

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
March 11, 2026

The meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room.

Members present were:

Shelly Howsare

Mike Male

Robin Housley

Bruce Jeffries

Michael Stigers

Minutes of the February 4, 2026 meeting were read. Commissioner Stigers made the motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2026 meeting, Commissioner Housley seconded. Approved by all present.

March reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: Discussion was held regarding the legislation passed by the Senate and the significant changes in Iowa Code. This bill poses significant changes to delivery of services to Veterans. It also will give up local Commission and Board of Supervisor oversight and control. The Administrator presented the Commission with outlines of the bill and why it is not a win for Veterans it just throws up more road blocks.

The Administrator asked about the training the Commission attended virtually on February 18th. Three of the Commissioners attended the training. The topics were the same, but all information shared was information that the Administrator has shared. They did say there were Commissioners on the training that definitely are not as informed.

New business: The Administrator gave the Commissioners an update on budget for FY26/27. There were a lot of discussions regarding future funding by the county had this budget year. One discussion brought up by the Supervisors was the Commission members not receiving mileage for attending meetings.

The Commission members collaboratively stated they were not interested in giving up mileage. They attend a lot of additional meetings and outreach that they do not get paid mileage for. This meeting as it is required by code should not be expected to be without mileage reimbursement. The Administrator brought up potentially meeting 1 time per quarter in person and doing the other 2 via TEAMS. The Commission would be willing to entertain that idea but would like to see how it would work before committing.

There was a change made in the VA budget. The grave markers/flags were taken out of our budget and combined with Pioneer Cemetery funds. Supervisor

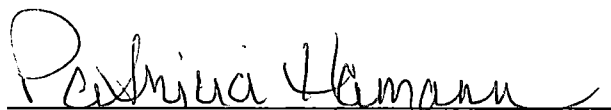
Kaufmann will be looking into fund raising for flags as the money in the line item will be spent on the old style of grave markers. The cost for those jumped to \$56.40 per marker/stake. There may not be funds available in the future for flags.

The administrator asked the Commissioners that were attending the county wide meeting to open discussions with the Legions about the potential change in procedure.

Commissioner Jeffries announced that he will complete the term of Bill VanWaes, but that his position will be open after the month of June. The Commission will have to bring some recommendations of potential applicants.

News Releases were shared and numbers compared for January in the report from the Regional office. Discussion was held.

The meeting was motioned for adjournment at 6:15 p.m. by Commissioner Stigers, seconded by Commissioner Howsare, approved by all in attendance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Hamann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Patricia Hamann, Administrator