

NEBRASKA

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS



VETERANS' HOMES BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 24, 2025

The Veterans' Homes Board was convened in session at 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 24, 2025, at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home, 12505 Harrison Tull Drive, Bellevue, NE.

Board Members Present

Jim Cada, (Chairman), Military Order of the Purple Heart
Gregory Holloway (Vice Chairman) & Dennis Schissel, Vietnam Veterans of America
Danny Reese & Jim Shuey, Disabled American Veterans
John Liebsack & Dan Kramer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Bill Crosier & Dave Salak, American Legion
Debra Wehrli, AMVETS
David Ossian & Joey Ossian, Marine Corps League
Will Leavitt, Paralyzed Veterans of America
John Hilgert (Secretary), Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Excused

Mike Sheets, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Bernie Brosnihan, AMVETS
Dave Nelson Paralyzed Veterans of America

Staff Present

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

Entering of 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 at the entrance of the room.

Minutes

Leavitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as typed and distributed, seconded by Wehrli. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

County Veterans Service Officer Comments

None

Veterans Home Member Comments

Member who is President of the member’s council spoke on the behalf of the members, commented on waste of items and a few of the issues in the new neighborhood. The member commented on the good care and the cleanliness of the Home.

Public Comments

None

Veterans’ Home Applications

The Board reviewed 82 applications. Schissel made a motion to approve 72 of the applications that were not set aside for further discussion, seconded by Crosier. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

Executive Session

Holloway made a motion to go into executive session at 9:20 a.m. to review requests by members or potential members, consider Veterans’ Home applications that were held for further review, review on prior approved applications which are unable to be served by a 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 Kramer. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

Out of executive session: 10:30 a.m.

Recess: 10:31 a.m.

Resumed: 10:42 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-4 Board Decision – Salak made a motion to approve the application not counting the property as an asset, seconded by Leavitt. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

F-3 Board Decision – Schissel made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Shuey. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

H-2 Board Decision – Salak made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Kramer. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

H-6 Board Decision – Leavitt made a motion to approve the application treating as a single person, seconded by Reese. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

J-2 Board Decision – Salak made a motion to approve the application not counting the personal property as an asset, seconded by Leavitt. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

K-8 Board Decision – Kramer made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Schissel. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

M-3 Board Decision – Schissel made a motion to deny the application, seconded by Kramer. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

R-1 Board Decision – Holloway made a motion to approve the application treating as a single person, seconded by Leavitt. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

V-1 Board Decision – Ossian made a motion to approve the application not counting the property as an asset, seconded by Ossian. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

W-1 Board Decision – Schissel made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Crosier. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

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

L– Ossian made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Ossian. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

M– Kramer made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Liebsack. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

N– Salak made a motion to approve the 6-month provisional with start date of January 24, 2025, seconded by Shuey. Voting yes: Cada, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Salak, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Kramer, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

Veterans Home Administrators

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

- *Update on Honor, the new addition domiciliary neighborhood
- *Renovation has begun on the dedication neighborhood that will be converted to skilled beds
- *WWII ceremony with Governor Pillen and Director Hilgert
- *Appreciate the support of the Board and the Central Office

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

- *Staffing update
- *WWII ceremony with Governor Pillen and Director Hilgert
- *Donations from the community
- *CNVH hosted their first blood drive

Stavelly, Administrator, Western Nebraska Veterans' Home, gave an update on the Home.

- *Census/Admissions
- *Update on staffing

- *Update on projects
- *Proceed with the bids on the bridge for the pond

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

- *Update on projects
- *WWII ceremony with Director Hilgert
- *Census/Admissions
- *Update on staffing

Secretary Comments

- *Agency Staff
- *Update on the Nebraska Resource Center at Offutt Air Force Base
- *Expanding our State Service Office

Chairman Comments

Pleased on no agency staff. Great job done by the Administrators and all the staff.
Next meeting May 2, 2025, at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home in Kearney.

Board Member Comments

- *Schissel asked if in the spring possible to do a training for the Board to do updates on the Rules & Regulations. Hilgert stated we would make appropriate plans to have a training.
- *Salak commented that he will be retiring in June, and his replacement will be Eric Martin. Thanked everyone for their support.
- *Leavitt stated Nelson is in Hong Kong representing team USA at the Para Bowling. Nelson got Gold in doubles and Bronze in individuals.

Adjourned: 11:25 a.m.