

NEBRASKA

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS



VETERANS' HOMES BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 6, 2026

The Veterans' Homes Board was convened in session at 9:00 a.m. Friday, February 6, 2026, at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home, 12505 Harrison Tull Drive, Bellevue, NE.

Board Members Present

Gregory Holloway (Chairman) & Dennis Schissel, Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles Gill, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Danny Reese & Jim Shuey, Disabled American Veterans
John Liebsack & Jeff Baker, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Bill Crosier & Eric Martin, American Legion
Debra Wehrli & Dana Morris, AMVETS
David Ossian, & Tom Brown, Marine Corps League
Will Leavitt & Dave Nelson, Paralyzed Veterans of America
John Hilgert (Secretary), Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Excused

Ken Colson, Military Order of the Purple Heart

Staff Present

Matt Bauman, Administrator, Michelle Tagel, Amanda Van Hill, Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home
Josh Stafursky, Administrator, Norfolk Veterans' Home
Dorin Vaipan, Administrator, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home
RJ Stavely, Administrator, Western Nebraska Veterans' Home
Charlene Sheltraw, Nicki Guretzky, Nancy Holmgren, Nicole Zimmermann, Steven Plourde, Jenifer Acierno, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Entering of the Public Notice into Record

Notice of the meeting was on the Nebraska.gov Public Meeting Calendar, NDVA calendar, news & events. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the published notice. As a courtesy, emails are sent to the Veterans' Homes Board, Veterans' Advisory Commission, Veterans' Council, and the County Veterans Service Officers. The Open Meetings Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-1407 through 84-1415) was posted outside the entrance of the room.

Minutes

Schissel made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, October 24, 2025, as typed and distributed seconded by Nelson. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

County Veterans Service Officer Comments

None

Veterans Home Member Comments

None

Public Comments

No public comments

Veterans' Home Applications

The Board reviewed 88 applications. Nelson made a motion to approve 79 of the applications that were not set aside for further discussion, seconded by Leavitt. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Executive Session

Schissel made a motion to go into executive session at 9:15 a.m. to review requests by members or potential members, consider Veterans' Home applications that were held for further review, review prior approved applications which are unable to be served by the Home and review the report of debts 60 days and older. Closed session is to protect health information or personal information of individuals, and to protect the reputation of the person to be discussed and is in the public interest for protection of confidential health information. Seconded by Martin. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Out of executive session: 10:56 a.m.

Presentations of Requests by Members, Potential Members or their Representatives

None

Appropriate action to be taken on Disposition of applications that were held for the Board's review **Board Consideration of Home Applications**

B-10 Board Ratification – Schissel made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Brown. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

E-2 Board Ratification – Ossian made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Crosier. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

E-4 Board Decision – Schissel made a motion to approve the application treating as a single person.. If the spouse in the future wants to enter into one of the Nebraska State Veterans' Homes she would not be eligible, seconded by Ossian. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

H-4 Board Decision– Schissel made a motion to disapprove the application, seconded by Baker. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

M-1 Board Ratification - Ossian made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Reese. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

S-7 Board Decision– Baker made a motion to approve the application with a 6-month provisional start date of December 18, 2025, seconded by Gill. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

V-2 Board Ratification – Martin made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Schissel. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Report on prior approved application(s) and prior approved applications

H– Ossian made a motion to approve the 6-month provisional starting date of December 17, 2025, seconded by Brown. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

I– Ossian made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Shuey. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

J– Martin made a motion to approve the 6-month provisional starting date of February 6, 2026, seconded by Reese. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

K- Gill made a motion to approve the 6-month provisional starting date of October 28, 2025, seconded by Crosier. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

L– Shuey made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Liebsack. Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Veterans Home Administrators

Bauman, Administrator, Eastern Nebraska Veterans’ Home, gave an update on the Home.

- *Passed the Recognition Survey for newly renovated expansion of 30 skilled bed neighborhood.
- *Annual USDVA Survey
- *Census/Admissions
- *Update on Staffing

Vaipan, Administrator, Central Nebraska Veterans’ Home, gave an update on the Home.

- *Agency free
- *Staffing update
- *Admissions
- *Annual USDVA survey will be coming up in March

Stavely, Administrator, Western Nebraska Veterans’ Home, gave an update on the Home.

- *Update on projects
- *Accomplishments for the year 2025
 - *Renovating the members’ rooms in the skilled neighborhood
 - *Husker Tailgate Fun – the Husker Den/the Honor Wall
- *Update on Staffing
- *Census/Admissions
- *Thanked Holloway for coming out and speaking on Veterans’ Day

Stafursky, Administrator, Norfolk Veterans’ Home, gave an update on the Home.

- *Big thanks to the volunteers that support the community who came out to the home for the holiday season.
- *Annual USDVA survey will be coming up in March.
- *Update on staffing
- *Update on projects

Secretary Comments

Hilgert gave updates.

*Updates on the Grand Island Veterans' Cemetery

*March 27th, Vietnam Veterans' Recognition Ceremony at the Warner Chambers, in Lincoln.

*Thank you to Dorin for going out to the job fairs at Lexington for those affected by the closing of the plant.

*Staffing updates

*Budget hearing for NDVA agency is February 17th with the Appropriation Committee.

Board Member Comments

*Shuey asked about the Nebraska Veterans Aid fund. Hilgert gave an update on the fund and the Governor's budget.

Chairman Comments

Holloway stated we appreciate everyone and trust Director Hilgert in taking care of our veterans.

Next meeting is May 1, 2026, at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home at 9:00 a.m.

Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Shuey, Voting yes: Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Adjourned: 11:45 a.m.