Cerro Gordo County

Veterans Affairs Commission

Meeting Minutes, November 23, 2026

Chair Jessica Reith gaveled the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Director Beatty and all commissioners except for Commissioner Davis were present.

The minutes to the October 26 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Foell moved approval of the minutes with Commissioner Ochoa seconding the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

There were no bills presented for approval. In reviewing the financials Director Beatty noted that there had been one funeral paid for during the reporting period. Commissioner Johnson moved approval of the financial report. Commissioner Foell seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

Commissioner Foell reported to the group that he had been contacted by the Mason City American Legion Auxiliary that there was a group being organized to be active in providing personal care items to the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown. They would make a trip to Marshalltown monthly to deliver the items and volunteer to help at the home that day. They would use Toys for Tots vans to make the trip. Commissioner Foell suggested that $300.00 would help with gasoline expenses. When asked, Director Beatty agreed the money could be used from the Other Services Account. Commissioner Johnson moved that the Commission donate $300.00 toward the purchase of a gas card to be used by the Mason City Legion Auxiliary for the trips to the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown. Commissioner Ochoa seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

There was then general discussion regarding the activity of local attorneys contacting local veteran organizations and counties about their services to process disability benefit claims. There are fees related to their services. The services of County VSO's are free. In addition, free services are available from VSO's with the VFW, The American Legion and others. The concern expressed was that veterans

fully utilize the free, professional services provided by the state, county and veterans organizations.

There are currently 43 Service Connected Claims in proceess. This includes 17 new claims this month and one Iowa Trust Fund Claim.

There were no members of the public present.

The next meeting of the commission will be Monday, December 28th at 9:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Following the meeting, the commissioners and staff handed out Holiday hams, turkeys and calendars to Cerro Gordo County veterans. The turkeys were courtesy of Cargill Corporation and the hams were courtesy of Star Auto Body.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daryl Johnson, Secretary