

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2012, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, ROBERT L. PROUD AND DAVID H. UIBLE IN ATTENDANCE

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND DEBORAH BRITTON, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.

LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE DECEMBER 17, 2012 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/videos-bcc.aspx>.

Informal Session

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Issue - Clermont County Veterans Services Commission

Discussion – Howard Daugherty, Director of Veterans Services, Andrea Bryant, Veterans Services, Bob Derr, President of Veterans Services Commission (VSC), Cliff Riley, Vice President, Don Chandler, Secretary, Kenneth Cook, Member.

Presentation on the need for the salary increases for the Veterans Service Commission Officers was presented by Cliff Riley, Vice President. Mr. Riley discussed the appointment and term for the members of the Commission.

Mr. Riley gave an overview of each of the members on the Veterans Services Commission, their memberships as well as their general biography.

Mr. Riley thanked Mr. Rabolt and the Commissioners for the improvements that have been made to the Veterans Services facility over the years in Information Systems technology and building provisions. He explained that they have managed to go almost paperless in the last few years.

A summary of Federal funds from the VA (Veterans Affairs) for the last six years was reviewed, as well as the last two years Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) history. See copy of presentation for details.

Mr. Riley explained that there is some overlap in the clients that are serviced through EFA and other claims through the VSC. The VSC is currently working with the VA to make sure that claims are processed as rapidly as possible. Clermont now has two VA judicators that are able to contact the VA directly on claims that need additional assistance or claims that have missing information.

An overview of the number of meetings and pay per meeting on all other VSC offices in the State of Ohio as well as the population and number of Veterans being serviced was requested. Mr. Riley stated that would be a daunting task to obtain this detailed type of information.

The number of Veterans include only the Armed Forces Veterans, these numbers do not include active duty military, National Guard or reservists that have been called to active duty. This also does not include the spouses or dependents of the groups listed above, should they need assistance while the active duty or reservists are on deployment.

Mr. Riley noted that Warren County VSC will be receiving an increase of salary to \$1,000/month as of 2013. That Warren County and Clermont County are close in population as well as the number of Veterans serviced. Warren County provides in term raises to all VSC members. Our prosecutor has told us that, based on an Attorney General's Opinion, we cannot provide an in term increases.

Mr. Riley stated, in addition to salary, other VSC's in the State offer health care, dental, vision and prescription plans to the VSC members. Clermont used this coverage in 2002. VA healthcare is not given to all veterans unless the Veteran is service connected.

Mr. Riley noted that claims for female veterans are increasing and Clermont County was one of the first counties to hire a female VSC officer. Female veterans require different services than the traditional services offered through the VSC.

Clermont County VSC does provide transportation services for Veterans to regularly scheduled appointments, which most other counties do not.

Additional discussion was provided regarding the VA adding new diseases to the list of qualifications for VA benefits: Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD), Parkinsons Disease (PD), Hairy Cell Leukemia (HCL). The VA is also requesting that any previously denied claims be re-judicated between 1985 through 2010. The VA also announced 15 new health conditions on 8/6/12 that qualify for benefits for Veterans that served in Camp Lejeune from 1957-1987. These new qualifications are expected to increase claims over the next few years.

Mr. Riley explained that VSC members are required to review all pending legislation involving Veterans and brief all Veterans organizations in the area so they can write to the senators/representatives in response to these bills.

Additional discussion was held in regard to the outreach being different in Clermont County versus other counties, the VSC feels that the Board should look at in regard to the request for raises, instead of simply looking at the salary of other counties.

Commissioner Humphrey noted that we have quality members on the Board and they are doing very good work. The BCC provided a \$100/month raise last year and many of the current Board members have not received that as of today's date. Mr. Humphrey also noted that there has been a 100% increase in salary over 10 years not including the increase from last year. Mr. Humphrey stated that he could not justify an additional raise this year in looking at the facts as presented.

Mr. Uible reiterated that the Board appreciates the VSC and the services they provide, he believes we do have one of the best run VSC offices in the State of Ohio and he commends all of our Members. Mr. Uible also stated that he feels like serving on such boards as the VSC, MRDD, etc is a privilege. It is a community service and he feels that it is not about the compensation and is more about service to the community. He also feels the compensation is fair in comparison to other counties in Ohio by population.

Mr. Proud stated that Clermont is indeed the best in the state and the VSC is doing great work.

Howard Daugherty stated that he has been a board member since 1999 and that we have the best board members in the state on the Clermont County VSC.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed – The Board asked that in the future the VSC keep them apprised of additional outreach programs.

Adjournment

Informal Regular Session was adjourned

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

ROBERT L. PROUD, PRESIDENT

EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, VICE PRESIDENT

DAVID H. UIBLE, MEMBER

STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1/30/13
DATE APPROVED