MICHIGAN VETERANS' FACILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 19, 2026
10:00 a.m.

PROPOSED MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted at Michigan Veterans Home at Chesterfield (MVHCT), 47901 Sugarbush Rd., Chesterfield, MI 48047, in the multi-media 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, David Rutledge, Gregory Sobczyk, Carla Wilson-Neil, Scott House, and Barry Walter (arrived 10:28 a.m.). There was a quorum present.

   Staff Present: Anne Zerbe, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Jason Geissler, Jennifer Manning, Jacqueline Huhn, Erica Bobrowski, Phil Jeffries, and Lynda Wagner.

   Virtual Guests: Amanda Shelast, Shawn Turner, Ryan Engle, Niki Wheeler, Jodi Visser, Mike Hassan, Melissa Velie, Tiffany Carr.

   Absent:
3. **Welcome New Board Member**

   Sobczyk was welcomed to the board, replacing Mary Anne Shannon whose term ended in April 2026. House was introduced as the designee for MG Rogers. Both shared a brief background.

   Henry advised the group that an announcement would be made soon that an Honor Walk will take place in respect of a Member who passed earlier.
4. **Adoption of Agenda**

   A motion was made by Slagle to adopt the agenda dated May 19, 2026, as presented, and it was supported by Susick. The motion was passed.
5. **Public Comment**

   There were no comments from the attendees present or virtual.
6. **Approval of Proposed Minutes**

   Wilson-Neil proposed approving the minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting as presented, supported by Henry. The motion was passed.
7. **Executive Director's Report**

   Zerbe applauded the 3 members from the DTMB financial support team for MVH. The group started with a 6-month commitment which has now become 10 years of service.

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

   7.1.1. A presentation of construction progress was shared by Hassan. About $26M in contracts have been awarded. The MOA has yet to be approved but has been escalated to the Governor's office. The Ad Board Meeting will be held on 6/02 to approve another $60M in

contracts that will be awarded on 6/03/26. Site work completed to date includes deep underground utilities and foundations for neighborhoods 1 and 2.

7.2. Operational Status of MVHCT

Manning reported a census of 124 with 160 veterans on the wait list to admit to the Home. MVHCT is in the CMS window currently and expects the VA survey in July. Last week the 5-year anniversary of MVHCT was celebrated. The annual 5K Run, Walk & Roll event will take place on 6/06.

7.3. Operational Status of MVHDJJ

Zerbe reported the census is at 103. The VA was requested to decrease the recognized beds to 108 in preparation for the move into the new building. There was 1 FRI reported. The VA survey was in April, and surveyors were very complimentary of the clinical nursing care. Issues with Nutrition Services contract continue to escalate. The leadership team, Central Procurement, and leadership from the vendor continue to work through those issues. Zerbe confirmed that the same contractor is also used at MVHCT where the contracting process will begin in February of 27.

Zerbe reported that Jacobetti is also working through a transition plan including moving members to other units. Additionally, they celebrate State Veterans Home Week with a member and staff picnic. This comes as Jacobetti celebrates its 45th birthday.

Ron Oja resigned his position as Administrator for MVH D.J. Jacobetti, and Chris LaJoie has assumed the interim role until the position is posted and filled through the normal procedure. Challenges with severe winter weather, the aforementioned dietary vendor, survey, and gradual transition to a new Home have been met head-on by LaJoie who has been with Jacobetti for nearly 25 years, starting as a CNA.

7.4. Operational Status of MVHGR

MacDonald reported a census of 123. There have been 10 deaths since February. MVHGR is a 5-star facility, although the quality measures rating over the past 2 months has dropped to a 4. MVHGR remains in compliance with CMS and the VA. The Home is planning a 5-year anniversary party themed "*You're a Star at GR,*" featuring a taco bar and talent show. On 5/20 at 5 pm, flags will be placed in the cemetery by several groups from the community.

The maintenance team at MVHGR has identified structural issues with the dam in the creek which runs through Grotto Park, next to the Home. A representative from the Civil Engineering Group currently contracted with the State agrees that the dam is in disrepair. Studies will be done to determine what impact failure of the dam would have for the Home and surrounding area, which will assist to develop recommendations on how to move forward. Demolition and replacement of the dam is estimated to be roughly $2M.

Demolition of the old Grand Rapids Home is underway and expected to wrap up by the end of this summer. Options for the land after demolition were discussed.

7.5. Operational Status of MVH

Zerbe reported that Steve Rolston and LaJoie have been working on timelines related to the transition of Jacobetti to the new building. Planning is paramount to minimize revenue loss from the move due to the inevitable period of time between moving the first group of members and recognition by the VA, allowing reimbursement for care. Zerbe will work closely with DTMB Support to analyze the impact that will have on the budget.

8. Committee Updates

8.1. Executive Committee - David Henry

8.1.1. MVFA Board appointee update – the MVFA board seats are filled at this time with the addition of Sobczyk and House.

