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
October 20, 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. Motion by Hingtgen, second by Denial to approve the September minutes

3. Motion by Korbakes, second by Rosel to approve the September vouchers

4. FY27 budget is utilized at 16%. Federal revenue for Johnson County from VA Compensation and Pension payments for the month of September was $3,721,082.00. Coates informed Commission of a 61k backpay federal claim. Website was updated and new pictures were added of the commission. Engravings were done on the memorial. Coates attended a property tax bill webinar, VA home loan webinar, Workday employee review and AI training. Coates attended the Valor Pointe open house, National Guard Resource Fair, presented at Briarwood Nursing home, and attended the Iowa Funeral Directors Regional Meeting regarding Veteran services.

5. Accreditation expenses for County Veteran Service Officer on leave was discussed. We will continue to pay for his accreditation expenses to keep his position and accreditation active when he returns to work, to be placed back in his position as continuously employed. Motion was provided by Denial and second by Korbakes.

6. Coates presented annual report that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 10th. Suggestions from the commission were discussed. Self-evaluation was handed out to the commission for annual review next month.

7. Emergency assistance policy and procedures were gone over and updated. Changes will be made to be accepted and voted on at next month's meeting.

8. Safety and lack of security were discussed concerning the open entrance and unmanned areas during our meeting time. No panic buttons are available, and we are on the second floor and do not know who is coming and going into the building, leading to a possible safety incident. It will be requested that a deputy to man the building during our meeting times to mitigate the risk of any safety incident.

9. Next meeting will be held on November 17th, 2026, at 17:00

Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 18:20

Recorded by Mandy Coates

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

11/19/2026	Signature on File
Date:	Secretary or Alternate