



**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025, 2024 – 5:30 PM  
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM  
FIRST FLOOR, TOWN HALL  
DRAFT AGENDA**

- A. Call to Order** – *Chair Lynn Bennett*
- B. Roll Call** – *Chair Lynn Bennett*
- C. Pledge of Allegiance** – *Vice Chair Ringstaff*
- D. Approval of draft agenda** – *Chair Lynn Bennett*
- E. Approval of minutes** – *Chair*
- January 16, 2025
- F. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided, and comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.
- Town of Abingdon residents
  - Other public comments (e.g. organizations)
- H. NEW BUSINESS**
- I. OLD BUSINESS**
1. Discussion regarding the Board's 2025 goals
  2. Discussion regarding moving the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday breakfast to lunch
  3. Update regarding benches at Veterans Memorial Park
- J. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CHAIR**
- K. MEMBER REPORTS**
- L. NEXT MEETING** – *March 20, 2025 at 5:30 pm*
- L. ADJOURNMENT**

**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025 – 5:30 pm  
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board was held on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm in the Arthur Campbell Room of the Municipal Building.

**A. Call to Order – *Chair Kiser***

**B. Roll Call**

Members present:

Albert Lawson  
Kristen Henley  
Lynn Bennett  
Dickie Kiser  
Tim Estes  
Vickie Bennett  
Amanda Pillion  
Kyle Craig  
Clint Harris  
Josh Ringstaff  
John Lentz

Members absent:

Francine Ivery  
Mike Cochran

Guest:

Jerry Cullop

**C. Pledge of Allegiance**

**D. Approval of draft agenda**

**Upon motion by Kyle Craig, seconded by Tim Estes, approved the agenda as presented.**

**The roll call was:**

<b>Amanda Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Lynn Bennett</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Kyle Craig</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Tim Estes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Richard “Dickie” Kiser</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Albert T. Lawson, Jr.</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Kristen Henley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>John Lentz</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vickie Bennett</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Francine Ivery</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mike Cochran</b>	<b>Absent</b>



<b>Vickie Bennett</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Francine Ivery</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mike Cochran</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Clint Harris</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Josh Ringstaff</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**F. Approval of minutes**

**Upon motion by A. J. Lawson, seconded by Kristen Henley, approved the December 19, 2024 minutes as presented.**

**The roll call was:**

<b>Amanda Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Lynn Bennett</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Kyle Craig</b>	<b>Abstained (absent)</b>
<b>Tim Estes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Richard “Dickie” Kiser</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Albert T. Lawson, Jr.</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Kristen Henley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>John Lentz</b>	<b>Abstained (absent)</b>
<b>Vickie Bennett</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Francine Ivery</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mike Cochran</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Clint Harris</b>	<b>Abstained (absent)</b>
<b>Josh Ringstaff</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**G. Public Comments –**

**H. New Business –**

Kyle Craig gave a 2024 Review, discussing 1000 volunteer hours promoting, representing, and honoring local Veterans; Honoring Purple Heart recipient’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday; Veteran video project, participated in “Be The One” walk to bring awareness and prevention to Veteran suicides; Plumb Alley Day, Celebrity Bagging, Town-wide Trick or Treat, Blood Drive, Festival of Trees, Christmas parade, and several Veterans Day events with local assisted living facilities.

Mr. Craig then discussed the Board’s 2025 goals suggesting the development of a road map to achieve the Town’s Ordinance duties and responsibilities:

- A. Provide recommendations to the Town on issues of interest to Veterans, military service members, and their families;
- B. Encourage and promote awareness of Veterans and military service members in the community;
- C. Assist the Town with planning events and programs honoring Veterans and military service members; and

**D. Assist the Town with oversight of the Veterans Memorial Park.**

Discussion included an “Adopt a Vet” program, to be a liaison between and an Auxiliary. Vickie Bennett said she incurs Vets daily that do not know how or who to contact. Mr. Estes suggested doing one large event per quarter, however he felt the single most important project was the Veterans Voice videos. Other mentions included VSO issues and more visibility in the Veterans Memorial Park, and outreach from other organizations. Mr. Estes questioned what a Vet would expect from an Advisory Board.

Chair Bennett encouraged members to refine ideas for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Craig reminded Members of the upcoming ESGR 2025 Vets Fair.

**H. Old Business –**

**1. Update regarding benches at Veterans Memorial Park**

Vice-Chair Ringstaff suggested acquiring photos to determine installation locations. Craig mentioned a Quarter Master who could provide the necessary plate for the benche. Discussion ensued on whether the benches should be placed at the Veterans Memorial Park or The Meadows walking trail. Chair Bennett requested further discussion at the next meeting.

**I. Miscellaneous Business and Communications from Chair**

Clint Harris proposed moving the **1st Tuesday breakfast** to lunch to encourage more Veteran participation. The Board agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting.

**J. Members Reports**

Chair Bennett thanked members for their participation and emphasized working with VSOs to host three to four major events annually.

**Upon a motion by Chair Bennett, seconded by A.J. Lawson, the Board officially thanked Dickie Kiser for his service as the first Chair of the Veterans Advisory Board.**

**The roll call was:**

<b>Amanda Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Lynn Bennett</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Kyle Craig</b>	<b>Abstained (absent)</b>
<b>Tim Estes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Richard “Dickie” Kiser</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Albert T. Lawson, Jr.</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Kristen Henley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>John Lentz</b>	<b>Abstained (absent)</b>
<b>Vickie Bennett</b>	<b>Aye</b>

<b>Francine Ivery</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mike Cochran</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Clint Harris</b>	<b>Abstained (absent)</b>
<b>Josh Ringstaff</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**K. Next meeting** – February 20, 2025 at 5:30 pm

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**Chair**

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**Kim Kingsley, Clerk**

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_