8.1.2. Appeals Board status – Memorandum for Record letters were shared for the three approved members to the Appeals Board: Ray Carlson, Patricia Patterson, and Jason Wallner. MIDAV submitted Joanne Skippergosh as a candidate for the remaining open Appeals Board seat. A motion was made by Henry and seconded by Walter to appoint Skippergosh to the Appeals Board. Roll call vote:

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

The motion passed. A letter will be sent to Skippergosh to confirm appointment.

8.1.3. Simonton-Kramer presented the proposed updated version of the bylaws at the January 2026 meeting. Rutledge motioned to accept the bylaws without edits, seconded by Susick. Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

The group left the room briefly at 10:58 a.m. to participate in the Honor Walk and reconvened at 11:06 a.m.

8.1.4. The 2026 Feb OAG Report Summary of the Performance Audit of DMVA IT Systems was shared. Zerbe stated that MVH is working to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address the concerns raised in the audit. The Board discussed their comfort level with the security of member data.

8.1.5. Henry nominated Walter to assume the office of MVFA Secretary. Rutledge moved to accept the nomination by acclamation for Walter to assume the office.

8.1.6. Wilson-Neil was appointed as the Quality and Compliance Committee Chair.

Sobczyk was added to the Quality and Compliance Committee.

8.2. Budget and Finance – Slagle

The most recent meeting was May 7. A summary report was shared indicating that revenue has increased due to a slight increase in members who are service connected. The projected expenses FY26 have decreased. The FY27 budget is $2.9M.

The Board discussed the impact of upcoming State leadership changes in FY27.

Chesterfield is receiving a $100K donation and continues to build its outreach by educating donors of the MVH tax status.

Upon invitation to members who want to join this committee, Sobczyk will be invited to first observe the next committee meeting.

8.3. Quality and Compliance Committee – Wilson-Neil

The most recent meeting was 4/30, and the minutes were shared with the Board. MVHCT has increased their Quality Measure star rating from 3 to 4. Survey tags at MVHGR and MVHDJJ are being appropriately addressed.

Sobczyk agreed to serve on this committee along with Wilson-Neil and Susick.

8.4. Strategic Engagement Committee – Walter

The Winter NASVH Conference was attended by members of MVH Central Leadership and Slagle, and the team met with each of the members of the Michigan delegation or staff. Engle and Slagle also attended a recent meeting of the Marquette Ambassadors. Slagle stressed the importance of maintaining a good working relationship with the group, especially with the upcoming disposition of the property and the old Jacobetti Home.

The last committee meeting was held 4/21. The bills to support combining duplicative surveys (S3532 and HR7747) were discussed along with bills to address high-cost medications. The latter involves consideration of fairness to all members due to service connection and potential expense to the Home for those who are not 100% service connected. Walter moved to sign the support letters for the Senate bill S3532, and House bill HR7747 advocating to combine duplicative survey processes. Rutledge supported the motion. Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

Walter announced that there is significant interest in the veteran community and the Commandants Group for the expansion of homes in Michigan. Wayne County is the targeted location supported by those groups. This location has been visited in years past and the historical site materials and documents about efforts to obtain a site in that area will be added to BoardEffect archived files for reference.

Major events coming up include the Cemetery Flag Placement in Grand Rapids, the Annual Chesterfield 5K Run, Walk, Roll, and Jacobetti will host the Volunteer banquet for 64 volunteers.

8.5. Executive Director Performance Review Committee – Slagle, Chair

This committee along with the Executive Committee will write a recommendation to the Governor to affirm Zerbe as the Executive Director. Goals for Zerbe going forward include the Marquette construction project, organizational performance measure program, and legislative and public advocacy on key initiatives and issues impacting the Homes. The 2026 review will be the abbreviated version, and the goal is to start the in-depth review a little earlier in 2027. Walter motioned to accept the independent review report, seconded by Wilson-Neil. Roll call vote:

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

The motion was passed.

9. Public Comment

Member Kip Brand thanked the Board for inviting him to join the meeting and stated his questions were answered.

Zerbe announced notification that the aforementioned MOA for the Marquette construction project was just received.

10. Board Comments

Walter apologized for his tardiness and stated the meeting was excellent. He also thanked Tiffany Carr for attending the recent Leadership Conference stating she and Ryan did a great job representing the Board.

Rutledge had no comment.

Susick thanked Anne for her leadership and for going through the evaluation process. She stated Anne has a wonderful team.

Slagle reminded the group that in July, Ryan will be sworn in as president of NASVH in Oklahoma City on what will be the 75th anniversary of NASVH. He added that the first president of NASVH was the Commandant of The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Walter Baker.

Wilson-Neil said it was a privilege to be there and that the Homes are beautiful. She also appreciated the Honor Walk earlier during the meeting.

Greg Sobczyk expressed the same sentiments as Wilson-Neil.

House shared a sentiment that MG Rogers often shares, "member for life," which is how much he values what happens here at the Homes. The Guard infrastructure often focuses on getting kids in the door, continued service, but ultimately, it's the value that this organization provides taking care of our soldiers and service members with long-term care.

David Henry had no comment.

11. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

12. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Slagle and seconded by Wilson-Neil. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.