

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. by committee chairman Jim Jansen, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for the 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, Bob Graupner, Marie Schuh, Dan Kamps, and Tom Matucheski.

Agenda Item #4. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held August 8, 2016.
Motion by Dick Schuh to approve the agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting held August 8, 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 Department of Veterans Affairs has published proposed regulations to establish presumptives for the service connection of eight illnesses affecting military members exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, NC. There is a 30 day public comment period on the proposed rule which is open until Oct. 10, 2016.

Veterans receiving care at VA Medical Centers will now be able to schedule routine ear and eye appointments without a primary care referral.

Aspirus is no longer accepting the Choice Card Program. All appointments already scheduled through the choice program will be honored. John sent an email to Representative Sean Duffy's office but has received no reply yet.

John stated that Mary has the travel grant finished and sent in as of today. Will not receive as much money as the previous year due to requesting reimbursement of some travel expense for the CVSO Grant.

John asked the committee if they could do his performance review at the December meeting.

September is suicide prevention month. John's article in the Primetime was based on this. WDVA has started a program called Zero Veteran Suicide Initiative which combats mental health issues for veterans because of the unsettling upward trend of veteran suicide. The state utilizes a suicide hotline, (855-838-8255, vets4warriors.com) which has a veteran answering the calls and helping the veteran in need.

There have been 20 veteran suicides in the state for 2016. There were three in this county within the last year. The need is great to do everything we can to try and stop this upward trend of suicides.

John will not be able to attend the finance committee meeting on the 19th so Gary Olsen said he will present our budget to the finance committee.

John stated the office will be closed October 3 thru the 7 due to a conference he and Mary will be attending in Green Lake, WI.

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

The committee scheduled the next meeting for Monday, October 10, 2016 at 1:30 pm. November's meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 14, 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 1:50 p.m.

Submitted by,
Mary Lex