

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

The meeting was called to order on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, Larry Poltrock, Richard Schuh

Others Present: John Zenkovich, Mary Lex, Marie Schuh, Bob Graupner, Dan Kamps, Steve Bradley, and Tom Matucheski.

Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held December 14, 2015.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to approve the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting held December 14, 2015. Motion seconded by Richard Schuh. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Approve Budget Summary.

Motion by Richard Schuh to approve the budget summary report. Motion seconded by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Public Comment on Agenda Items and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas.

Marie Schuh commented that she and Richard will be attending the Mid Winter Conference at the Ho-Chunk Hotel and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells on January 14 thru 17 which will honor Dale Oatman, State Commander of the American Legion.

Agenda Item #6 Veterans Issues and Office Updates.

John stated that at our meetings we will begin to do something new – Take a moment of silence for those Veterans with association to our Langlade county office who passed away during the last month. Only those Veterans that we have been notified of their passing and the moment is also for those whom we may be unaware of.

John stated the 2016 WDVA Grant application was submitted on 7 Jan 2016 for expenses incurred Jul – Dec 2015. Submitted over 30,000 in bills in an attempt to gain our full reimbursement amount early and then not have to deal with it for a year. (8,500)

Veterans that have been receiving a 1095B (Proof of Insurance) from the VA have had many questions. Anyone with VA or CHAMPVA health coverage will receive this form. It is in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. If you file taxes it can be shown to a tax preparer as proof of minimal essential coverage. The IRS has been notified also so really there is no action required on the part of the Veteran or dependent.

John added that the commission meeting is set for 20 January. Randy Adair was elected by the county board to a new 3 year term at the last meeting in December. As of Friday we have had no full applications received and 2 in the works since the last quarterly meeting.

John said there are new brochures in the office. Will look at procuring display holders for them to make available to our Veterans. John will leave them out on the table after the meeting if anyone wishes to take a look at them.

2016 Budget Carry Over requests. As of Friday the forms were not yet available because 2015 budget is not yet closed. Within the next few weeks John will request the following carry over amounts.

Commission Assistance – 5,676.49

Veteran Travel – 3763.68

Next year (2017) will probably be the last year we roll over travel. This is due to the changes in the WDVA grant and an agreement between John and the Finance Director. It will be a benefit to the Department and our Veterans.

John commented on HUD-VASH – A program started in an effort to end Veteran homelessness. This is a voucher program that will assist the Veteran with security deposits and rent. Currently every county in Wisconsin qualifies for this program except the 8 counties serviced by Iron Mountain. John is working in conjunction with Ken Grant of WDVA to make our counties eligible for the program. Our region is run out of Chicago (VISN 12) and their concept and our reality do not currently mesh.

At this time West View and Terrace View apartments are in a renovation project. John is working with the builder (BEAR) about possibly setting up a Memorandum Of Agreement to help try and get 25% of the facilities for Veterans. It will be AHA (30% rent/heat/utilities) we will provide names and informational services. John ran the MOA through Corporate Counsel to ensure obligation requirements. Bear is attempting to get a break from WHEDA on the rebuild. There is a 2 year commitment to provide brochures and any name of qualifying Vets looking for an apartment. This program is a similar set-up to Antigo Housing Authority.

John stated the VA has listed 8 presumptive illnesses associated with contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. It may be a year before those proposed changes take effect.

John added that through Prime Time articles and advertising (started January 1<sup>st</sup> on the Antigo radio stations) the office is hoping to get veterans signed up on the automated sites. MyWisVets (WDVA), E-benefits (VA) and My Healthy Vet (VA Healthcare). It allows the veterans and our office to see more accurately what they are eligible for.

Agenda Item #7. Set Date for February Meeting and Tentative Date for March

The committee scheduled the next meeting for Monday, February 08 at 1:30 pm. March's meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2016 at 1:30 pm.

Agenda Item #08. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Richard Schuh. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Mary Lex