

Veterans Services Committee

Members

Gail Patterson-Gladney, District 1
Kurt Doroh, District 2
Richard Godfrey, District 3
Mike Chappell, District 4
Randall Peat, District 5
Donald Hanson, District 6
Paul Schincariol, District 7



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MINUTES April 13, 2021 1:00 PM

1. Call to Order
Committee members present: Commissioner Peat, Commissioner Hanson and Commissioner Chappell

Others in attendance: Administrator Faul, Anna Cerven, Karee Krause, Commissioner Doroh, Commissioner Godfrey, Commissioner Schincariol, and Tony Dacoba.
 - A. Zoom Meeting Information
2. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
4. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda by Commissioner Chappell; Supported by Commissioner Hanson; Motion: Carried
5. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Minutes - February 09, 2021
Motion to approve the minutes from February 09, 2021 by Commissioner Hanson; Supported by Commissioner Chappell; Motion: Carried
6. Agenda Items
 - A. Monthly Statistics

Commissioner Peat started the meeting thanking Karee Krause for everything she has done for the Veterans of Van Buren County and wished her well on her new endeavors.

Karee spoke on her monthly statistics for February and March.

Discussion ensued.

B. MVAA Service Fund Grants

Administrator Faul spoke on the MVAA Grant. After the report was received, \$2,179 was reported for March for the Dental program.

We're a little bit behind due to COVID, the health department is getting ready to move their offices so there may be a delay until they are settled.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Peat stated that part of the reason we weren't able to spend all of the grant money is that funds were specifically for dental and promotional items - it was set up that way because of concerns that were voiced early on about relying on a grant for that position. Now, that a millage is in place, he suggests that for next budget year we use grant money towards operational expenses of the office so we avoid returning money to the state.

C. Veteran Services Transportation Project

Tony Dacoba gave an update on the Transportation Project for our Veterans. They have dedicated a vehicle to transporting Veterans to the VA in Battle Creek.

Discussion ensued.

The question was posed whether they would be able to make trips up to Ann Arbor as well. Transit said it shouldn't be an issue.

Karee added that there is a lot of advertising out there for this offering. It will take some time for Veterans to utilize this benefit for them.

D. Veteran Services Organization

Due to the departure of our current VSO, Karee Krause, the Committee reached out to surrounding Counties for support. St. Joseph County has shown interest in contracting their Veterans Director to provide services to Van Buren County Veterans until the vacancy is filled.

Discussion ensued.

Motion to authorize the Board Chair and Administrator to negotiate with St. Joseph County by Commissioner Chappell; Supported by Commissioner Hanson; Motion: Carried.

7. Adjournment