

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Jackson County Veterans Affairs Commissioner Meeting**

4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Community Room, Jackson County Courthouse  
201 W Platt Street, Maquoketa, Iowa

**Commissioners' Present:** Chair John Pitlo, Secretary Stephen Norpel, Greg Stalker, Laura Eggers, Dorothy Wisted

**Commissioners Present Via Zoom:** None

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Staff Member Present:** Administrator Ruth Eltrich

**Guests:** None

The Zoom meeting was launched. The recording was started. Chair Pitlo called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken, commissioners present at roll call were Chair John Pitlo, Secretary Stephen Norpel, Greg Stalker, Laura Eggers, Dorothy Wisted.

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2026:

Motion by John Pitlo

Second by Laura Eggers

All yeas: Pitlo, Norpel, Eggers, Stalker, and Wisted

Discussion of January 2026 Budget Report:

Administrator Eltrich provided the update for the January 2026 budget. 58.90% of the year is gone. 47.38% of the budget is used. Discussion followed regarding expenses and what items were purchased. A large order of grave markers was purchased in January because the Jackson County VA office had donations of \$850 that were specifically earmarked to order grave markers. The County VetPro subscription was also paid for. Wisted questioned if the VetPro renewal is a yearly expense, Eltrich confirmed that it is. Various office supplies were also ordered in January.

Eltrich discussed the January Activity Log. There was a general discussion on the breakdown of the specific forms that were filled by the Jackson County Veterans Affairs office in January.

Eltrich discussed the January Interactions Report. January had 290 total interactions. Also included in the summary of the interactions report was the secretarial phone calls and walk-ins.

December County Award Report:

The December County Award Report was provided. 426 veterans and/or their eligible dependents received \$863,457 in December. There were 89 open claims, our office filed 54 of those claims, or 61% of the claims open in Jackson County in December.

Office updates:

The GDX Report from FY24 was presented. There was a general discussion on the increase from the previous GDX report and the positive influence for the Veterans.

General discussion was had regarding SSB 3079. Jackson County is ranked 19<sup>th</sup> out of 99 counties for dollars per Veterans.

General discussion was had on various outreach events that the office is participating in. The Drive-In Veterans Appreciation Night will happen in May.

Administrator Eltrich shared the January Newspaper Article. It was about the PACT Act and Presumptive Conditions.

Eltrich reached out to surrounding counties regarding whether they have by-laws. The counties questioned only had elections, not by-laws. There will be an action listed on the March Agenda regarding the matter of elections.

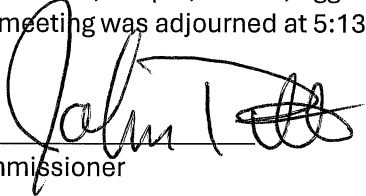
Motion to adjourn:

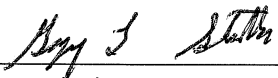
Motion by John Pitlo

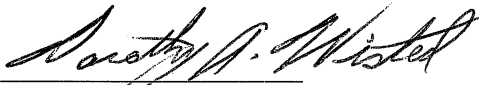
Second by Laura Eggers

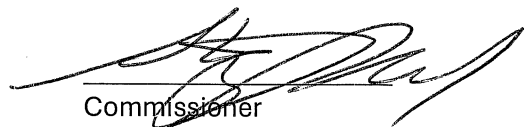
All yea: Pitlo, Norpel, Stalker, Eggers, Wisted

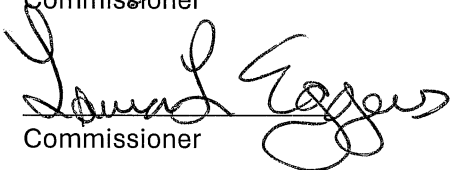
The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Administrator

Submitted to Auditor 3/12/2026