

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Friday, February 18, 2011 at 9:00 am by Chair Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, Richard Hurlbert and Mike Klimoski.

Others Present: Dale Oatman, Mary Lex, Carlene Nagel, Ken Popelka, Tommie Stuckert, Al Werwie, Gary Kluwe, and Liane Blahnik. David Lee and Jack Marciniak attended part of meeting.

Agenda Item #3. Welcome new committee member and elections.

Chair Jim Jansen welcomed new committee member and Mike Klimoski became vice chair by unanimous ballot.

Agenda Item #4. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held December 17, 2010.

Motion by Mike Klimoski to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held December 17, 2010. Motion second by Richard Hurlbert. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Communications and Public Comment.

Dale Oatman reported he attended the CVSO executive meeting in La Crosse where they set the agenda and trainings for the next CVSO conference which will be held in May in La Crosse.

Dale Oatman asked that all local Veteran organizations work together in the future as the State faces budget cuts. Gary Kluwe asked for an updated list of representatives so they know where to call or who to send letters to.

Dale Oatman reported the Veterans Trust Fund will be insolvent in 2013. The CVSO Association has drafted a letter to the Governor and Legislators to get this back on the agenda. The CVSO Grant, Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant, some WDVA salaries comes from this Veterans Trust Fund, and many other programs; so if this fund goes away, some programs may go away.

Dale Oatman reported he attended a Town Hall style meeting with Secretary Black of the WDVA, which was attended by several younger veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan Wars who voiced concerns about PTSD and surgery issues. Milwaukee has identified a building which will be renovated to serve women veterans.

Dale Oatman shared a copy of a resolution drafted by the CVSO Association, which concerns supporting the Trust Fund. Motion by Mike Klimoski to forward resolution to County Board. Motion second by Richard Hurlbert. All ayes. Motion carried.

Dale Oatman updated the Committee on money coming into Langlade County for veteran's compensation, veteran's pension, and widow's pension. For 2007/2008 it was approximately \$3.7 million and in 2009; \$4.9 million. For 2010, Dale is projecting the amount to be about \$6.0 million that will come into our county, reporting the increase will be based on the new presumptives. Medical costs incurred by veterans in the county for 2007 were \$3.0 million; in 2008, \$3.8 million; in 2009, \$4.9 million; and in 2010 this may increase significantly because of TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) and PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) claims.

Tommie Stuckert discussed getting a DAV van for Langlade County. With the DAV State conference in June, the State may get more vans and there is a possibility that Langlade County could petition and get one as soon as September or October. Tommie has been volunteering to drive veterans to their medical appointments, but he questions the liability for him as a volunteer if he got in an accident. Tommie feels his livelihood could be in jeopardy using his insurance and his vehicle. Tommie reported that if he would volunteer to drive the DAV van he would not be held personally liable and would be covered under tort laws. Cost of fuel and repair would be from the hospital the van is assigned to. Mike Klimoski questioned if anyone asked the new transportation agency if they would provide transportation to veteran's hospitals or clinics. Dale Oatman reported that if Langlade County got a DAV van, his office would lose the Travel Grant funds, which he supplements with other funds from his budget. The average monthly expenditures are about \$450 for people who travel to veteran's hospitals or clinics for non-service connected appointments. Dale reported that he has discussed the issue of the DAV van with other CVSO's and it could work, but we would need more veterans on board who would utilize this van and converge in Antigo for the ride which may mean a longer day for them at the hospital or find more money to continue paying a veteran \$15.00 to go to a clinic or \$30.00 to go to a hospital when they are not service connected. Dale advised he would continue contact with Menominee Transportation for veteran cost and availability for their appointments.

Agenda Item #6. Approve carry forward requests.

Dale Oatman requested that \$8,977.85 from Veterans Travel and \$2,403.74 from Veterans Commission Relief, for a total of \$11,381.59 be carried forward into 2011. Motion by Richard Hurlbert that \$8,977.85 from Veterans Travel and \$2,403.74 from Veterans Commission Relief, for a total of \$11,381.59 from the 2010 budget is carried forward into 2011. Motion second by Mike Klimoski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #7. Discuss and approve 2011 Budget Summary report, comp time report, travel pay, and payment of the bills.

The bills, the 2011 budget summary, the travel pay and the comp time reports were reviewed by the Committee. Motion by Richard Hurlbert to approve the 2011 budget summary report, the comp time report, travel pay and authorize payment of the bills. Motion second by Mike Klimoski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #8. Outreach Update.

Dale Oatman reported he continues to attend local Veteran Organization meeting throughout the county.

Dale reported he attended two meetings in Iron Mountain with the Acting Director. Washington D.C. has not signed off on a new director yet, but this may occur in April.

Dale reported he has spent some money on radio advertisements because of the new presumptives and Veterans Trust Fund. Next week he will work on 3 thirty second radio advertisements. Dale reported he also appeared on the "Breakfast Club".

Dale reported outreach continues, but only 20% of the county veterans belong to local veteran organizations and we need to continue the outreach efforts for the remaining 80% population of veterans.

Dale reported the local Forty & Eight will host a State Conference this year on August 4, 5, 6, & 7, 2011 at the Holiday Inn. They do get national officers at this event. There are 39 local members and there are several committees set up to plan this event which will be their 90th Annual Grand Promenade and Rendezvous.

Dale reported the ground breaking for the Green Bay mega clinic has been delayed until March.

Agenda Item #9. Confirm date and time set for next month's meetings and April's committee meeting.

The date for next month's meeting is Friday, March 11, 2011 at 9:00 am. April's meeting was tentatively set for Friday, April 8, 2011 at 8:15 am.

Agenda Item #10. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Richard Hurlbert to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Mike Klimoski. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Submitted by,
Liane Blahnik
Administrative Assistant