

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services
Veterans' Affairs Committee
June 8, 2016

- I. Call to Order by Chair, Michael Quinn at 8:03 AM

- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Michael Quinn, Bill Becker, Mike Jones
Absent: Tom Burton, Chadwick Dillon
Others: Beth Ridge, Dr. Gillian Stoltman, Charlotte Smith, Mike Hoss, Lauren King

- III. Review of previous month's minutes
Motion made by M. Jones to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 11, 2016.
Second by B. Becker.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- IV. Citizen's Time.
Welcome to Commissioner John Gissler. Let the board know he was in attendance to become more knowledgeable about what the veterans board does.
G. Stoltman introduced Charlotte Smith as the new Deputy Director for Community Services.

- V. Financial Review
Veterans Trust Fund
Target spending is slightly off track due to the national conference, B. Brockway was not in the office. There should be more applicants for the next month and should get back on track.

M. Hoss reminded the board of the changes the state is making to the Veterans Trust Fund, and that the changes will not affect Kalamazoo County.

Soldier and Sailors Relief

Consists of food vouchers and gas cards. Requests are still coming in, but it's an unpredictable number. Had a single individual that qualified for a \$100 food voucher, however, he did not want to spend the full \$100 in one trip. Split his voucher into two separate vouchers to allow him to spread his voucher out as needed.

The millage that is going to be requested later this year would be an extension of the current Soldiers and Sailors Relief that the county currently provides with general funds. The millage does not need to go to the people, it will be voted on by the BOC. The specification for the funds of a veteran's millage is very specific. The law requires that each county has a veteran's millage for the sole purpose of assisting indigent soldiers and sailors.

County Burial Benefits



What has been spent is less than previous years due to the changes made in the application process. Assets are accounted for whereas they were not in the past.

B. Ridge-The County is following long established requirements for the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act. The request for a veteran's millage will go up for the BOC's approval, if it is approved a portion of the millage would go towards burial benefits that may not qualify for the states burial benefit.

B. Ridge: overall the budgets are on track.

VI. New Business

Veterans Service Office Report

M. Hoss

We are requesting funding for an additional service officer. We do have to go through the county process.

Outside Marketing will continue when the back log from the convention is caught up.

M. Seals previously requested that the office look into including farmers markets in the food vouchers for veterans. Chris Broadbend (director of the Kalamazoo farmers markets) is enthusiastic about the partnership, and also thinks that the People's Food Co-op will be included on the list of participating vendors.

VII. Commissioner's Time

J. Gissler thanked the board for letting him sit in on the meeting and answering his questions.

VIII. Executive Session.

Motion was made to move into Executive Session by B. Becker. Seconded M. Jones. Carried. Committee Moved into Executive Session.

Attendance: M. Quinn, B. Becker, M. Jones, M. Hoss

Motion was made to adjourn from Executive Session by B. Becker. Seconded M. Jones. Carried.

Committee adjourned Executive session.

IX. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by B. Becker, seconded by M. Jones and carried. Chair Quinn adjourned the meeting at 9:55 AM.

