



**MICHIGAN VETERANS' FACILITY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

January 20, 2026

10:00 a.m.

**ADOPTED MINUTES**

A meeting of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted at The Joint Forces Building located at 3423 N Martin King Jr Blvd, Building 30, Room 231 Lansing, Michigan 48906.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by the group.

**2. Attendance Roll Call**

Chair Henry requested a roll call from members present. The following MVFA Board of Directors were present: Chairman David Henry, Amanda Shelast, Brad Slagle, Shawn Turner, Carla Wilson-Neil, and David Rutledge (arrived 10:30), Brian Love (arrived 10:45). There was a quorum present.

Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) staff present: Anne Zerbe, Steve Rolston, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Ryan Engle, and Lynda Wagner

Virtual Guests: Nancy Susick, Barry Walter, Jason Geissler, Mike Hassan, Ron Oja, Jennifer Manning, Chris LaJoie, Niki Wheeler

Absent: MaryAnne Shannon

Henry extended a welcome to the newest MVFA Board Member, Mandy Shelast, who shared her background.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made by Wilson-Neil to adopt the agenda dated January 20, 2026, as presented, and it was supported by Turner. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the attendees present or virtual.

**5. Approval of Proposed Minutes**

Henry proposed approving the minutes of the September 16, 2025, meeting as presented. The motion was made by Slagle and supported by Wilson-Neil. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. Executive Director's Report**

**6.1. Update on the replacement project for MVH DJ Jacobetti**

6.1.1. Hassan shared a presentation highlighting the status of construction of the Jacobetti replacement Home. Progress can be made through the winter with the use of ground warmers. Discussions are ongoing with the township about the safe route to school. The VA is still working on rewriting their Memo of Understanding (MOU) language to include Build America, Buy America (BABA) and other updates.

**6.2. Operational Status of MVHCT**

Manning reported that Chesterfield's CMS survey is anticipated in May or June with the VA expected in August, and mock survey the week of February 9. Rolston added that MVHCT remains a 5-star facility at this time. Upcoming events include the May 17 five-year anniversary with a

celebration event planned. Also, the 5K Walk, Run & Roll event is scheduled for June. Dates will be shared with the board for upcoming events who were welcomed to attend. The census is currently on an incline at 121.

### 6.3. Operational Status of MVHDJJ

The full VA certification came in early December followed by the CMS survey which was late, reported Oja. There were 4 health citations and 3 Life Safety citations, 2 of which were addressed immediately. The third was a sprinkler head issue. The census at MVHDJJ is at 99.

### 6.4. Operational Status of MVHGR

Rolston delivered the Grand Rapids report. The Board discussed the recent incident at Grand Rapids regarding the late member who exited the building. Both CMS and the VA visited the home for survey and reviewed the incident. CMS exited with no concerns, but the VA did cite the home with a harm-citation and 3 other minor citations and one life-safety citation. MVHGR is currently working on its plan of correction. Current census for MVHGR is 124.

### 6.5. Operational Status of MVH – Steve Rolston

The Nutritional Service contract at Jacobetti is under review. Chesterfield contracts with the same food service vendor, and that contract is coming to an end. The process to award a new contract for Chesterfield will begin earlier to allow time to work through the transition.

There were power outages in December at Jacobetti (one for 10 hours and one for 5 hours). The generator powered only certain outlets and equipment. Therefore, the emergency computer (used for printing medical records during outages) was moved to another location to ensure it is operational during an outage.

Oja and the DON, Courtney Tweedale, held their first meeting earlier this week to talk about and prepare for the Home's transition in 2027-28.

#### 6.5.1. AHCA/NCAL Update – Chris LaJoie

LaJoie was nominated for Future Leaders for long term care – a one-year program that nominates one person in each state across the nation. Graduation was in October of 2025. LaJoie was also nominated to be the NASVH Networking Committee Chair and appointed to be an AHCA/NCAL Silver Quality Award Examiner and the AHCA Emergency Preparedness and Life Safety Committee.

Engle explained the progression of the higher cost meds bill with 41 sponsors currently including 5 from Michigan. NASVH has introduced a Senate companion bill as well. Furthermore, Senate Bill 3532 has been introduced to compel coordination for CMS to accept VA Annual Survey results, easing the burden of the survey process.

Engle is currently the First Vice President of NASVH and will be installed as President at the NASVH Summer Conference in late July 2026.

Engle has arranged meetings with legislators during the Team's attendance to the NASVH Winter Conference in early February.

## 7. **Committee Updates**

### 7.1. Executive Committee - David Henry

- 7.1.1. Henry appointed Wilson-Neil to the Quality and Compliance Sub-committee, and Shelast was appointed to the Finance & Budget Sub-committee.



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- 7.1.2. In August, there will be 3 term expirations of Appeals Board members Shane Preston, James Ausdemore and Bob Johnson, with another upcoming vacancy this month. The outgoing members will be recognized for their contributions. A recognition document of appreciation will be signed by Henry on behalf of the board.

Candidates to be considered are Patricia Patterson, Ray Carlson, and Jason Wallner. Henry motioned to accept and appoint all 3 candidates to the Appeals Board. The motion was seconded by Slagle, and the motion was carried unanimously. Engle will create an orientation for incoming Appeals Board Members and added that there will be one more nominee by the next meeting.

