



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Minutes of  
**Regular Meeting of Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee**  
January 29, 2020

- I. **Call to Order by Chair**, Bob Hencken at 9:02 am.
- II. **Roll call**  
Members/Liaisons Present: Bob Hencken, Bruce Binns, Arthur Harris, James Jeakle, Michael Fry  
Members/Liaisons Absent: Maury Kaercher, Laura Misner  
Others Present:, Lauren King (on phone), Peter Green, Jr., Heather Corbett, Juan Gonzalez, Deb Lenz, Mike Quinn, Calvin Campbell, Anthony Bradley, Denise Ulrich, Mike Seals, Jim Saur
- III. **Approval of Agenda**  
B. Hencken moved to add two items to the agenda. B. Binns seconded. Amended Agenda was approved.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2019**  
J. Jeakle moved to approve, B. Binns seconded. Motion passed.
- V. **Vote on meeting times for 2020**  
A. Harris motioned to approve, B. Binns seconded. Motion passed.
- VI. **Discussion on Vice Chair/Secretary Position**  
B. Hencken moved to combine the vice chair and secretary positions. J. Jeakle seconded. Motion was approved.
- VII. **Veterans Service Office Report**  
P. Green gave an update on the office.
- VIII. **Financial Review**  
D. Ulrich stated that the finance department is preparing invoices. The Veterans Affairs expenses for 2019 are at 91.7%, burial is at 91% and Soldiers and Sailors Relief is at 69%.
- IX. **Chairman's Report**  
B. Hencken made the following motion which was seconded and passed unanimously.  
The Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee requests the County Administration to apply to the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for the County Veterans Service Grant which has been

awarded to the county for Fiscal Year 2020 in the net amount of \$115,449.10, (or such lesser amount as will fulfill the requirements) to be used for the following purposes:

1. Hiring and training an additional Veterans Service Specialist, including training for that person to be accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
2. Purchasing such additional equipment as may be necessary for the new position.
3. Travel and lodging expenses incurred to secure the training, and any other necessary expenses.
4. To the extent that there are available grant funds in excess of the amount needed to accomplish the goals described above, funds for the provision of food vouchers and gas cards and bus tokens to peacetime veterans who otherwise qualify for benefits pursuant to the County's SSR Policy.

The staff of the Veterans Service Office is directed to fully cooperate with the County Administration and the Department of Health & Community Services to file the required application and supporting attachments with the MVAA within the timeframe prescribed for the grant, i.e. no later than February 21, 2020 at 12:00 pm, and preferably sooner than that date.

Adopted by the Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee at its regular meeting on January 29, 2020.

ATTEST:

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Robert L. Hencken, Chairman

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Bruce Binns, Vice Chairman

**X. ISK Time**

J. Gonzalez gave an update on ISK.

**XI. New Business**

Commissioner Mike Seals presented a Proclamation to be voted upon by the Board of Commissioners concerning the Hidden Heroes program, which is helping family members Caring for Veterans in their home. B. Hencken moved that the KCVAC approve the Proclamation the motion. A. Harris seconded. Motion passed.

**XII. Old Business**

None

**XIII. Committee Member's Time**

A. Harris asked if the van was still running from Ministry with Community. B. Hencken stated that it was still running.

**XIV. Commissioners' Time**

R. Tunier mentioned a veteran who has throat cancer and the Veterans Service Office helped him out. R. Tunier also stated that many people do not know about our services and the word needs to be spread.

**XV. Public Comment Time**

M. Seals will be attending a meeting in Washington with the House and Senate regarding VA properties.

C Campbell from the 118<sup>th</sup> American Legion Post stated that they are in need of help trying to figure out what direction they need to be going. Any help would be appreciated.

**XVI. Elections**

The following were each elected as officers for 2020:

Robert Hencken, Chairman; James Jeakle, Vice Chair/Secretary.

**XVII. Any other items**

None at this time.

**XVIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.