

Meeting Minutes
Jackson County Veterans Affairs Commissioner Meeting
4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 12th, 2026
Community Room, Jackson County Courthouse
201 W Platt Street, Maquoketa, Iowa

Commissioners' Present: Chair John Pitlo, Secretary Stephen Norpel, Dorothy Wisted, Greg Stalker, Michelle Roling

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Member Present: Administrator Ruth Eltrich

Guests:

The Zoom meeting was launched. The recording was started. Chair Pitlo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken; commissioners present at roll call were John Pitlo, Greg Stalker, Dorothy Wisted, Michelle Roling, Stephen Norpel

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 8th, 2026:

Motion by John Pitlo

Second by Greg Stalker

All in favor aye: Norpel, Wisted, Pitlo, Stalker, Roling

Administrator Eltrich presented discussion and possible action for appointing chairperson and secretary for the Veterans Affairs Commission.

Motion by Greg Stalker to continue John Pilo as Chairperson.

Second by Michelle Roling

All in favor aye: Stalker, Wisted, Norpel, Roling

Abstain: John Pitlo

Discussion regarding the meeting minutes.

Motion was made by John Pitlo for Wisted to take Secretary.

Second by Greg Stalker

All in favor aye: Norpel, Roling, Stalker, Pitlo, Wisted

Eltrich discussed the July budget report as 8.49% of the year gone. 6.59% of budget is used. Eltrich presented purchases and budget items used. Eltrich presented information on state allocations funds.

Eltrich presented the July activity log and discussed total number of claims, decisions, deferrals, and remands.

Eltrich presented the county award report for June. A total of 439 veterans and/or their eligible dependents received \$907,854.00 in benefits.

Eltrich stated that there are 91 open claims in Jackson County, we filed 72, our percentage is 79% of open claims filed.

Eltrich presented the July Interactions Report. July had a total of 297 total interactions. The secretary assisted with 69 phone calls and 36 walk-ins.

Eltrich presented discussion and possible action to approve purchasing the yearly Avenue of Flags provided by the Optimist Club for \$55 annually. Discussion followed.

Motion by John Pitlo to not purchase annual flags from the Optimist Club.

Second by Greg Stalker

All in favor aye: Pitlo, Wisted, Stalker, Norpel, Roling

Discussion followed regarding a more permanent flag for the Penrose Annex building, Eltrich requested Commissioners visit the office before the next meeting to see the space available and will add the flag discussion and possible action to the agenda for next month.

Pitlo presented a question regarding the medallions available through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Eltrich presented information on the 2025/26 fiscal year with a comparison of claims filed and a comparison of the June 2025 and 2026 county award report.

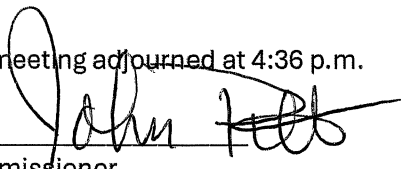
Discussion regarding Department of Veterans Affairs burial benefits.

Motion to adjourn: John Pitlo

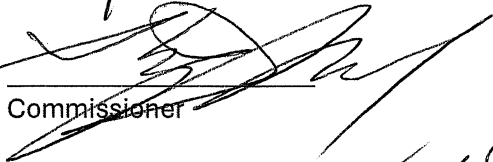
Second by Dorothy Wisted

All aye: Norpel, Roling, Stalker, Pitlo, Wisted

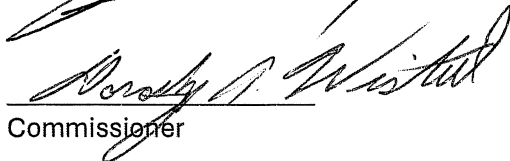
The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.



Commissioner



Commissioner



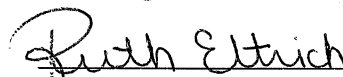
Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner



Administrator