

**THE EASTERN HAMPDEN COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING**  
**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**  
**Thursday, August 31, 2023**

Members Present: Chairman Michael Valanzola; Ken Geromini; Tom Christensen  
*Others Present: Jason Burgener, VSO; Pamela Leduc, District Coordinator*

Chairman Valanzola called the meeting to order at 8:05 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."

**OLD BUSINESS**

Review and vote to approve the June 5, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

***Motion by Mr. Geromini; seconded by Mr. Christensen; to approve the June 5, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes. Mr. Geromini – yes; Mr. Christensen – abstain; Chairman Valanzola – yes.***

Review and vote to approve the June 14, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

***Motion by Mr. Geromini; seconded by Mr. Christensen; to approve the June 14, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes. Mr. Geromini – yes; Mr. Christensen – abstain; Chairman Valanzola – yes.***

Review and vote to approve the June 27, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

***Motion by Mr. Geromini; seconded by Mr. Christensen; to approve the June 27, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes. Mr. Geromini – yes; Mr. Christensen – abstain; Chairman Valanzola – yes.***

Review and vote to approve the June 28, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: Chairman Valanzola cites the rule of necessity to support his action on this agenda item; otherwise, his vote would be to abstain given the fact that he did not participate in the June 28, 2023 meeting.

***Motion by Mr. Geromini; seconded by Mr. Christensen; to approve the June 28, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes. Mr. Geromini – yes; Mr. Christensen – abstain; Chairman Valanzola – yes.***

**NEW BUSINESS**

Review and vote to approve the July 18, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

***Motion by Mr. Geromini; seconded by Mr. Christensen; to approve the July 18, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes. Mr. Geromini – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes; Chairman Valanzola – yes.***

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

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

Jason Burgener, Veterans' Service Officer: VSO Burgener provided the board with an update of his networking, outreach and training activities. The biannual recertification process is near completion. He will be hosting a coffee hour in Hampden on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> and attending the East Longmeadow American Legion's monthly meeting on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. He has coordinated Veterans Day breakfasts and dinners and lunches in each town. Upcoming training events include a Medicaid webinar on September 16<sup>th</sup> and the annual MA VSO training from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup>. VSO Burgener conducts 2 home visits per week with clients in East Longmeadow and Hampden. Chairman Valanzola requested an update on the status of filings for state reimbursement and VSO Burgener advised that he has submitted all of the documentation required to resume that process.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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 in October.

Ms. Leduc to issue FY24 Operating Budget Assessment invoices.

There has been no further contact with Felix Tranghese.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion by Mr. Geromini; seconded by Mr. Christensen; to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 am. Mr. Geromini – yes; Mr. Christensen – yes; Chairman Valanzola – yes.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela A. Leduc*

District Coordinator