

Cerro Gordo County
Veterans Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes, February 23, 2026

Chair Jessica Reith gaveled the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. All commissioners and three members of the public were present.

The minutes from the January 26, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Davis moved approval of the minutes with Commissioner Ochoa seconding the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

The Commission approved various operating invoices and reviewed the Financial Report covering the period from February 1, 2026 to February 23, 2026. Director Beatty noted that he and Sean Gillam had signed up for required CEU training. The cost is \$400.00 each. Tree seedlings for the Arbor Day Event have been purchased. Commissioner Foell moved approval of the Financial Report with Commissioner Ochoa seconding the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Director Beatty reported that the SALT Forum will be held on Tuesday April 28 at Grace Evangelical Free Church. The director will have a booth and will be present for the event. The director also informed members that he and Sean Gillam will be attending required training on line from May 31st through June 5th. There are currently 34 open Service Connected Claims which includes 16 claims filed during the current month.

There was general discussion regarding legislation affecting veterans which is currently being considered by the Iowa Legislature. Director Beatty reviewed the method by which County Veteran Affairs commissions may be graded on the services provided.

Commissioner Johnson reported that the National Vietnam Veterans Organization is beginning the process of changing their focus. This will affect the local chapters. Johnson also reported that Legion Post 101 is looking for participants for Boys State.

Commissioner Foell reported that the Mason City VFW is sponsoring a T Ball team in the Parks and Recreation League this year.

There were three Members of the Public present. During the Public Forum there was general discussion regarding current legislation being considered by the Iowa Legislature, veterans' benefits and how Veterans Affairs works to help ensure veterans receive the benefits they deserve. There was brief discussion of the Home Base Iowa Program. At the conclusion of the forum, Chair Reith thanked the three members of the public for attending.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 30, 2026 at 9:00 AM. The chair suggested the April meeting be held April 20th which is one of the days tree seedlings will be handed out to veterans.

Commissioner Davis moved for adjournment. Commissioner Ochoa seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daryl Johnson, Secretary