

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services
Veterans' Affairs Committee
July 13, 2016

- I. Call to Order by Chair, Michael Quinn at 8:06 AM

- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Michael Quinn, Tom Burton, Chad Dillon, Mike Jones,
Absent: Bill Becker
Others: Beth Ridge, Dr. Gillian Stoltman, Commissioner Mike Seals, Mike Hoss, Lauren King,
Commissioner John Gissler, Commissioner Larry Provancher

- III. Review of previous month's minutes
Motion made by C. Dillon to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 8, 2016.
Second by T. Burton. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- IV. Citizen's Time. Chair M. Quinn opened the floor for citizen's time.
John Gissler is at the meeting once again to continue learning about the VSO.

- V. Financial Review

Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund

B. Brockway is out sick so his food voucher and gas card information is unavailable for the financial review. June was slightly over average for Soldiers and Sailors. There were a few veterans that came in that didn't qualify.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

No report at this meeting.

The trust fund is set up for a one time, unexpected occurrence that would put a veteran that qualifies financially for assistance off track to remain self sufficient.

Burial Benefit

Burial benefit is continuing to be slow. M. Hoss would like to meet with any existing funeral home association in regards to assisting veteran's family with submitting the requests. M. Seals recommended setting up a meeting.

Financial Analyst

B. Ridge

There isn't much of an update other than the budget shifts. Finance gave parameters to shifting money from burial to relief and operations. Even with the shifts we will not come anywhere near to spending the amount in the burial budget. With some of the excess in the burial budget it may be beneficial to open up the relief category for other assistance based



on need. There are no other concerns regarding budget at this point. The veteran's budget is "use it or lose it".

M. Seals suggested going to the commission with a policy change that would not require the veterans to turn the remainder of the budget back into the general funds.

Motion was made for the expansion of Soldiers and Sailors Relief to include Emergency Housing Assistance consisting of the aid of security deposit and first month's rent or first and last month's rent by T. Burton. Seconded by C. Dillon. Motion carried.

VI. New Business

Veterans Service Office Report

The office has new, generic business cards with the office information and an appointment card on the back. It will be good to hand out at events. It also says "Find Us on Facebook" which is up and running so please "like" and share the page.

Appointments are still out by two to three weeks. Mondays continue to be very busy. This past Monday has been the busiest yet. Another Veterans Service Office is greatly needed. The third officer should be solely in charge of the Trust Fund, which the majority of walk ins were here for.

Successful claim from the surviving widow of a Vietnam Veteran, through the efforts of M. Hoss and the husband of the widow working together before his death and the wife working diligently with M. Hoss after his death. Validates the work of the VSO.

VII. Commissioner's Time

M. Seals requested G. Stoltman to go over the budget process in regards to getting another Veterans Service Specialist in the office.

G. Gissler wanted to give due credit to M. Seals for representing the VSO, he has been a great advocate for the office.

L. Provancher stated that commissioners need to know what's going on in all of the county departments. There is more outreach from the commissioners now than ever, but it still isn't enough. Coming to the meeting has informed him of what is going on in the VSO.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by C. Dillon, seconded T. Burton and carried. Chair Quinn adjourned the meeting at 9:32AM.

