

Mills County Veterans Affairs

March 13, 2026, Meeting 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

March Regular Meeting 8:37 am

Location: 403 Railroad Avenue, Glenwood

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call Everyone was here. Brian and Judy Ring were also present.

C. Old Business

1. Jeanne made a motion to approve minutes from the February meeting; Jess seconded. Motion passed.
2. Update re VA move to Annex Bldg. Elizabeth will meet with Annex Department heads to discuss various issues presented by Commissioners.
3. Discussed final proposed budget for 2026-2027, specifically IPERS and Health Insurance changes proposed by Auditor. Will need to discuss with her office to move forward.
4. Richard shared that at latest NACO meeting, approximately 10 days ago, out of the 99 counties in the state, Mills County was recognized for currently being #1. Richard said he received a standing ovation and was very proud of the office.
5. Postage reimbursement for Sandi Winton for HBI Mailing. Shared that if she is unable to produce receipt there is no way for county to reimburse her. Discussed options to reimburse Sandi. Will contact her to look for way to find receipt.
6. FMLA Update – all is going well.

D. Reports and Outreach

1. Administrator's Monthly Reports/Awards
1. Communication and Forms Reports
2. Quarterly Assistance Report
3. Running Awards C and P

January 2026: \$1,357,402 (monthly increase of approx. \$17,000)

Running count of **awards only**: 646 people

(veterans/widows/dependents)

This does not include current clientele.

Current # 100% Disabled Military Veteran Property Tax
exemptions/Mills County: approximately 124

2. Open House for New Location

Big thank you to Patrick and Stacy from IT for all of their help!

Also, thanks to Gitzy from Chamber of Commerce and Joe from OT for recent article.

3. Upcoming CVSO Training

NACVSO National Training Increasing Zoom costs/Closed at 250 participants.

4. Commissioner Training, February 18th Review. Jim, Jeanne, and Paul were present for training. They said it focused on HB 2446. They received some good information. They appreciated the Annex meeting room for the event – speakers are better.

5. Office work jackets order

6. New Business cards distributed.

7. Travis from Emergency Management took pictures of Commissioners for access card to new location.

E. New Business

1. Commissioners' Updates: AM Legion in Silver City will have a Corned Beef dinner for St Paddy's Day from 4:30 – 7 pm.
2. Legislative Update: HB 2446
3. Update on CVSOs: new and old

F. Adjournment

Jess made a motion to adjourn; Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 am.

Next meeting: April 10th at 8:30 am

**Future meetings: items must be on the Agenda by Wednesday before the next monthly
Commissioner's Meeting per Open Meeting Laws.**