



TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Clarence Pulcher, Superintendent
Phone 309-477-2271
Tazewell County VAC Meeting Minutes
JULY 20, 2026, 1800hrs
@ Tazewell EMA Building
21304 IL-9, Tremont, IL 61568

1. Call to order: Made by Chairman Bob Dant at 6:00PM
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was given and rendered

Rich Dansizen	(ALT) AL Post 44
Michael Ragan	(DEL) AL Post 100
John Harris	(DEL) AL Post 382
Joe Weghorst	(ALT) AL Post 382
Tom Neely	(DEL) AL Post 607
Jim Wheat	(ALT) AL Post 607
Doug Bohm	(DEL) AL Post 1236
Robert Nichols	(DEL) AMVETS 169
Bob Dant	(ALT) AMVETS 169
Tom Stewart	(DEL) 40 et 8 Voiture 1170
Bill Clark	(DEL) MCL 085
Dan Swift	(DEL) Mil Order of Purple Heart 175
Ryan Richardson	(DEL) VFW Post 1232
Hal McElhaney	(ALT) VFW Post 1232
David Labatt	(ALT) VFW 2078
Brian Farlin	(DEL) VFW 4835
Robert Hotkevich	(DEL) VFW Post 9016
James Ashton	(ALT) VFW Post 9016
Jerry Porter	Vietnam Veterans of Illinois
CJ Pulcher	Superintendent
Deja Owens	Admin Assistant

Jon Hopkins	County Board LNO
Shannon Saal	AL Post 44/Guest
Rick Otey	Operation Last Watch/Guest
Dennis Mitchell	Fist Bumping Vets/Guest
Kendrick Hawthorn	Guest
Charles Gouvein	VFW Post 1232/Guest
Derek Beach	VFW Post 1232/Guest
Tammy Joseph	Guest

3. Roll Call: 11 Delegates, 7 Alternates, 1 VAC Superintendent and 7 Guests. Quorum was met.
4. Introduction of Guests and First-time attendees – Chairman recognized Kendrick Hawthorn as first-time attendee.
5. Public comments: None.
6. Approval of July's Agenda
 - I. Chairman entertained a motion to approve July's Agenda as published
 - II. Motion made by Rich Dansizen to approve
 - III. Motion Seconded by Doug Bohm
 - IV. Motion carried via voice vote
7. Approval of Minutes/May's Minutes
 - I. Chairman entertained a motion to untable May's Minutes
 - II. Motion made by Bill Clark to untable May's Minutes
 - III. Motion Seconded by Doug Bohm
 - IV. Motion carried via voice vote
 - V. Chairman entertained a motion to approve May's Minutes as amended
 - VI. Delegate Bob Hotkevich raised question about appointment of Superintendent Pulcher in May's Minutes

- VII. Superintendent Pulcher advised note was made on page 3, bullet 9 of May's Minutes
- VIII. Motion made by Ryan Richardson to approve May's Minutes
- IX. Motion Seconded by Hal McElhaney
- X. Motion carried via voice vote

Approval of Minutes/June's Minutes

- XI. Chairman entertained a motion to approve June's Minutes as published
- XII. Motion made by Rich Dansizen to approve June's Minutes as published
- XIII. Motion Seconded by David Labatt
- XIV. Motion carried via voice vote

8. Superintendent's Report

I. BUDGET

- a. Synopsis of FY26 Budget
 - i. Remaining YTD
 - ii. County Board approved budget moves
- b. Synopsis of FY27 Budget submission
 - i. Legal representation for VAC
 - ii. 2 new full-time positions
 - iii. Travel for advanced/continuation training of staff
 - iv. Added costs associated with relocation in the event location not County owned
 - v. Hal raised great point about budget impact, and from where it came

II. ACTIVITY

- a. 14 ITF

- b. 14 POA
- c. 4 526EZ
- d. 2 Appeals
- e. 46 Walk-ins
- f. 39 Appointments
- g. 177 Calls
- h. 247 Total interactions
- i. \$40,548.99 New Money
- j. \$385,549.29 Total Money
- k. 47 Successful Claims to date
- l. 21 Active Claims awaiting decision
- m. 2 Appeal awaiting decision
- n. 70 Total Active Claims

