinding efforts. Coates informed commission that she will inform anyone who complains about lack of signage that it has been requested without completion with these facts.

10. The Veterans Affairs Commission Temporary Emergency Procedures policy and application was provided to the Commission. Initial discussions regarding changes regarding food vouchers and rental increases were discussed. The Commission will go through these and discuss them thoroughly next month to update the policy.

11. Next meeting will be held on October 20th, 2026, at 17:00

Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 17:50

Recorded by Mandy Coates

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

10/20/2026

Date:

Signature on File

Secretary or Alternate