

Jasper County Commission of Veterans Affairs
Shared Benefits Coordinator Joshua Price
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Phone 1-641-792-7993

Commissioners: Fred Chabot, Marta Ford, Jerry Nelson, Kat Thompson, and Ed Spangenburg

9 April 2025

Minutes

On 9 April 2025, at 1503 hours, Commission Chairperson Jerry Nelson called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Jasper County Veterans Affairs Commission to order. The commissioners in attendance were: Fred Chabot, Marta Ford, Jerry Nelson, Kat Thompson, and Ed Spangenburg. Also in attendance: Human Resources Director Dennis Simon, Newton News reporter Chris Braunschweig, and guest Lloyd Jones, American Legion representative. JCVA Director Ray Maxey entered the meeting room at 1600 hours. Shared Benefits Coordinator and County Veterans Service Officer Josh Price entered the meeting room at 1603 hours

Approve Minutes:

Marta Ford made a motion and Kat Thompson seconded to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled commission meeting held on 12 March 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. Vietnam Veterans Day On The Hill:

County Treasurer Doug Bishop is heading this up. He has mailed invitation cards to Jasper County veterans whose mailing addresses are available to him. The Newton American Legion is the pick-up location. The motor coach has been arranged to transport veterans at no cost to them to the ceremony, to Smokey D's for lunch, then back to Newton American Legion.

New Business:

1. March, 2025 Activity Report:

Commissioners reviewed the report. There were 29 in-office visits from 17 March 2025 up to today's commission meeting. However, it was noted that not all office visitors signed the visitor register.

2. March, 2025 Expenses and Allocation Report:

Commissioners reviewed the report. There were no questions.

3. Progress on Ramon Maxey Certification:

JCVA Director Maxey commented that he has completed the Training, Responsibility, Involvement, and Preparation on-line course. He plans to attend CVSO School 21-25 April 2025. And his PIV background check is in progress.

4. Clayton Brown - Veteran Fellow Meeting AAR Monday, 31 March 2025:

Senator Grassley's staff member Clayton Brown, himself a veteran, attended the senator's public meeting on 31 March 2025. There were no issues for follow up by JCVA Department.

5. Paramount Development, Inc. Veteran Housing:

Commissioners reviewed the information from Jerry Floyd, Executive Director, Paramount Development, Inc. about his plans for affordable housing projects in Newton. It was the consensus of the commissioners to not commit any assistance to this private venture.

6. Pay Scale Review Merit System:

Human Resources Director Dennis Simon explained that the Board of Supervisors has decided to change direction from a step system to a merit-based system to set pay increases within an established county budget. A generalized evaluation form is being developed. Goals for each employee will be set in October and evaluation of goal accomplishment will be done in April of the following year. General discussion of the new system ensued.

7. Office Restructuring:

Dennis Simon acknowledged that JCVA Director Ray Maxey reports directly to the Commission. He recommended the commissioners consider directing Josh Price to report 50% of his work efforts and time to the JCVA Director and 50% of his work efforts and time to the Jasper County General Assistance Director. If the Commission takes this action, then the direct reporting relationship between the Shared Benefits Coordinator and the Commission would end. Discussion ensued. Kat Thompson made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to terminate the direct reporting relationship between the Shared Benefits Coordinator and the Commission and instead establish a 50/50 divided direct reporting relationship between the Shared Benefits Coordinator and the Directors of Veterans Affairs and General Assistance. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Input: None

Announcements: Fred Chabot acknowledged having hand delivered letters to his fellow commissioners today that confirm his request to county commissioners to not extend his appointment beyond its expiration date of 30 June 2025. He expressed his honor and appreciation for having served since January, 2023 with the present commissioners. He said his decision was based on personal reasons.

Kat Thompson made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1550 hours. The motion passed unanimously.

Confirm next meeting: Wednesday, 14 May 2025, 1500 hrs., Jasper County Office Building.

/s/ Ferdinand J. Chabot, Secretary