

Veterans Services Committee
Tuesday February 9, 2021 11:00 PM
Administration Building - Board of Commissioners Chambers

1. Call to Order

Committee Members present: Commissioner Peat (from his home office in Paw Paw), Commissioner Chappell and Commissioner Hanson

Others in attendance: Administrator Faul, Anna Cerven, Karee Krause, Commissioner Godfrey, Commissioner Doroh, Bob Adams, Dick Overton and Todd Skinner.

A. Zoom Meeting Information

2. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Additions/Deletions

Commissioner Hanson has requested for Karee to get copies of his DD214. He first requested these when COVID-19 hit so there has been a delay.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve by Commissioner Hanson; Supported by Chappell; Motion: Carried

Karee noted that emergencies, deaths, hospitalizations or nursing homes are the only approved requests for DD214's by National Archives at this time.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes - December 08, 2020

Motion to approve the minutes by Commissioner Chappell; Supported by Commissioner Hanson; Motion: Carried

6. Agenda Items

A. Review of Monthly Statistics

Karee gave an updated on her continued operations during the pandemic. The holiday's usually have lower numbers of Veteran's reaching out.

Discussion ensued.

The Veteran's have been very satisfied with the transition of being able to stay in the comfort in their own homes and still receiving assistance by via Zoom, phone..etc.

B. MVAA Service Fund Grants

Commissioner Peat addressed this item being put together in response from a letter received from Bob Adams.

Administrator Faul spoke on the MVAA Service Fund Grants. Because of COVID-19, it was difficult to spend the funds the way they were allocated to us. He explained the breakout of the grant and how much was spent in each category.

Oral Health was difficult to spend due to the restrictions of the pandemic. The Veterans Appreciation dinner was cancelled altogether due to COVID-19.

36 total counties also returned money for an overall total of \$625,000

Discussion ensued.

Dick Overton had a few questions. One regarding the dental program, what is acceptable or not. And that during the year, if we explored other options on how to spend the money during COVID.

Administrator Faul explained why that money wasn't spent during the pandemic, a budget amendment has to be submitted and approved to use the grant money for other purposes.

The other 46 counties that were able to spend their grant money, used their funds on salaries of personnel who were brought in under the grant.

Commissioner Peat suggested we review the grant status on a quarterly basis to see where we are with funds.

Bob Adams wanted to know where his status stands within these meetings.

Commissioner Peat responded clarifying that anyone is able to speak up but the Committee members (3 Commissioners) are the only voting members.

Bob voiced his concerns.

Discussion ensued.

C. Other

Todd Skinner wanted to know if anyone else could be added to this Committee.

Commissioner Peat clarified they could be added to speak but not being able to vote because these Committee's are made up of Commissioners. This Committee is staffed with the 3 Veteran Commissioners.

Bob wants to be reorganized to 193.

Commissioner Peat has clarified why the Committee doesn't want to reorganize. This Committee was formed instead of reorganizing.

7. Adjournment

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