

THE EASTERN HAMPDEN COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Members Present: Chairman Michael Valanzola; Ken Geromini; Tom Christensen

Others Present: Jason Burgener, VSO; Rodney "Rod" Kincaid, District Treasurer; Pamela Leduc, District Coordinator

Chairman Valanzola called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so by following the Zoom instructions below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of East Longmeadow, Town of Hampden and Town of Wales municipal websites an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting."

INTRODUCTION

Tom Christensen, Town of East Longmeadow representative: Chairman Valanzola welcomed Mr. Christensen to the board and provided a brief history of the original district and an overview of the status of the current district.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and vote to approve the June 5, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: Action postponed.

Review and vote to approve the June 14, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: Action postponed.

Review and vote to approve the June 27, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: Action postponed.

Review and vote to approve the June 28, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: Action postponed.

Review and vote to approve payroll and accounts payable for June 2023

Motion by Mr. Geromini; seconded by Mr. Christensen; to approve payroll and accounts payable for June 2023 as submitted by the District Treasurer. Mr. Geromini – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes; Chairman Valanzola – yes.

Jason Burgener, Veterans' Service Officer: VSO Burgener was issued the district cell phone and laptop. He plans to spend Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays in the East Longmeadow office; Wednesdays in the Hampden office and Thursdays in the Wales office. He was introduced to key staff members at the East Longmeadow and Hampden locations yesterday. Ms. Leduc will be facilitating introductions to the Wales Senior Center staff immediately following the meeting. The documentation required to apply for OnBase access has been submitted to EOVS. OnBase training will be scheduled upon notification of approval of access to the system.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Geromini and Ms. Leduc attended a meeting of the Hampden Board of Selectmen on Monday, July 10th.

It is anticipated that the Brimfield Select Board will vote to request the approval of the district board to join The Eastern Hampden County Veterans' Service District upon notification that VSO Burgener has completed the requisite training.

The Monson VSO position is currently vacant. Mr. Brin resigned to become the Director of Human Resources for the Town of Hadley.

The board reviewed the additional compensation analysis/proposal submitted by Ms. Leduc.

Motion by Mr. Christensen; seconded by Mr. Geromini; to approve a lump sum payment in the amount of \$7,538.46 to Ms. Leduc from the balance in the FY2023 VSO Salary line item. Mr Geromini – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes; Chairman Valanzola – yes.

The board discussed the email received on 07.12.23 from Felix Tranghese requesting a hearing and his claim of discrimination. Ms. Leduc forwarded all of their email communications to district counsel with the approval of Chairman Valanzola. The board authorized Chairman Valanzola to respond to Mr. Tranghese’s email upon receipt of advice from district counsel.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Geromini; seconded by Mr. Christensen; to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 am. Mr. Geromini – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes; Chairman Valanzola – yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela A. Leduc
District Coordinator

DRAFT