

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Monday, October 10, 2016 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 a way since the last committee meeting.

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

Others Present: John Zenkovich, Mary Lex, Al Werwie, Marie Schuh, Dan Kamps.

Agenda Item #4. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held September 12, 2016.

Motion by Dick Schuh to approve the agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting held September 12, 2016. Motion seconded by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Approve Budget Summary.

Motion by Dick Schuh to approve the budget summary 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.

Agenda Item #7 Veterans Issues and Office Updates

John stated that the office was closed last week because he and Mary attended the fall conference in Green Lake. No changes in the VA until after the election.

John stated that the 2017 compensation rates will go up on December 1, 2016. Not sure what the new rate will be but should know next month.

The focus for the office is now to communicate with the veterans out in the county who have never been in the office seeking information or benefits. 70% of those veterans that commit suicide have never been in a VA facility or office seeking help. We have 1800 veterans in the county according to the census and have only 1000 active files registered in our office. John will put out newspaper ads or radio ads to reach those veterans who have never come into our office. John stated that at the conference one session consisted of all the Powers of Attorney from Milwaukee who sat at a panel to answer questions the CVSOs had for them. The panel consisted of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America. A claim that is filed now may not be decided in Milwaukee, so by using a national POA who has representation at all the claims offices throughout the US is probably the better option.

Iron Mountain will be holding a town hall meeting in Antigo on November 8. This will probably last about an hour. It will consist of people who can answer questions on topics important to the veterans in our area. More than likely a Choice Champion will be here to answer the questions about the Choice Program.

As soon as John gets a firm time he will notify the local Veterans Posts and put a notice in the Antigo Daily Journal and choose a meeting place.

John will be attending a veteran outreach and recovery program in Minocqua on October 27. It is now available for Langlade County to help our homeless veterans. We do not have a large homeless problem but when the situation arises we will have this program available for us.

October 25th will be the public budget meeting at 6:30 p.m.

John will be holding a commission meeting on October 19th. John has submitted the appointment of Dan Kamps to be the chairman for another three years. Must be approved by the county board and signed by Chairman Dave Solin.

Agenda Item #9. Set Date for November Meeting and Tentative Date for December

The committee scheduled the next meeting for Monday, November 14, 2016 at 1:30 pm. November's meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2016 at 1:30 pm.

Agenda Item #10. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Dick Schuh to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Submitted by,
Mary Lex