MICHIGAN VETERANS' FACILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 27, 2026
10:00 a.m.

PROPOSED 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 3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bldg. 32, Lansing, MI 48473.

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

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

   Staff Present: Anne Zerbe, Steve Rolston, Ryan Engle, and Beth Simonton-Kramer.

   Virtual Guests: Mike Hassan, Jason Geissler, Erica Bobrowski, Niki Wheeler, Tiffany Carr, Jennifer Manning, Carly MacDonald, Melissa Velie, Chris LaJoie, Courtney Tweedale, Sean Depuydt, Sara Brys, Laura Birchmeier and others.

   Absent: Shawn Turner, Eric Wallis
3. **Adoption of Agenda**

   A motion was made by Wilson-Neil to adopt the agenda dated October 27, 2026, as presented, and it was supported by Susick. The motion was passed.
4. **Public Comment**

   There was no public comment.
5. **Approval of Proposed Minutes**

   Walter proposed approving the minutes of the July 21, 2026, meeting supported by Slagle. The motion was passed.
6. **Executive Director's Report**

   Zerbe explained the budget development for the next two years which is in progress. She discussed reductions that will be needed to accomplish that. It was revealed that organizational changes and efficiency improvements have had a positive impact on the budget. Therefore, restricted revenue carry forward from MVHCT and MVHGR can be applied to help Jacobetti open the new Home. Delayed receipt of the MOU from the VA resulted in higher construction bids due to rising costs for materials. Targeted substantial completion for November 2027 is on track, and transition plans are underway in anticipation of the opening.

   6.1. <u>Update on the replacement project for MVH DJ Jacobetti</u>

   6.1.1. A presentation of construction progress was shared by Hassan. The current status is that the trusses have been placed on Neighborhood 1 and part of the Community Center. The "Topping Ceremony" was recently held to commemorate placement of the last beam which was signed by Slagle, LaJoie, and other members of the staff and crew. The roofs for Neighborhood 1 and 2, and part of the community center will be complete by the end of

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the year, which allows work to commence inside the buildings, avoiding possible delays due to weather.

The Board discussed disposition of the Jacobetti building. The Board and staff are opposed to leaving an empty building due to security and safety concerns, costs to maintain, liability issues, and being a good steward of State property. The Board directed staff to develop options for disposition that will minimize costs and risk. Discussions with city, county and State legislators are an ongoing effort.

6.2. Status of Board Appointments

Engle reported the MVFA Board has no vacant seats at this time. On September 21, the Governor appointed the newest MVFA member, Wallis. He was unable to join this meeting, but his background in healthcare was shared.

The Board discussed possible impacts of a transition in legislation. Zerbe stated that plans are in place to respond regardless of the outcome to ensure continuity of operations. Henry responded that putting a new executive director in place at this time would not be beneficial to this organization.

6.3. Operational Status of MVHCT

Manning reported that in July they had CMS and VA surveys a week apart. The latter resulted in one citation in the kitchen regarding refrigeration temperatures as well as one citation in life safety regarding smoke barrier inspection. These items have since been corrected, and MVHCT is in substantial compliance with the VA as well as CMS. Three weeks after the VA survey, a comparative survey was conducted by CMS. This was expected due to a string of citation-free surveys over the past couple years. Again, the smoke barriers were cited even though a correction was underway, and a new concern was raised regarding generators not properly secured to the ground. Census is at 125 with several admissions ready upon openings as the holiday season historically sees an increase in discharges.

6.4. Operational Status of MVHDJJ

Jacobetti is in survey at this time, so Rolston reported on LaJoie's behalf. The plan of correction from the VA survey was accepted, and they are in full compliance with the VA. The census is 105, losing 2 members in the past couple weeks. The bed capacity at this time is 108, so they are doing a great job at maintaining census. The permanent administrator position will be posted in mid-January.

6.5. Operational Status of MVHGR

MacDonald reported that MVHGR is in compliance with CMS and the VA, and the Home maintains a 5-star rating. The census is 125 and veterans to fill the last few beds should be in place this month. There is anticipation of increased deaths over the holidays as mentioned earlier, and there are 12 members currently on hospice. MacDonald explained that the higher number of concerns in comparison to MVHCT and MVHDJJ are due to her use of the concern forms for all issues and the culture of the members and staff to prefer that method of addressing them. Rolston added that the laundry issues, which is the largest portion of concerns reported, have not curbed despite the addition of a new laundry facility. The home is monitoring contract compliance and working with Procurement to address concerns.

