

Veterans Assistance Commission of Vermilion County

Thursday 8 January 2026 @ 1800
Joseph G. Cannon Building, 2nd Floor
201 N Vermilion Street
Danville, IL 61832

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Appointment of Board Chair
4. Public Comments
5. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes
6. Financial Report and Approval of Bills
7. Appointment of Interim Superintendent
8. Discussion of Clarity Design Company Proposal
9. Executive Sessions:
 - A. Pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2/06
To determine whether or not to release minutes from executive session of the board.
 - B. Pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity.
 - C. Pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.
10. Motion to Adjourn

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting

11-13-25

Meeting began at 17:46

Mickensy Ellis-White to take minutes for meeting.

Minutes were still in draft form from October 2025 meeting; Not completed, not voted on.

Audience comments

Lon Henderson reads letter, as well as a point of order about approving the agenda.

Sabrina Kelley speaks.

Agenda was not approved.

Matt Long makes a motion to amend the agenda for public comments to be moved to item 5B, and closed session moved to item 9. Scott seconds the motion.

At 18:05, the superintendent report was not prepared, Superintendent goes to another room.

Superintendent returns at 18:07 with no report. "Report did not generate."

Revision of the Bylaws

Monthly meeting proposed by Matt Long.

Discussion about meetings being the 2nd Thursday in odd numbered months at 18:00.

Personnel Policies tabled

Discussion on public comment made to three minutes to speak. A policy to limit public was made, but no superintendent reports made. Policy tabled.

Discussion on new committees. Tabled

Mickensy Ellis-White asked about a tracking system on how many veterans had been served.

Superintendent said that there wasn't a tracking system.

Special Meeting will be on December 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM/1800.

Regular Meeting will be held January 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM/1800.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM/20:34

Approved by:

Delegate: _____

Delegate: _____

Delegate: _____

Delegate: _____

Delegate: _____

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting

12/18/25

Mickensy Ellis-White informs board that AI is running so that it can take notes.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM/1800 by Mickensy Ellis-White.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation – Terry Moore

Roll call

Post 51 not in attendance.

Post 203 Bill Reagan present.

Post 210 Terry Moore and Scott present.

Post 428 not in attendance.

Post 824 not in attendance.

Post 3510, Mickensy Ellis-White and Matt Long present. Eric Luttrell present.

Post 384 Gary Miller present.

Four posts represented out of seven. Quorum established.

Matt Long point of order to adopt agenda and move 8A to 3A to elect new temporary chair.

Matt

Long makes the motion, Terry Moore seconds. Motion carries unanimously. Terry Moore makes a motion to make Mickensy Ellis-White the new chair. Scott seconds. Mickensy Ellis-White accepts the nomination. Motion carries unanimously.

Superintendent wants to add things to the agenda. Mickensy Ellis-White asks what to add to the agenda. Superintendent would like to add reports. Reports are already on the agenda, reports will be read under that item number.

Public Comment:

Sabrina Kelley – gives packet to all board members and makes comment.

Jerry Hawker – speaks as a private citizen

Kirk Allen – point of clarity; agenda says appoint temporary chair, not a permanent chair.

John Kraft

Public Comment complete

Mickensy Ellis-White took notes from last meeting, Superintendent was to transpire minutes.

No

minutes from 11/13/25. Third meeting without minutes. No minutes accepted.

Superintendent's reports:

FY2024-2025

240 contacts

0 Claims prepared

26 Referrals

48 Financial Assistance Requested

- 47 Financial Assistance Granted/1 denied

1. Veteran denied because DD214 stated discharged in lieu of court martial

Dollar Amount \$45,936.48 distributed

Networked with other local organizations

- Fair Hope
- Cross Point
- ROSC Council
- Eastern Illinois Community Action
- Ameren

FY2025-2026

Veteran Financial Aid budgeted as \$50,000

- Disbursed for Veterans Assistance: \$4,160.70
- Current Balance: \$45,839.30

Legal Fees budgeted as \$50,000

- Invoiced from the attorney \$22,445.60
- Dates are for September, October, November and December 2025
- Balance of \$50,000 is still there and invoice has not been paid so that the invoice could be presented to the VAC board

Budget Performance Report FY2025-2026

Current month transactions:

Disbursed:

- Phone \$176.22
- Postage: \$234.00
- Veteran Financial Aid \$4,160.70

Balance Sheet

Surplus Funds is known as a fund balance.

YTD fund balance: \$357,286.40

Fund Equity: \$427,569.65

Report was pulled 12-18-25

Superintendent states that when she had a conversation with county finance in September, she requested that the Tax Levy be suspended so that the budget could be funded.

John Kraft brings forward public report revealing that a veteran's personal information is posted on county's website, as well as the \$128.69 balance on the auditors general ledger. Mickensy Ellis-White requests from Jerry Hawker (in the audience) if he can look into omitting the information in the future. Mr. Hawker says that he will look into it.

