**MICHIGAN VETERANS' FACILITY AUTHORITY**
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
July 21, 2026
10:00 a.m.

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted at Michigan Veterans Home at Grand Rapids (MVHGR), 2950 Monroe Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505, in the Grand River Room.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by the group.
2. **Attendance Roll Call**

   **MVFA Board Members present**: Chairman David Henry, Brad Slagle, Nancy Susick, Carla Wilson-Neil, Barry Walter, and Scott House. There was a quorum present.

   **Staff Present:** Anne Zerbe, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Terry Sabo, Jason Geissler, Carly MacDonald, Ryan Engle, Tiffany Carr, and Lynda Wagner.

   **Virtual Guests:** Gregory Sobczyk, Shawn Turner, Mike Hassan, Jennifer Manning, Chris LaJoie, Jacqueline Huhn, and others.

   **Absent:** David Rutledge, Amanda Shelast
3. **Adoption of Agenda**

   Policy #021 - Interment in MVH Cemetery was added to New Business. A motion was made by Slagle to adopt the agenda dated July 21, 2026, as amended, and it was supported by Susick. The motion was passed.
4. **Public Comment**

   Becky Ehlers attended and commented that her 'husband doesn't like it here; he doesn't love it here, but if he has to be anywhere, this is where he wants to be.'
5. **Approval of Proposed Minutes**

   Wilson-Neil proposed approving the minutes of the May 19, 2026, meeting with one correction, supported by Susick. The motion was passed.
6. **Executive Director's Report**

   6.1. Since the MOA was signed, the accumulated invoices are being submitted, and some reimbursement payments have been received.

   6.1.1. <u>Update on the replacement project for MVH DJ Jacobetti</u>
   A presentation of construction progress was shared by Hassan. Progress of the project was reviewed, and Hassan stated that once the MOA was signed, $60M in contracts were released. Development of each neighborhood building, the community center, and retention pond was conveyed. Building construction is on track to conclude in late 2027 with FF&E and window covering completed in early 2028. Home completion is on track for mid-2028 with no significant delays expected. The time lapse camera link was shared. LaJoie is researching where equipment can be purchased, one of many ways being considered to attempt minimizing the need for supplements to the FY28 budget.

   6.1.2. <u>Status of Board Appointments</u>

Engle reported that there is one vacancy on the MVFA Authority Board as Mandy Shelast resigned her seat to take a new position. A candidate is being sought through the Governor's office with several in consideration.

6.2. Operational Status of MVHCT

Manning reported that VA is currently onsite for their annual survey. The CMS survey was citation-free. MVHCT currently has a census of 121 members.

6.3. Operational Status of MVHDJJ

LaJoie reported the census is at 103 including a new admit today. The VA survey concerns are currently in the CAP process. Life Safety issues have been addressed and remedied. The Nutrition Department citations are currently being worked through with a contract change earning positive feedback from members for meals and services provided. Sanitizing audits have jumped up 50% daily since the new vendor took the helm. The contract will go out for bid in the Fall. The Home has completed the 1 West floor transition moving units from 1 South. Members have commented they enjoy the smaller space private rooms. The Member Council meeting was scheduled for today, and more feedback is expected regarding recent changes. Upcoming events include a car show which was pushed to later in July because of the recent poor air quality. A fish-fry is scheduled the next day. August 8 is MVHDJJ's 45th birthday celebration. LaJoie thanked staff for helping make his transition to the interim administrator position smooth.

6.4. Operational Status of MVHGR

MacDonald reported a census of 119 with an expected admission Wednesday. There have been 12 discharges in past quarter (11 due to death and 1 transfer to an ALF). The VA survey was completed, and evidence has been submitted and accepted. CMS followed with their survey shortly after the VA which resulted in 3 minor health citations. Surveyors had good feedback from members. The POC has been accepted and MacDonald submitted evidence for desk review today. There were 2 Life Safety citations related to sprinkler testing, and an electrical inspection was missing for new panel installed. MVHGR maintains a 5-star Home ranked one of the top 10 in the state. The Home's 5-year celebration event will be held Thursday, 7/23/26.

Zerbe added that she and Simonton-Kramer are working on performance measures compiling comparative and benchmarking data. Also, they are developing a chart to track and inform the board of the scope and severity of survey results for all the Homes, identifying opportunities for improvement.

