

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services
Veterans' Affairs Committee
November 9, 2016

- I. Call to Order by Chair, Michael Quinn at 8:02 AM

- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Michael Quinn, Bill Becker, Tom Burton, Mike Jones
Absent: Chad Dillon
Others: Beth Ridge, Charlotte Smith, Commissioner Mike Seals, Lauren King, Mike Hoss, Thom Canny

- III. Review of previous month's minutes with corrections
Motion made by B. Becker to add to the minutes that M. Hoss disagreed with the statement that B. Becker made about pay not being the only contributing factor for employees leaving the office.
Second by M. Jones. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion made by B. Becker to add to the minutes that M. Hoss stated during the October meeting that he didn't require any additional help.
Seconded by M. Jones. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion made by M. Jones to approve the minutes with corrections.
Seconded by T. Burton. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- IV. Citizen's Time. Chair M. Quinn opened the floor for citizen's time. No comment, issue or discussion was brought forward. Citizen's time was closed.

- V. Financial Review
Financial Analyst, Beth Ridge
The requested budget adjustment has been submitted. Salaries are below budget due to the open position.

Soldiers and Sailors
Adjustments have been made taking into consideration that housing assistance has been added.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund
No activity. The State did ask for a close out for the end of year.

Burial Benefits
Nothing stated at this time.



VI. New Business
Veterans Service Office Report

M. Hoss reported that he was not trained by a predecessor, rather an assistant. At no time during his training was he told to report numbers other than financials. Since that time other requests for demographics have come up and the response to those requests was to create a database where that information could be collected.

Regarding the issue of needing help in the office, M. Hoss has gone on record requesting help. Through the process of interviewing to fill the position of veterans service specialist it was realized that to get someone in this office and get them trained just to have them leave for another, better paying position was counterproductive. Then the most important issue became getting that position a raise.

The new veterans service specialist is starting November 10. He has been doing this job in Texas so he will be learning the process for Michigan. It is expected that he will be up and running a week after starting.

Comments:

T. Burton made a motion to get support from the committee to submit a request to C. Smith to investigate a situation regarding county personnel policy. Seconded by M. Jones. Carried.

C. Smith informed the board that legislation regarding veterans has changed. The changes are currently with corporate council to determine what this will mean for the VSO and the committee.

VII. Commissioner's Time

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by B. Becker, seconded by T. Burton and carried. Chair Quinn adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.

