

Mills County Veterans Affairs

January 9th, 2026, Minutes

To: All MCVA Commissioners, Board of Supervisors Liaison, MCVA staff

Christina Hankins, CVSO/Caseworker

Lori Swisher, CVSO/Clerk

(Commissioners have staggered three-year terms)

Paul Hathaway, Commissioner 1974-2026

Jeanne Wilkins, Commissioner 2019-2025

Yolanda Hardesty, Commissioner 2019-2025

Jess Cook, Commissioner/Secretary 2019-2026

Jim Schoening, Commissioner/Chair 2017-2025

Richard Crouch, BOS Liaison 2003 - 2025

From: Elizabeth Richardson, CVSO/Administrator

January Regular Meeting 8:31 am

Location: 602 South Locust, Glenwood

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call Everyone was present, Guests included: Brian Ring

C. Old Business

1. Yolanda made a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting; Jess seconded. Motion passed.
2. Budget questions/issues were tabled until next meeting.
3. Jim met with Elizabeth to discuss her yearly evaluation after meeting.
4. Commissioners decided to set their terms by the County fiscal's year, i.e. July 1st through June 30th of the following year. Yolanda and Jess will have to have the BOS approve their commissioner terms this June 2026 for the next three-year term.
5. Update re VA move to Annex Bldg
 - a. The Commissioners will have a flagpole installed in front of the MCVA entrance, hopefully this spring. They will be seeing how to add lighting to the flag for evenings.
 - b. The need for adequate handicap parking was discussed. It was said that Code requires 2% of parking lot to be accessible. Richard suggested talking to sign department – the county may already have some of these in. (There are currently 2 handicapped parking spots on the other side of the parking lot.) The Commissioners also stated they would like to have the old parking signs or new ones designating branch used here as well, to at least leave some front spaces for veterans to park.
 - c. Richard will have the Roads department put up the new sign by the building in the spring, probably when the flag goes in as well.

D. Reports and Outreach

1. Administrator's Monthly Reports/Awards
 - a. Communication and Forms Reports

- b. Quarterly Assistance Report
 - i. No new Assistance requested
- c. Running Awards C and P

November: \$1,296,360 (monthly)

Running count of **awards only**: 641 people
(veterans/widows/dependents)

This does not include current clientele.

Current # 100% Disabled Military Veteran Property Tax
exemptions/Mills County: 120

E. New Business

1. Commissioners' Updates

Jim shared the American Legion in Silver City will host a Valentine's Breakfast on Saturday, Feb 14th and Jess has a funeral for Col Rouson coming up. Yolanda's son was nominated for the Customer Service Award by the Chamber of Commerce.

2. Discussed the IACVSO's concerns regarding Claim Sharks. Passed out information regarding VA known groups
3. Next meeting will be at our new location: 403 Railroad Avenue. Possibly the Annex room or in our office space. This will be determined and shared later. Jess will try to join us by phone for the meeting; Richard will not be here due to meeting conflict.

F. Adjournment

Jess made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jeanne seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.

Next Meeting: January 9th, 2025

Future meetings: items must be on Agenda by Wednesday before monthly Commissioner's meeting (per Open Meeting Laws)