Gift Card purchases: ten food cards, ten gas cards. Gas cards were not purchased. Four out of ten cards were disbursed. Veterans signed for the cards. No inquires for fuel cards.

Governors Report

Letter to Governor Pritzker and number of financial assistance that was provided to Veterans.

State's attorney letter as a response. Superintendent says that the letter states that the authority for the VAC lies with the Superintendent and the commission and the previously there had been no need for attorney fees in the past. Superintendent says that the county threatened to not finance the Veterans Assistance Commission. "When the county threatened to withhold funding for the Veterans Assistance Commission." Jerry Hawker interjects. Mickensy Ellis-White

reminds Jerry Hawker that he is out of order and encourages the Superintendent to not use such strong accusations and to reword it in a more effective manner. Superintendent, "In my capacity as Superintendent, I felt that the mission of the Veterans Assistance Commission was being threatened, and therefore that is why I procured legal assistance." She continues speaking and Mickensy Ellis-White says, "...and I think we also determined at the last meeting that the attorney was acquired without the full approval of the board or a consultation from such." Superintendent, "The chairman was consulted but the full there's..." Ellis-White, "but the

chairman acknowledged that he did not consult with the rest of the board and he acted alone in this consultation and moving forward with this. So there is responsibility to be held there. Right? So we have determined that."

Job description of assistant given. Salary: \$45,000 (Administrative Assistant)

Salary Department: \$69,000 (Superintendent Position)

Investments Discussed

Superintendent report concluded. No action taken.

Old Business:

Review, discuss and take potential action with respect to Adaptation of County Personnel Policies and Procedures for adoption by VACVCs

Discussion

No action taken

Bylaws are still in progress.

Discuss and take potential action regarding schedule of meetings of the VAC

Discussion

Scott makes a motion to make meetings monthly. Terry Moore seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting will be on the second Thursday at 6:00 PM/1800.

New Business:

Make a temporary chair. Matt Long makes a motion to make Mickensy Ellis-White the temporary chair for this meeting, 12-18-25. Terry Moore seconds motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Proposal for using Clarity Design Company

- January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026
- \$15,000 compensation
- Discussion
- Tabled for next month's meeting

Legal Fees:

- Discussion

Matt Long makes the motion to pay the September-November attorney bill, cease operations, and moving forward the VAC board will not use outside counsel.

September-November paid from 2025 budget. December will be paid out of 2026. Terry Moore seconds.

Roll Call Vote:

Post 203: Bill Reagan Yes.

Post 210: Scott Yes.

Post 3510: Mickensy Ellis-White Yes.

Post 384: Gary Miller Yes.

Motion passes unanimously.

Discuss and take potential action to form a marketing or outreach committee.

Discussion.

No action taken

Discuss and take potential action to form a superintendent evaluation committee.

Discussion

No action taken

Statements of Economic Interests Discussed.

Superintendent gives out another report of email address made by Vermilion county.

Upcoming Events or Announcements:

January 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM/1800

Mickensy Ellis-White makes a motion to go to closed session to discuss personnel matters. Matt Long seconds.

Roll Call Vote:

Post 203: Bill Reagan Yes.

Post 210: Scott Yes.

Post 3510: Mickensy Ellis-White Yes.

Post 384: Gary Miller Yes.

Closed Session: 7:50 PM/1950

Open Session returned:

Removal of Marty Carroll as Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote:

Post 203: Bill Reagan Yes

Post 210: Terry Moore Yes

Post 3510: Mickensy Ellis-White Yes

Post 384: Gary Miller Yes
Meeting adjourned at approximately 2100

Approved by:

Delegate: _____

Delegate: _____

Delegate: _____

Delegate: _____

Delegate: _____



Proposed Contract for Fractional COO Services

To: Board of Directors, Veterans Assistance Commission of Vermilion County

From: Ashton Greer, Clarity Design Company

Contract Period: January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

Introduction

The Veterans Assistance Commission of Vermilion County (VACVC) is entering a critical period of rebuilding. Following heightened public criticism related to diminished community trust and concerns about the representation of veterans' needs, the Commission must take decisive steps to restore confidence and demonstrate clear, consistent leadership.

Clarity Design Co. specializes in organizational stabilization, strategic operations, governance structure, and public communications. Through fractional COO services, our goal is to support the Commission in establishing transparency, efficient processes, and a culture focused on service to area veterans.

This proposal outlines the scope, responsibilities, and timeline for services intended to bring structure, clarity, and renewed trust to the VACVC.

Objectives

- Rebuild public trust through improved governance, transparency, and communication.
- Equip the Board of Directors with tools, guidance, and processes that support consistent and ethical leadership.
- Strengthen internal systems to allow staff to serve veterans efficiently and compassionately.
- Clarify roles, expectations, and processes to stabilize operations long-term.
- Modernize recordkeeping and reporting to ensure transparency, accuracy, and accessibility.