



Planning and Community Development

Ryan Countryman

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

ECAFs: 2023-1365
2023-1366

Motions: 23-503
23-504

Type:

- Contract
- Board Appt.
- Code Amendment
- Budget Action
- Other

Requested Handling:

- Normal
- Expedite
- Urgent

Fund Source:

- General Fund
- Other
- N/A

Executive Rec:

- Approve
- Do Not Approve
- N/A

Approved as to Form:

- Yes
- No
- N/A

Subject: Board Appointments –Veterans Assistance Fund Executive Board (VAFEB)

Scope: Motion 23-503 would reappoint Robin Schwartz to a second term.
Motion 23-504 would appoint Robert Reese to a first term.
Both would serve as Members-at Large.

Duration: Commencing on passage. Robin Schwartz’s second term would expire on November 16, 2026.¹ Robert Reese’s first term would expire on September 30, 2027.

Fiscal Impact: Current Year Multi-Year N/A

Authority Granted: N/A

Background:

The nominees: Robin Schwartz retired from the Navy and then worked as a social worker which included work helping veterans before retiring from that role as well. She is well-qualified to continue serving. The County Executive recommends her reappointment.

Robert Reese retired from the Army after 31 years of service. He regularly volunteers in the community, including work to help homeless veterans and other county residents. He is well-qualified to serve. The County Executive recommends his appointment.

The Board: The Veterans Assistance Fund provides relief of indigent veterans, their families, and family of deceased indigent veterans. Its Executive Board (the VAFEB) provides recommendations to the County Executive and departments on the budget for the fund and may perform other duties as requested.

RCW 73.08.035 authorizes counties to establish a veterans’ advisory board and requires the county legislative authority to seek representatives from local branches of nationally recognized veterans’ service organizations or the veterans’ community at large. The majority of the board must be members from a nationally recognized veterans’ services organization and all members are required to be veterans. The County Council created the VAFEB on November 11, 1995, through the approval of Ordinance 95-088. The VAFEB provides recommendations regarding expenditures from the veterans’ assistance fund established under RCW 73.08. It also advises the Executive and departments on the budget for the fund and may perform any other duties requested by the department. There is nothing in state law or county code that sets a minimum or maximum membership number. Members serve four-year terms and cannot serve more than three consecutive terms. Once two years have lapsed since serving on the board, members who reached their term limit may apply to serve on the board again.

Request: Move to both motions to General Legislative Session on December 13, 2023, for consideration.

¹ Robin Schwartz was first appointed by [Motion 18-345](#) which passed on November 18, 2018. Between the expiration of that appointment and now she has continued to serve as allowed under [SCC 2.03.030\(2\)](#) which allows a board member to continue serving until appointment of a successor.