

## **Mills County Veterans Affairs**

### **February 13th, 2026, Minutes**

To: All MCVA Commissioners, Board of Supervisors Liaison, MCVA staff

Christina Hankins, CVSO/Caseworker

Lori Swisher, CVSO/Clerk

(Commissioners have staggered three-year terms)

Paul Hathaway, Commissioner 1974-2026

Jeanne Wilkins, Commissioner 2019-2025

Yolanda Hardesty, Commissioner 2019-2025

Jess Cook, Commissioner/Secretary 2019-2026

Jim Schoening, Commissioner/Chair 2017-2025

Richard Crouch, BOS Liaison 2003 - 2025

From: Elizabeth Richardson, CVSO/Administrator

**February Regular Meeting 8:42 am**

**Location: 403 Railroad Avenue, Glenwood**

#### **A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Roll Call** Jess and Richard were not at the meeting.

#### **C. Old Business**

1. Yolada made a motion to approve minutes from the January meeting; Jeanne seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. Update re VA move to Annex Bldg. Discussed designated veteran parking when lot is full – where do they go? Also discussed signage and will move forward with Commissioners on that topic.  
Remaining bills: Electricity and gas  
Locked mailbox and parking signs yet to be removed
3. Final proposed budget for 2026-2027  
Salaries, utilities, etc.
4. Paul made a motion to approve the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, pending the corrected salary amounts for Elizabeth, Christina, and Lori; Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.
5. Jeanne made a motion to approve the reimbursement for postage to Sandi Winton for sending out letters regarding HBI to area businesses in the amount of \$70.20 for 90 letters to area businesses; Yolanda seconded. Motion passed.

#### **D. Reports and Outreach**

1. Administrator's Monthly Reports/Awards
  - a. Communication and Forms Reports
  - b. Quarterly Assistance Report
    - i. No new Assistance requested  
Two \$25 vouchers were given to a veteran in crisis for Russ's Grocery store.

ii. Christina shared issues with homeless veterans in the area

c. Running Awards C and P

November 2025: \$1,296,360

December 2025: \$1,340,965 (\$44,605 monthly increase)

End year total: \$16,091,580 in yearly VA awards to County

Running count of **awards only**: 645 people  
(veterans/widows/dependents)

This does not include current clientele.

Current # 100% Disabled Military Veteran Property Tax  
exemptions/Mills County: approximately 123

2. Open House for New Location

a. Possible date: March 12<sup>th</sup> 4 – 6 pm

Cake, coffee, drawing

3. Upcoming CVSO Training

NACVSO National Training Increasing Zoom costs

4. Commissioner Training, February 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8pm.

Annex Room reserved (doors locked by 7 pm)

Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs 2026 Update Paperwork and Talking Points  
Paperwork

5. Office work jackets were discussed. Lori shared details and cost.

## 6. New Business

a. Commissioners' Updates

Jim's grandson is back from his tour overseas, Yolanda's son was honored with a Chamber of Commerce award. The American Legion in Silver City had a successful Valentine's Breakfast.

b. Iowa Veterans Trust Fund Honor Guard Reimbursement Paperwork shared.

c. Update Website – meet early/late next month to discuss changes?

d. Article, Why the VA's Disability System is Really Worker's Compensation, shared by Jeanne

e. VA Health Care Numbers Brochure

f. Office Procedures Reviewed regarding FMLA leave.

g. Kudos and Thank yous!

Many veterans have shared their appreciation for our new space with visits and flowers, pie, popcorn and more flowers.

Kudos to Christina!

## 7. Adjournment

Jeanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Paul seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15