

## **Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting**

The meeting was called to order on Monday, February 02, 2015 at 9:00 am by Chair Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, Larry Poltrock and Richard Schuh.

Others Present: John Zenkovich, Mary Lex, Tom Matucheski, Dan Kamps, and Marie Schuh

### Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held January 12, 2015.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held January 12, 2015. Motion second by Richard Schuh. All ayes. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #4. Approve Budget Summary.

Jim Jansen questioned the amount of money taken from salaries for the month of January. Twelve percent of the budgeted amount was already gone. John said he would contact Carlene and inquire about the amount withdrawn for January. The 2015 budget summary was reviewed by the Committee. Motion by Richard Schuh to approve the budget summary report. Motion second by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #5. Approve Credit Card for John with \$250 limit/can adjust to \$1000 if needed.

John explained that department heads are issued a credit card to use in case of emergencies while on travel for the county. The increase would be if a hotel did not allow a purchase order and would have to be paid at the time of checkout. Motion was made by Richard Schuh to approve the credit card for John. Motion second by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #6. Approve Carry Forward Funds for Veterans Relief and Veterans Travel

John stated the amount of carry-forward requested to finance department for veterans travel this year was 6,473.83 and \$3078.20 for the veterans commission fund. Motion made by Larry Poltrock to approve this carry forward amount. Second by Richard Schuh. All ayes. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #7 Setting a Date and Time for Future Committee Meetings

Larry Poltrock stated that his job now requires that he attend a meeting in Wausau which conflicts with the current meeting time. John suggested changing the time of the meeting to 1:30 in the afternoon which will allow Larry to attend both meetings.

### Agenda Item #8. Communications and Public Comment .

Marie Schuh commented that the 40 et 8 will hold their state mid-winter promenade in Antigo. The dates are February 12, 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>. Meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Express and the banquet at the Knights of Columbus.

John stated that he has completed his TRIP (Training, Responsibility, Involvement and Preparation of Claims) online courses. This had to be completed before his training for accreditation in Milwaukee on March 16-20. After completion of this he will be accredited with

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Powers of Attorneys which will allow him to submit claims.

John told the committee the veterans office will be going paperless in the future and will switch to a new computer software program that will allow veterans files to be scanned in. This new computer program will allow our office to view and file veterans claims online.

Agenda Item #9. Outreach Update.

John and Mary attended a NE CVSO meeting in Wisconsin Rapids on Friday, January 30. Representatives from Sean Duffy and Ron Kind were there and the CVSOs voiced their concern about the rumor that WDVA Secretary John Scocos may be leaning toward setting up regional veterans service offices rather than have one in each county. This would make it very hard for the rural elderly veterans to seek help from the veterans office if they had to travel a distance.

John stated that veterans throughout the country are receiving a Choice Card in the mail from the VA. This card allows a veteran to seek healthcare from a non-VA facility if you are farther than 40 miles from the nearest VA medical center. The majority of veterans residing in our county will not be eligible to use this card because Rhinelander and Wausau fall into the 40 mile distance. If a veteran needs an appointment and cannot schedule one within 30 days at a VA facility can then call the number on the back of the card for access to go to a non VA facility for their medical care.

John stated their will be a town hall meeting on March 5 in Marquette.

The quarterly commission meeting was held on Wednesday January 21. There were no applications to be decided on. Three applications have been submitted since that meeting.

John is working on the CVSO grant of \$8500 for this year. This grant must be submitted by May. Because John is a new hire, proof must be sent in by the human resource director stating all the proper steps in hiring were done according to Chapter 45.82(2).

Agenda Item #10. Set Date for March meeting and Tentative Date for April.

The committee scheduled the next meeting for March 9, 2015 at 1:30 pm. April's meeting date was tentatively set for Monday, April 13, 2015 at 1:30 pm.

Agenda Item #11. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Richard Schuh to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Submitted by,  
Mary Lex  
Deputy CVSO