6.5. Operational Status of MVH

Rolston shared a timeline for the anticipated MVHDJJ transition to the new Home.

**7. Committee Updates**

7.1. Executive Committee - David Henry, Chair

There are no outstanding tasks for this committee.

7.2. Budget and Finance – Slagle, Chair

The FY26 budget improved with slightly increasing revenue projections. The IT project is being postponed or canceled. The revenue was moved from MVH budget to the DTMB budget, but upon cancellation, those funds ($800K) came back to the MVH budget. The FY27 budget has been finalized with a $2.9M reduction in the general fund and corresponding increase in spending authority of VA revenue. The FY28 budget process is just beginning with challenges due to the MVHDJJ move.

7.3. Quality and Compliance Committee – Wilson-Neil, Chair

The group met last on June 17. MVHCT maintains quality rating of 4 stars with an overall 5-star rating. MVHDJJ is rated at 4 stars for quality with a 3-star overall rating due to abuse tag which remains for a year but has been addressed. The vendor contract for dietary at MVHDJJ was discussed. Mock survey for MVHDJJ is in August. MVHGR has a 5-star rating. Their clinical team is studying new rules for antipsychotic meds as well as data for transitions to the hospital and back.

7.4. Strategic Engagement Committee – Walter, Chair

The committee met June 16. All 3 Homes have aggressive community activities underway. MVH involvement with NASVH is important as issues are considered and shared by legislators. Walter stated recent proposed legislation shows that we all have a voice and impact.

Inquiries come to the Commanders Group regarding the long-range plan for additional facilities in Michigan. September is when the group changes leadership and sets their priorities, one of which is currently the expansion of MVH, stressing the potential impact the group can have on legislator advocation. The highest priority now is informed consent to include psychiatric drugs.

Walter also called attention to the military from Michigan in harm's way and those that have recently been lost due to the operation.

7.5. Executive Director Performance Review Committee – Slagle, Chair

The formal review by a vendor was finished with results being presented to the committee. A letter to the governor has been composed recommending a base annual salary increase for the director. This year is the year of the informal review (2026) which is a chat with the committee. In 2027, the in-depth review will be started early in the year with a contract with the same vendor.

Zerbe left the room to allow free conversation among the board on this topic. A motion was made by Slagle recommending a 20% increase to the director's base salary since there has been no merit increase since her appointment. The motion was seconded by Walter, and Henry requested a vote by roll call:

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|---|---|
| Henry: | Yes. |
| Slagle: | Yes. |
| Susick: | Yes. |
| Walter: | Yes. |
| Wilson-Neil: | Yes. |

The motion was passed.

**8. New Business:** A new MVFA policy draft was presented: #021 - Interment in MVH Cemetery. The group took a 5-minute break to review the document. After discussion upon return, Walter motioned to approve the policy as written and seconded by Henry who requested a vote by roll call:

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|---|---|
| Henry: | Yes. |
| Slagle: | Yes. |
| Susick: | Yes. |
| Walter: | Yes. |
| Wilson-Neil: | Yes. |

The motion was passed.

**9. Public Comment**

There were no comments from guests present in the room or virtually.

**10. Board Comments**

Turner offered his apologies for the virtual participation. He feels strongly about the salary proposal for Executive Director Zerbe. Great meeting.

Sobczyk had no comment.

House shared an update on behalf of General Rogers. The efforts are appreciated for interment as well as the concern for our military. Information was shared about Northern Strike and planned projects at Selfridge Air Force Base. General Rogers is wrapping up his term.

Slagle gave kudos to Gov. Whitmer for being the first to declare the first week of June as Veterans Home Week, which coincides with June 6, 1986, when the first cornerstone was laid at the GR Veteran Home.

Susick thanked Zerbe and the team for their work.

Walter thanked the board for their work. On behalf of all veterans in Michigan, congratulations on the fifth anniversary at MVH Grand Rapids.

Wilson-Neil appreciated Walter's comments related to military in harm's way as well as the opportunity to serve.

Henry expressed appreciation for the staff. He then recognized Sabo, the new director for the Dept, of Michigan Veteran Affairs, and the collaboration for support in the coming year. Sabo explained the DMVA's role and that he wanted to join the meeting to ensure he has the information about what is happening with our veterans.

11. **Closed Session**
    No closed session was held.
12. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by Wilson-Neil and seconded by Slagle. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.