

Cerro Gordo County
Veterans Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2026

Vice Chair Cindy Davis gaveled the meeting to order at 9:07 AM. All were present except for Chair Jessica Reith.

The Minutes from the December 22, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Foell moved approval and Commissioner Ochoa seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

The Commission approved various operating invoices and reviewed the Financial Report covering expenditures for December 2025. It was noted that the second Homebase Iowa application for the year was approved. Commissioner Ochoa moved approval of the Financial Report. Commissioner Foell seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

New In the Office:

Director Beatty reported that the challenge coins which had been ordered have arrived. All members were complimentary of how nice they looked. The Director had also purchased Thank You cards to go along with the coins.

Director Beatty lead an extended discussion regarding Governor Reynolds' proposed Bill to modernize the veterans' benefits system. The proposal is to incentivize the current \$10,000 State fund that each county receives. The top one third of the counties would receive \$15,000 annually and the bottom one third would receive \$5,000 from the fund. It is unclear what measurement will be used, but by one measurement, Cerro Gordo County would be ranked 14th in the state. It was suggested that it might be helpful if our local state legislators discuss the proposed Bill with the Director.

Director Beatty reviewed the upcoming training dates for staff, and discussed giving out tree seedlings again this year to veterans on Earth Day, April 22nd. It was noted that there are currently 29 open claims which includes 11 new claims. There are six claims on appeal.

Commissioners reported that Steve Howell has resigned as Commander of American Legion Post 101 due to ill health. Vice Commander Peter Bieber is Interim Commander. Dave Gilbert has stepped back from the Mason City Honor Guard due to continuing ill health.

There were no members of the public present.

The next meeting of the commission will be Monday, February 23, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

Commissioner Ochoa moved adjournment. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daryl Johnson, Secretary