

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. by committee chairman Jim Jansen, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed while John Zenkovich read the names of Veterans associated with the Langlade County Veterans Office whom have passed away since the last committee meeting.

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

Others Present: John Zenkovich, Mary Lex, Al Werwie, Dan Kamps and Tom Matucheski.

Agenda Item #4. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held February 13, 2017.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to approve the agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting held February 13, 2017. Motion seconded by Richard Schuh. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Review Budget.

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

Agenda Item #6. . Public comment on agenda items, and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas.

No Comment

Open Forum:

Tom Matucheski added that the birthday dinner will be Thursday, March 16, 2017 for the American Legion and 40 et 8 at the American Legion Hall.

Agenda Item #7 Veterans Issues and Office Updates.

John stated that the new WDVA secretary , Mr. Daniel Zimmerman, will go before the committee to approve his nomination as Secretary. Our CVSO Association will be there to represent our county offices. Any contact with Mr. Zimmerman has been very positive so far. Mr. Zimmerman stated that the regionalization of County Veteran Service Offices will be a dead issue as long as he remains Secretary. Also he appears to be willing to work to get the grant money easier to obtain for the CVSOs. Governor Walker put in his budget to create a new position in Madison which will be a liason between the CVSO Association and WDVA to work with the county offices.

John stated that one of Secretary Dr. David Shulkin's initial issues he will work on is looking at the additional illnesses that may become presumptives for Agent Orange exposure. Additionally trying to come up with a decision early on regarding 'blue water veterans' who have been exposed to Agent Orange but are considered out of the radius now in place. His other priority is working on the VA Health Care but keeping it as it is which means using the VA Medical Centers instead of using civilian medical facilities.

John stated the finance committee approved the carryforward amounts which were approved by our committee at the last meeting. It now needs to go before the county board to be passed. This is the commission fund and the transportation money left in the budget at the end of the year.

Unfortunately the Facebook Page approval did not make it into the finance agenda for the last meeting. But this item will go on the agenda for the April meeting.

John was asked to give suggestions on the new county web page for our department. John submitted many ideas and links on our page.

John stated that a veteran was having a problem and called one driver for a ride to Madison VA Facility. Unfortunately the driver was unable to transport the veteran at that time and needed the police to help keep him safe from harming himself. The veteran had to sit in jail instead of getting the help he needed at that time. John sent out letters to the veterans associations to help create a committee to find some other options for veterans in need of an emergency. Possibly create a list of drivers who could transport a veteran when needed.

John will attend a NE CVSO meeting in Wausau at the Vet Center on March 24th.

There will be a multi-county Veterans Benefits expo on Friday, April 21 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Rhinelander National Guard armory located at 1136 Adams Way (formerly 1136 Military Road). This expo will have County Veterans Service Office staff from Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Price, and Vilas counties, as well as people from dozens of organizations including the VA Regional Office, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Nicolet Area Technical College, Department of Workforce Development, VA Medical Center, and many others. There will also be people who can provide information to help veterans with hearing loss, homeless veterans, senior living, heating assistance, filing VA pension and disability claims, and so much more. All veterans, family members, survivors, and care givers of veterans are welcome to attend. This event is free. It will be advertised on the radio and in the newspapers in the area.

John stated that our office will be setting up one day per month at Elcho American Legion Hall and one day per month at the White Lake Village Hall. Right now we are thinking Wednesdays and will start in April. We will send out advertisements once it is all organized.

Agenda Item #8 Set Date for April 2017 Meeting and Tentative Date for May 2017.

The committee scheduled the next meeting for Monday, April 10 at 1:30 p.m. May's meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 8 at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #9. 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