

**OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 10, 2023 10:00AM  
Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
Commission Meeting Room 200 NE 21st Street Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING:**

**Friday, March 10, 2023, at 10:00AM. This meeting was held at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, 200 NE 21st Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. A Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State's Office on February 27, 2023.**

**AGENDA:**

**Friday, March 10, 2023 10:00 AM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order and turned the gavel over to Commissioner Robert Allen.**

**II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

**A. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Commissioner Allen: Present  
Commissioner Ellington: Present  
Commissioner Martin: Present  
Commissioner McEver: Present  
Commissioner Offel: Absent  
Commissioner Perry: Present**

**The Chairman was notified that 6 commissioners were present and 1 absent.**

**Not Present:**

**ODVA Director Joel Kintsel, absent for the 5th time in a row. Any staff from ODVA. The Staff had been directed by Director Kintsel not to attend or interface with the Commission in any fashion.**

**B. DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

**The Chairman declared a quorum.**

**C. VERIFICATION OF PROPER NOTICE TO SECRETARY OF STATE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**Verified proper notice and posting of the agenda.**

**III. INVOCATION**

**Commissioner Ellington let the invocation.**

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Commissioner Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**V. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO VISITORS AND GUESTS**

**There were no opening remarks.**

**VI. OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION**

**A. Discussion and possible actions regarding the employee performance and conduct of Joel Kintsel related to the current workplace environment**

**1. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO TITLE 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1): DISCUSSION REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT, HIRING, APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINING, OR RESIGNATION OF ANY INDIVIDUAL SALARIED EMPLOYEE: THE POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**a. Action**

**Commissioner Ellington made the motion to enter Executive Session.**

**Commissioner Martin provided the second.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye**

**Commissioner Ellington: Aye**

**Commissioner Martin: Aye**

**Commissioner McEver: Aye**

**Commissioner Offel: Aye**

**Commissioner Perry: Aye**

**Motion Passes**

**b. Discussion**

**c. Action to Return to Open Meeting**

**Commissioner Ellington made the motion to return to open meeting**

**Commissioner Martin provided the second.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye**

**Commissioner Ellington: Aye**

**Commissioner Martin: Aye**

**Commissioner McEver: Aye**

**Commissioner Offel: Aye**

**Commissioner Perry: Aye**

**Motion Passes**

**B. Discussion and possible Action regarding the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any individual salaried employee: The position of The Executive Director.**

**1. Action**

## Items considered on the Commission's decision

- **The potential Declaration of Emergency regarding a \$22m change order on the \$77m Sallisaw Project.**
- **Cyber-security issues, including the Compromised Data of 18,000 Oklahoma Veterans, possibly including their social security numbers.**
- **A growing number of employee complaints within the agency regarding the ODVA workplace environment.**
- **Where are we? Instead of meeting at the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and facing these issues with the leadership and staff, we're at the Department of Transportation. Interestingly, the moment a Commission came into place willing to ask tough questions, to understand the agency, and to actually provide oversight, The executive director:**
  - **becomes unresponsive this governing body,**
  - **has barred us from ODVA facilities, and**
  - **instructed the staff not to cooperate with us.**
  - **On what legal authority? None but his own opinion. He'd prefer us not ask questions and take his word that the agency is running "like a Swiss clock;" that there's nothing to see here.**
  - **Deputy Director Resigned and the ODVA General Counsel resigned.**

**Commissioner Ellington made the motion to terminate the employment of Joel Kintsel as Executive Director Effective Immediately.**

**Commissioner Brett Martin provided the Second**

**- There was no further discussion.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye**

**Commissioner Ellington: Aye**

**Commissioner Martin: Aye**

**Commissioner McEver: Nay**

**Commissioner Offel: Aye**

**Commissioner Perry: Aye**

### **Motion Passes**

- C. Discussion and possible action regarding the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any individual salaried employee: The position of Interim Executive Director.**

**Commissioner Ellington proposed RADM Greg Slavonic, then went on to the make a motion to hire Undersecretary RADM Greg Slavonic as Interim Executive Director Effective Immediately.**

**Commissioner Brett Martin provided the Second**

**- There was no further discussion.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye**  
**Commissioner Ellington: Aye**  
**Commissioner Martin: Aye**  
**Commissioner McEver: Abstain**  
**Commissioner Offel: Aye**  
**Commissioner Perry: Aye**

**Motion Passes**

- D. Discussion and possible actions regarding the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any individual salaried employee: The position of The Deputy Director.**
1. Action

**Commissioner Ellington made the motion to enter Executive Session.**

**Commissioner Martin provided the second.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye**  
**Commissioner Ellington: Aye**  
**Commissioner Martin: Aye**  
**Commissioner McEver: Aye**  
**Commissioner Offel: Aye**  
**Commissioner Perry: Aye**

**Motion Passes**

- a. Discussion
- b. Action to Return to Open Meeting

**Commissioner Ellington made the motion to return to open meeting**  
**Commissioner Martin provided the second.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye**  
**Commissioner Ellington: Aye**  
**Commissioner Martin: Aye**  
**Commissioner McEver: Aye**  
**Commissioner Offel: Aye**  
**Commissioner Perry: Aye**

