



TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Shannon M. Saal, Interim Superintendent
414 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554
Phone 309-477-2271

Tazewell County VAC Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2026, at 1800hrs
Tazewell EMA Building

1. Call to Order:
2. Pledge of Allegiance:
3. Roll Call:
 - a. Chairperson: Shannon Saal - Present
 - b. Vice-Chair: Bob Dant - Present
 - c. Vacate Superintendent: Steve Saal (Absent, Retired)
 - d. VSO: Jim Chism - Present
 - e. VSO: Matt Eisfelder – Excused Absent
 - f. Admin Assistant: Amanda Gillinger - Present
 - g. County Liaison: Kim Joesting - Absent
 - h. Attendees: Lenny Gray from VFW Post 1232; Lee Kerr (Guest); Ron Babb (Guest); Joe Weghorst from American Legion Post 382; Marc Bailey (Tremont Grade School Fist Bump, Guest); Kristie Bailey (Tremont Grade School Fist Bump, Guest); Rick Otey (Guest); Craig H. Cooney (Guest); Bob Hotkevich from VFW Post 9016; Dan Haley from Vietnam Veterans of Illinois; Jerry Porter from Vietnam Veterans of Illinois; Hal Mcezhaney from VFW Post 1232; Ron Clark from VFW Post 1232; Derek Beach (Heights, Guest); Michael Ragan from American Legion Post 100; Randy Prunty from Navy Club Ship #34 (Guest); Tom Neeley from American Legion Post 607; Dennie Mitchell (Guest); Louie Bertke (Guest); William D. Clark from USMC League; CJ Deloher from VFW in Morton; Kendrick I Lawhorn

(Guest); Ryan Richardson (Guest); Josh Miars (Guest); Bert Schertz from American Legion Post 44; Bob Nichols from American Legion Post 44; Rich Dansizen from American Legion Post 44; Rick Gumm from American Legion Post 983; John Harris from American Legion Post 382; Saul Espinal (Guest); Michael Brooks from Peoria VAC (Guest); Will Stodgel from American Legion Post 100; John Ackerman County Clerk (Guest).

4. Public Comments: Tazewell County Clerk John Ackerman spoke about when his father, a veteran, passed away last year, the Tazewell County VAC assisted his family and took care of everything they needed. He also commented that we need to have better advertising on the Tazewell County VAC and what services are provided.
5. Approval of Past Minutes: Dispense of reading of January 2026 minutes, motion to accept by Lenny Gray, 2nd by Bob Hotkevich. Motion passed via voice vote.
6. Discussion: VAC Public Comment Rules: Tom Neeley discussed the topic of public comment. By law, we must provide an opportunity for the public to speak. The Chair of the Commission conducts the meeting and has the responsibility of maintaining order. Mr. Neeley answered follow-up questions from meeting attendants.
7. Vacate Superintendent Position of Steve Saal (Motion, 2nd, discussion, vote): Motion to accept by Lenny Gray, 2nd by Joe Weghorst, motion approved via voice vote.
8. Vacate Chairman Position (Shannon resigns as Chairman, motion, 2nd, discussion, vote): Motion to accept by Joe Weghorst, 2nd by Lenny Gray, motion approved via voice vote.



TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Shannon M. Saal, Interim Superintendent
414 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554
Phone 309-477-2271

9. Nomination of and vote on Chairman Position (motion, 2nd, discussion, vote): Bob Dant nominated. Motion to accept by Lenny Gray, 2nd by Bob Hotkevich, 1 vote no by Delegate Michael Ragan, motion approved via voice vote.
10. Appointment of Vice-Chair: Adam Sterling nominated. Motion to accept by Lenny Gray, 2nd by Bill Clark, 1 vote no by Delegate Michael Ragan, motion approved via voice vote.
11. Appointment of Interim Superintendent: Bob Dant entertained Motion to appoint Shannon Saal as Interim Superintendent. Motion to accept by Lenny Gray, 2nd by Joe Weghorst, 1 vote no by Delegate Michael Ragan, motion approved via voice vote.
12. Superintendent's Report: Report given. Motion approved by Bill Clark, 2nd by Lenny Gray, motion approved via voice vote.
13. Pantry Report: 87 Veterans and 150 Dependents for January.
14. VSO Report: No Report
15. New Business: 3 volunteers will serve on the selection committee to hire a new Superintendent. The individuals serving on the committee are Bob Hotkevich from VFW Post 9016, Tom Neeley from American Legion Post 607, and Adam Sterling from AMVETS Post 169.
16. Adjournment: Motioned by Bill Clark, 2nd by Lenny Gray. Motion passed.
17. Please stand and salute the flag
SHANNON M. SAAL
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT
Tazewell County VAC