

# Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on December 10, 2012 at 9:00 am by Chair Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, Larry Poltrock, and Mike Klimoski.

Others Present: Dale Oatman, Mary Lex, Dan Kamps, Carlene Nagel, Ed Thielenhouse, and Tom Matucheski.

Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held August 13, 2012. Motion by Mike Klimoski to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held October 15, 2012. Motion was seconded by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

## Agenda Item #4. Communications and Public Comment.

Ed Thielenhouse commented that he is very satisfied with the service he receives from the Langlade County Veterans Office. Ed also stated that he really appreciates all that Dale has done for him.

Dale stated that according to the recent census this county has 1700 veterans but he believes that to be incorrect due to the fact that the question of veteran status was not asked on the census and there are many National Guard members who were called to duty and served in Iraq and Afghanistan and are now declared veterans by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and eligible for federal VA benefits also. Jim Jensen believes this may be caused by the factor assuming 7% of the people of the United States served in the military and could be why this number is reported.

Dale reported that he spoke at Elcho and White Lake for Veterans Day. He had a very busy week with all the festivities for Veterans Day and apologized if there were some veterans that could not be seen during that time.

Dale mentioned that the cost of living increase for compensation and pension will be 1.7% for 2013.

Dale stated that he sent a letter to the county board chairman regarding the resignation of Jack Marciniak from the Commission committee. Randy Adair a retired major who served in the Marine Corps for 22 years has been selected to replace Jack's position on the committee. Dale also made a resolution to the board recognizing Jack Marciniak for his six years of service with the Commission.

The office received a thank you from Phil Beck who heads the AARP driver training program for the elderly. This program was offered free of charge for veterans and their spouses. There were 12 veterans who took advantage of this and our office helped spread the word and sign up these veterans with Phil.

Agenda Item #5. Discuss and approve 2012 Budget Summary report, travel pay, and payment of the bills.

The bills, the 2012 budget summary and the travel pay reports were reviewed by the Committee. Motion made by Larry Poltrock to approve the 2012 budget summary report, the travel pay report, and authorize payment of the bills. Motion second by Mike Klimoski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #6. Outreach Update

Dale reported that he toured the new spinal cord facility at Milwaukee VA. This facility recently opened this fall. It is one of the most up to date facilities throughout the nation and veterans from throughout the Midwest and even one from California are being treated at this facility. Veterans are better taken care of when upgrades take place and VA builds these new facilities in our area. There is also a wing being built for women veterans so they will feel more comfortable in this type of setting for their medical care.

Dale attended the monthly meeting at Iron Mountain and learned that Iron Mountain is still looking for a doctor to replace Dr. Potter in Rhinelander who passed away. There is a nurse practitioner hired to help out until a doctor is hired and because of this the Rhinelander CBOC has offered new patients to come for initial visits and continue to receive care at the Rhinelander facility. For a short time this was not possible and veterans needed to drive all the way to Iron Mountain for appointments because Rhinelander was booked up.

Agenda Item #7. Confirm date and time set for January committee meeting and set tentative date and time for February's committee meeting. Meeting date is set for Monday, January 14 at 9:00 in the Health Service Center Boardroom. Monday, February 11 will be the tentative date until verified at January's meeting.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mike Klimoski to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Submitted by,  
Mary Lex  
Deputy CVSO