- 7.1.3. Simonton-Kramer presented the proposed updated version of the bylaws noting that this is advance notice that we intend to modify the bylaws. At least 2/3 members must be present to vote at the next meeting after board members have an opportunity to review the document and its proposed changes.

- 7.1.4. Three policy changes have been proposed: MVFA-GEN 010 – Travel Regulations to clarify that the expense reimbursement amount level, MVFA-GEN 015 – Executive Director-CEO, Evaluation Process v2 adding a statement regarding the option to engage a third-party contractor to facilitate the evaluation process, and MVFA-GEN 020 – Charitable Support Fund v2 which clarifies that speech therapy is an allowable expense under the Charitable Fund, the same as physical and occupational therapies. Rutledge moved to accept the recommended changes to the MVFA Board Policies as presented, seconded by Shelast. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7.1.5. Henry requested that members complete and sign the Conflict-of-Interest Form for 2026 and return them to Simonton-Kramer or Wagner via email or USPS.

7.2. Budget and Finance – Brad Slagle, Chair

The committee met in December and January. The report shows that the base budget was funded appropriately. FY25 ended with restrictive revenue carry-forward funds. FY26 began with a balanced appropriation. The FY27 process has started, and the agency submission is due in February. The State is expected to approve only the COL increase for salaries, not increase of costs.

Charitable funds finished FY25 with nearly \$1M in donations. Some of the funds have been used to purchase 2 buses.

The Auditor General conducted a performance audit of the IT systems which will result in recommendations by DTMB overall. The audit is ongoing for each individual department.

The Office of Internal Audit Services (OIAS) is conducting an engagement analysis of MVH as requested by State Budget Office. This audit is also ongoing, but there will be no formal recommendations from this audit.

The financial audit FY25 is complete. Areas of significant risk were identified and audited from material misstatement in our financials but noted no matters need to be communicated to the Board. The cost will be the responsibility of MVH and is not to exceed \$144,000. The Board discussed the challenges of becoming State GF neutral.

### 7.3. Quality and Compliance Committee – Nancy Susick

The group met December 17. A one-page report for surveys is being worked on. Also, Wheeler is collecting data through the Interact Pilot project, which provides interventions to reduce transfers to acute care settings. The data will be available to board in April. The veteran and family member surveys will be completed and data reported by March.

### 7.4. Strategic Engagement Committee – Barry Walter, Chair

Zerbe recently joined Walter and the Michigan Commander's Group of the VSOs at a legislative meet and greet.

A Metal of Honor plaque has been given to MVHGR for placement on a stone somewhere on the property since local Marine Corps Reserve Unit building where the plaque was housed was decommissioned.

The Friends of Rolling Rock Ranch hosted a Bingo game on December 6 and presented a check for \$26,000. Wreaths across America went well in December as well as cleanup. Flag planting will take place the Wednesday before Memorial Day. Volunteer coordinators hosting a birthday party for Jacobetti in August which marks their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary having opened August 8, 1981.

### 7.5. Executive Director Performance Review Committee

The FY25 in-depth review and analysis with the contractor Mark Harding is nearing conclusion. Zerbe is submitting 2-year goals to Mark later this week, and the completed review is expected to be presented to the board at the next meeting. The FY26 review will use the abbreviated process.

## 8. **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## 9. **Board Comments**

Walter stated this was a great board meeting and appreciated the opportunity to attend online. He congratulated LaJoie on his progress on behalf of board and for personal achievement. Walter looks forward to Engle's success and leadership for NASVH.

Susick commented that Zerbe and the team have done an "awesome" job. She also congratulated LaJoie and added that networking is terrific.

Rutledge thanked the group for the grace offered for being late. He also appreciated the financial report.

Slagle offered thanks to Rolston for his service with NASVH and that continued participation from Engle, LaJoie and Smith, Michigan is an important part of the group. He encouraged new members to consider going and shared some of the benefits of doing so.

Henry stated that Engle will find out if registration for NASVH Winter Conference is still open, and he will discuss with the new board members the possibility of attending this year's Winter Conference. He added the costs are covered by the Board.

Turner welcomed Shelast to the Board, a great group of people working for a great cause. He also thanked Henry for a great meeting.

Wilson-Neil said she was grateful to be at the meeting safely, and as a veteran, she was grateful for what the Board does. She congratulated Engle as well and thanked Wagner for the training on BoardEffect.



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Shelast thanked the Board for the warm welcome and staff for helping her prepare for this meeting. She also thanked Oja and Engle for the tour of Jacobetti and appreciates the warmth and dedication of the staff there.

Love welcomed the Board to Lansing and hoped the facility met the needs of the Board. He further commented that he is a fan of Zerbe and Engle. He also expressed encouragement to new members to check out NASVH as the results of the conference often influence the conference he attends the following week, allowing the MVAA team and the MVH teams to ensure they are in alignment.

**10. Closed Session**

No closed session was needed.

**11. Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by Turner and seconded by Wilson-Neil. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Minutes certified by MVFA Board Secretary or Designee:

David Henry

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Henry', is written over a horizontal line.

MVFA Board Chairman

Date:

5/19/26