6.6. Operational Status of MVH

Rolston conducts monthly procurement meetings to address concerns as they arise, and food service contracts bidding is in progress for Jacobetti and Chesterfield. Member and family surveys will be conducted in late Fall to early Winter.

7. Committee Updates

7.1. Executive Committee - David Henry, Chair

The proposed MVFA meeting schedule for 2027 was discussed. Of note were a reduction in the number of regular meetings from six to 5, trying to avoid conflicts with holidays and vacation schedules. The April, July, and August meetings will be held at each of the Homes with August anticipated to be the ribbon cutting ceremony for Jacobetti. Walter made a motion to approve the proposed 2027 meeting schedule, seconded by Wilson-Neil. The motion was passed. A proposed draft of a new seal to represent the MVFA was shared. The topic was tabled at this time giving the board time to review and give feedback.

7.2. Budget and Finance – Slagle, Chair

Bobrowski shared a cost-of-living rate increase letter with the group for consideration. Slagle moved to adopt the 2027 rate increase, seconded by Rutledge. Henry requested a vote by roll call.

Henry	Yes
Rutledge	Yes
Slagle	Yes
Sobczyk	Yes
Susick	Yes
Walter	Yes
Wilson-Neil	Yes

The motion was passed.

The Homes also get a daily service-connected rate as well which start October 1. The amount varies by location as it is determined by the population and demographics of the area. Slagle reported that since the last report, the current year's budget reveals the revenues are higher due to an increase of service-connected veterans.

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

Wilson-Neil reported that all of the Homes are in substantial compliance with CMS and the VA. Grand Rapids and Chesterfield Homes are 5-star facilities overall. Jacobetti is still under the red hand due to a previous abuse citation. Additionally, misalignment between the timekeeping system and payroll system will result in a staffing rating penalty. Chesterfield is currently focusing on antipsychotic drug use and hospital admissions, while Grand Rapids' focus is on wound care, and Jacobetti is looking at safety and care planning with particular focus on safety culture.

7.4. Strategic Engagement Committee – Walter, Chair

Walter suggested MVH takes advantage of an invitation by the Commander's Group to participate in legislature engagement once the election is over. Rutledge will be the keynote speaker for the Veteran's Day program at Great Lakes National Cemetery. The board members were encouraged to attend one of the Veteran's Day events at the Homes.

Walter reminded the group that the next opportunity for personal engagement with the legislators is at the NASVH Conference in Arlington the first week of February. Wilson-Neil, Sobczyk, Slagle, and Walter indicated interest in attending, which was approved by Henry. Those who wish to attend were asked to email Henry. Slagle attended the 2026 Summer NASVH Conference in Oklahoma City where Engle was sworn in as the NASVH President and Wheeler presented.

Engle shared that Lt. Gov. Gilchrist visited and toured Jacobetti with LaJoie, and Sen. Gary Peters visited the new construction site. A plaque honoring a WWII Medal of Honor recipient was rededicated to the MVHGR property. The Veterans' Day 5K Walk, Run, Roll at MVH Grand Rapids will be held Nov. 7, and the board members are invited to participate.

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7.5. Executive Director Performance Review Committee – Slagle, Chair

The 2025 review is complete. The abbreviated review for 2026 will be conducted today, by the Executive Committee, after this meeting.

8. New Business:

Simonton-Kramer announced that Lynda Wagner is retiring from MVH on January 4. She has been with MVH for a total of 8 years, the last 2 of which have been serving MVH Leadership Team.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Board Comments

House announced that October 28 is the groundbreaking for the new Selfridge Air National Guard Base runway extension, and November 8 is the Michigan Guard Gala and banquet. The TAG is retiring in December. To date, we still have soldiers and airmen overseas serving in harm's way, and the DMVA is working locally to find ways to expand to mental health care among other concerns and get veterans a closer point of care.

Rutledge, Slagle, Susick, and Walter had no comments.

Wilson-Neil thanked Walter for his inspiration regarding the baseline amount for veteran burials of $300. As a sitting member oof the Veterans Affairs Board of Barry County, she went to the county commissioners to recommend a $200 increase which was approved.

Sobczyk and Henry had no comment.

11. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

12. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Henry and seconded by Sobczyk. The motion was passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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