III. UPDATES

- a. CJ raised the idea to adopt this as our Mission Statement: The Tazewell County Veterans Assistance Commission is committed to providing compassionate, timely and professional assistance to our Veterans and their families through advocacy, emergency financial assistance, benefit counseling, outreach, collaboration with community partners and accountability, ensuring no eligible Veteran is left without support. Discussion ensued to add to next agenda as action item.
- b. Personnel
 - i. 172 total resumes received for 3 positions
 - 1. 98 AA (9)
 - 2. 39 VSO (14)
 - 3. 35 AS (27)
 - ii. Interviews complete by 7.24.26
 - 1. 8.3.26 target start date for (AA,AS)
 - 2. 9.21.26 target start date for (VSO)

- c. Relocation Initiative – CJ discussed progress in search of new “home” for TCVAC and 5 locations visited:
 - i. 1800 Broadway Street, Pekin
 - ii. 400 N. Main Street, 4th Floor, East Peoria
 - iii. 2400 N. Main Street, East Peoria
 - iv. 2410 N. Main Street, East Peoria
 - v. 300 E. Washington, East Peoria
- d. IACVAC Accreditation Checklist – CJ explained that this will remain on updates as our “North Star” towards compliance

9. Presentation and Proposal of TCVAC Seal – CJ introduced design for approval and expressed the time for us to develop our new identity

- I. Chairman entertained motion to approve design as official TCVAC Seal
- II. Brian Farlin raised issue with Space Force and Coast Guard not represented
- III. Motion made by Brian Farlin to table for corrections/additions
- IV. Motion Seconded by Bill Clark
- V. Motion carried via voice vote

10. Introduction of newly revised TCVAC By-Laws and initial Guide of Services and Eligibility Standards

- I. Hard copies provided to each VSO represented at meeting
- II. CJ expressed urgency of adopting these By-Laws and Guide as the first, huge step for coming into compliance with ILCS and CFRs.

- III. CJ solicited feedback about calling a Special Meeting, specifically for the action of ratification of By-Laws and Guide
 - a. Chairman entertained motion for Special Meeting to be conducted on 7.27.26 for this purpose
 - b. Motion made by Brian Farlin to call Special Meeting
 - c. Motion Seconded by Michael Ragan
 - d. Motion carried via voice vote

11. Unfinished Business:

- I. Subpoena – questions asked about AG updates. Nothing new to report at this time

12. New Business: None

13. Good of the Commission/Post Reports

- I. Chairman recognized Bob Nichols/Rich Dansizen and TACT Team for their dedicated contributions and Bob Nichols as AMVET of the year for Post 169
- II. Hal McElhaney (VFW1232) announced Post car show on 9.13.26.
- III. Rich Dansizen (AL44) and Bob Dant announced Vets for Vets Motorcycle ride starting at Bartonville AL 7.25.26 and Vets supporting 4H fair on 7.27.26
- IV. Michael Ragan (AL100) announced Patriot Plunge on 7.22.26 at the East Peoria Boat Club followed by the Ice Challenge (Beer Plunge)(7PM) at the Peoria Heights VFW
- V. Ryan Richardson (VFW1232) announced Family and Friends Night on 10.3.26 from 1500-1900 (Vets get in free with ID) and live music by Chicago Farmers from 1700-1900
- VI. Jerry Porter and Hal McElhaney raised great point of maintaining consolidated list of all post activities in

Tazewell. CJ advised VAC can and will maintain such a list/schedule if Post's will forward, inform or notify.

VII. CJ recognized Mr. Otey's Group for their outstanding support to the VAC, Veterans and Community and also Michael Ragan's direct involvement and support of Veteran's in dire need.

VIII. Michael introduced idea of each Post in the County having a service officer to provide assistance in emergency situations

IX. CJ concluded with polite reminder of 5 ILCS 120 "Open Meetings Act" requirements

14. Benediction/Adjournment:

- I. Chairman entertained motion to adjourn
- II. Motion made by Brian Farlin to adjourn
- III. Motion Seconded by Rich Dansizen
- IV. Motion carried via voice vote
- V. Tom Neely gave benediction