



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Minutes of
Regular Meeting of Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee
August 29, 2018

I. **Call to Order by Chair**, Bob Hencken at 9:03am.

II. **Roll call and introduction of new members and staff**

Members Present: Bob Hencken, Bruce Binns, Maury Kaercher, Arthur Harris, David Brewer

Liaisons Present: Ronald Kendall, Michael Quinn

Others Present: Lauren King, Celia Bañuelos, Beth Ridge, Mark Fletcher, Juan Gonzalez, Jeff Patton, Beth White, Lisa Henthorn, Amanda Morse, Kristine Cunningham, Tracie Moored

New committee members welcomed. Committee members and commissioners introduced themselves. Tracey Moored and Jeff Patton presented information regarding the Veterans Service Office transfer stating the intent is to wrap services around veterans and their families.

III. **New member orientation**

A. Legal foundation of KCVAC and history and status of proposed transfer to KCMHSAS

Chair B. Hencken emphasized the Veterans Affairs Committee was not an advisory board but rather an administrative board. Sections in the binder, provided to each member, were reviewed.

T. Moored stated KCMHSAS is a governmental agency.

M. Quinn talked about the history of the office and the committee.

T. Moored stated a task force was appointed as a result of the request for another FTE (full time employee). Stated that began the County Board's interest and involvement in reviewing the committee's authority.

Chair B. Hencken discussed the Attorney General's response regarding the authority of the county and authority of the committee. Stated it was the original intention for the county to dissolve the office and committee but now it's to wrap additional services around current services. Stated has reviewed drafts of the intergovernmental agreement and he is not in agreement. T. Moored stated comment from the federal government has been solicited, as suggested by the State of Michigan. Stated the response from the Federal Corporate Council is not expected until January 2019.

Chair B. Hencken stated he is favorable with the transfer if the duties of the committee remain intact.

B. Explanation of Veterans Service Office Programs and personnel responsibilities.

L. King briefly listed and described services provided by the Veterans Service Office related to compensation, pension, survivor's benefits, burial, education and Soldiers and Sailors Relief.

IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Chair B. Hencken stated he has read the minutes from the July 25, 2018 meeting and they are correct. Stated there is no quorum of members present from the last meeting to approve the minutes.

V. Financial Review

Financial Analyst, Beth Ridge

Financial report ending July 31, 2018 reviewed. B. Ridge reviewed layout of report. Stated she does not have any concerns with the budget. Explained Donations may be used for emergency assistance such as paying for a water bill.

Burial Benefits

B. Ridge stated burial line item may be over budget and stated she has discussed this with Amanda Morse.

Soldiers and Sailors Relief

Chair B. Hencken stated SSR should have been \$50,000. A. Morse announced that the request to allocate additional funds will be presented to the BOC (Board of Commissioners) on September 18, 2018.

VI. Veterans Service Office Report

C. Bañuelos reviewed the Veterans Service Office year-to-date data spreadsheet and briefly described how the data is compiled.

VII. Adjournment

Chair B. Hencken stated the remainder of the current agenda would be discussed at the next meeting including the election of a vice-chair and secretary. He also requested to discuss Veterans Service Office staff appointments. K. Cunningham stated the VA committee appoints VSO Coordinator and the VSO Specialist is hired by the County. Chair B. Hencken disagreed.

Chair B. Hencken announced the next meeting be held on September 26, 2018 at 9am.

L. King announced upcoming events: VSO Staff training in Grand Rapids on September 6-7, 2018 and the Stand Down on September 21, 2018.

Chair B. Hencken made motion to adjourn the meeting, D. Brewer seconded. Chair B. Hencken adjourned the meeting at 11:56am.