**Motion Passes**

- E. Discussion and possible actions regarding the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any individual salaried employee: The position of The Deputy Director.**
1. Action

**Items considered on the Commission's decision**

**Similar to Mr. Kintsel, Sarah Lane's conduct changed when this commission started asking tough questions. When this Commission insisted on including agenda items that she didn't like, she and the previous General Counsel resigned-literally minutes before the beginning of a Commission meeting-leaving their staff to answer to the commission outside the presence of a Director, Deputy Director, or General Counsel. They had completely abandoned their posts. Shortly after, this Commission made clear to Mr. Kintsel that it intended to be involved in the hiring of the next Deputy Director and General Counsel. Sometime after Mr. Kintsel returned from Hawaii, Ms. Lane rescinded her resignation as though all was now fine. Her level of outright insubordination may be more egregious than her boss's.**

**Commissioner Martin made the motion to terminate the employment of Sarah Lane as Deputy Executive Director Effective Immediately. Commissioner Ellington provided the Second  
- There was no further discussion.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye  
Commissioner Ellington: Aye  
Commissioner Martin: Aye  
Commissioner McEver: Nay  
Commissioner Offel: Aye  
Commissioner Perry: Aye**

**Motion Passes**

- F. Discussion and possible action regarding establishment of new commission committees:**
- 1. Audit Committee**
    - a. Action**

**Commissioner Martin made the motion to create a standing audit committee.  
Commissioner Ellington provided the Second  
- There was no further discussion.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye  
Commissioner Ellington: Aye  
Commissioner Martin: Aye  
Commissioner McEver: Aye  
Commissioner Offel: Aye  
Commissioner Perry: Aye**

**Motion Passes**

**Commissioner Martin was named as the Audit Committee Chairman. There were no objections.**

- 1. The Audit Committee shall immediately conduct a comprehensive review of the 2018 State Auditor's Special Investigative Report, debrief the Executive Director as to the status of recommendations, and provide the details of its findings to the full Commission.**
- 2. The Audit Committee shall collaborate with the State Auditor's office regarding a follow-up audit on outstanding recommendations and, if necessary, request the State Auditor to initiate a new full audit of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs.**
3. Finance Committee
  - a. Action

**Commissioner Ellington made the motion to create a standing finance committee.**

**Commissioner Perry provided the Second**  
**- There was no further discussion.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye**  
**Commissioner Ellington: Aye**  
**Commissioner Martin: Aye**  
**Commissioner McEver: Aye**  
**Commissioner Offel: Aye**  
**Commissioner Perry: Aye**

**Motion Passes**

**Commissioner Offel was named as the Finance Committee Chairman. There were no objections.**

4. Human Resources Committee
  - a. Action

**Commissioner Ellington made the motion to create a standing human resources committee.**

**Commissioner Ellington provided the Second**  
**- There was no further discussion.**

**Commissioner Allen: Aye**  
**Commissioner Ellington: Aye**  
**Commissioner Martin: Aye**  
**Commissioner McEver: Aye**  
**Commissioner Offel: Aye**  
**Commissioner Perry: Aye**

## **Motion Passes**

**Commissioner Ellington was named as the Human Resources Committee Chairman. There were no objections.**

**1. The Human Resources Committee shall immediately conduct a comprehensive review the ODVA workplace environment, leadership climate, outstanding employee complaints, debrief the Executive Director and ODVA staff, and provide the details of its' findings to the full Commission.**

### **G. Initial Instructions and Delegation of Duties to the Interim Executive Director**

- 1. Conduct a comprehensive review of Sallisaw State Veterans Home Project including proposed Change Order. Present report full report and recommendation to Construction Committee no later than March 24, 2023.**
- 2. Conduct comprehensive review of Oklahoma Department of Veteran Affairs budget and financial status and present full financial report to Finance Committee no later than April 7, 2023.**
- 3. Conduct a comprehensive review of the 2018 Special Audit of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and present a report to the Commission on progress made toward each recommendation made by the State Auditor at the Regular Meeting Scheduled April 14, 2023.**
- 4. Conduct immediate review of Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs workplace environment and employee morale and present initial findings to the Human Resources Committee no later than April 28, 2023.**
- 5. Conduct comprehensive review of details involving ODVA Data compromise, take immediate action necessary to protect Veteran personal information, present findings and further recommendations to Commission at the Regular Meeting Scheduled April 14, 2023.**
- 6. Pending review of state and agency policies and procedures, the Interim Deputy Director is authorized to approve expenditures up to \$25,000.00. Expenditures in excess of \$25,000.00 must be approved by the Finance Committee.**
- 7. Expenditures in excess of \$100,000.00 must be approved by the entire Veterans Commission.**
- 8. Schedule and execute full orientation of Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs operations with Interim Commissioners.**

**VII. SUBMISSION AND DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS BY THE OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

**No later than April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**VIII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING DATE TO INCLUDE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: April 14, 2023, 10:00AM  
Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs 2132 NE 36th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

1. CHAIRMAN
  - a. Motion

**Commissioner Ellington made the Motion to adjourn.  
Commissioner Martin provided the second.**

**Meeting adjourned**

Brett Martin

The American Legion, Department of Oklahoma  
Commissioner, OK Veterans Commission