

Tuesday, January 4, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

Present Mr. Shawn Hanley, Chair
Ms. Takosha Swan, Vice Chair
Mr. Joshua Kopsie, Secretary
Mr. John Kubinec, Member
Mr. Steve Mendez, Member
Mr. Tim Paslawski, Member
Mr. Pete Peterson, Member
Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner

Visitors:
Present Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations & Appeals, GDVS
Mr. Russell Feagin, Executive Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS
Mr. Mark Demers, Chief Development Officer, Chief Finance Officer, GDVS
Mr. Kerry Dyer, Chief Operations Officer, GDVS
Ms. Jehae Kim, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Ms. Samantha Brown-Parks, Veterans Service Foundation Board Secretary
Mr. John Phillips, Veterans Service Foundation Board Member
Mr. Rick White, Veterans Service Foundation Board Member
Ms. Belinda Boldoe, VFW Service Officer, Appeals Division, GDVS
Ms. Raven Holstick, GDVS, American Legion Service Officer
Mr. Tony Dobbins, VFW State Adjutant
Mr. Lou Zayas, Jr. Vice Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mr. Bobby Davis, Director, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information and External Affairs, GDVS
Ms. Shareka Monday-Robinson, Director, Human Resources, GDVS
Ms. Ramona Roper, Director, Training Division, GDVS
Ms. Sherri Whitfield, Director, Veterans Benefits South Region, GDVS
Mr. Ken Childre, Director, Veterans Benefits North Region, GDVS
Mr. Edwin Berry, Director, Appeals Division, GDVS
Ms. Veda Brooks, Coordinator, Women & Minority Veterans, GDVS
Ms. Calandra Ferguson, Coordinator, Suicide Prevention & Outreach, GDVS
Mr. William Wilson, Network Administrator, GDVS
Ms. Camala Ball, Budget Analyst, GDVS
Ms. Irene Mackson, Business Support Analyst, GDVS
Ms. Julie Hammond, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, GDVS

On Thursday, January 4, 2024, the Veterans Service Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Mr. Hanley called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. He explained that the meeting was open for the public to view, but communication was only to be between board members.

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Mr. Paslawski made a motion to approve the January Special Meeting Agenda. Mr. Kopsie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Kopsie made a motion for the Board to move into Executive Session. Mr. Kubinec seconded the motion. Ms. Swan opposed the motion and stated there was no reason to move into Executive Session and the only reason for Executive Sessions was in regard to questions of litigation. Mr. Hanley stated that Executive Sessions can be in relation to matters of contracts and personnel matters as well. Ms. Kim from the AG's office affirmed that Mr. Hanley was correct. The motion passed at a vote of 6-1. The Board members, Ms. Kim, Commissioner Ross and Ms. Hammond went into Executive Session at 12:04 p.m.

The Executive Session was closed at 12:55 p.m. and all members returned to the open meeting. After everyone was able to re-join virtually, Mr. Hanley adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

SIGNED:



Shawn Hanley, Chair

ATTEST:



Joshua Kopsie, Secretary