



**NOTICE AND AGENDA FOR
March 9, 2016 MEETING
OF THE
KALAMAZOO COUNTY VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Meeting of the Kalamazoo County Veterans' Affairs Committee will be held on **Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 8:00 a.m.**, Conference Room G, first wing, second floor, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, 3299 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan, for the purpose of considering the following items, namely:

- ITEM 1 - Call to Order
- ITEM 2 - Roll Call
- ITEM 3 - Approval of Minutes
 - A. February 10, 2016
- ITEM 7 - Citizens' Time
- ITEM 8 - For Consideration

A. Financial Review

- 1. Veterans Assistance Funds
 - i. Soldier and Sailors Relief Fund
 - ii. Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF)
 - iii. Burial Benefits

B. New Business

- 1. Veterans Service Office Report

ITEM 9 - Any Other Items

ITEM 10 - Commissioner's Time

ITEM 11 - Adjournment

March 3, 2016

KALAMAZOO COUNTY MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX OR HANDICAP. THE COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO WILL PROVIDE SPECIAL AID OR ASSISTANCE TO ATTEND A COUNTY MEETING AND WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY REASONABLE AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES, SUCH AS SIGNERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED AND AUDIO TAPES OF PRINTED MATERIALS BEING CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING/HEARING, TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, UPON FOUR (4) BUSINESS DAYS' NOTICE TO THE COUNTY. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES SHOULD CONTACT THE COUNTY BY WRITING OR CALLING:

Courtney L. Davis
KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT
3299 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
TELEPHONE: (269)373-5200

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services
Veterans' Affairs Committee
February 10, 2016

- I. Call to Order by Chair, Michael Quinn at 8:05 AM

- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Michael Quinn, Bill Becker, Tom Burton, Chad Dillon
Absent: Mike Jones
Others: Beth Ridge, Dr. Gillian Stoltman, Courtney Davis, Commissioner Mike Seals, Mike Hoss, Brien Brockway

- III. Review of previous month's minutes
Motion made by B. Becker to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 13, 2016.
Second 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, provided an overview of the January financial statement. Veterans Burial benefits are over budgeted in relation to true spending need; excess will be distributed to cover other offices expenses and needed including new desktop printers (the current printers are very old and slow to print), the veterans SSRF and to training needs. Briefly mentioned was the change that would be seen in the salaries area once the Administrative Assistant is hired; these interviews are in process.

- VI. New Business
Veterans Service Office Report
Veterans Service Officer, Mike Hoss, shared that the office has experienced a large increase in clients since January. Walk-in Monday's this past had one to two in the waiting room at a time, whereas now the waiting room is often full. The office is also scheduling appointments further out than previously (two weeks oppose to one week).

The committee discussed the need to collect information from individuals who came into the office for the purpose of following up on needs and for tracking office volume. M. Hoss shared that sign in sheets are used, but only for collecting name as of now; Mike will look at the numbers from the past few weeks to see the numbers of veterans who have signed in. He also shared that once the new Administrative Assistant is hired the office will look at collecting more information and how to better the process of doing so and scheduling appointments. Commissioner Seals made the suggestion that making a couple of computers available to veterans in a public place [waiting room] could help with some of the simple requests that come in. The computer could be for use in accessing the VA services. Discussion then ensued about the manners of website communication. It was noted that



the Veteran's Service Office has one page currently, but can add resources and additional pages as needed.

Brien Brockway, Veterans Service Officer, provided an update on the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTf). In recent week he has had a few assistance requests approved. The veteran in need of a furnace was approved and a new furnace was put in last Friday. Additionally a veteran with a high utility bill received assistance through a partnership of the MVTf and HCS-Community Action Agency.

VII. Commissioner's Time

Commissioner Seals shared that ribbon cutting at new the new County Court House would be held February 19th. Public tours of the facility will be available during the open house. Once the Court House is open, Friend of the Court will be moving out of the Administration Building. The new building lends to better privacy and security for all parties.

Brief update was provided about ongoing plans for a new HCS facility. RFP's have been sent out; DHHS has made some inquiry about collocating their staff and/or leasing space from the County. There are still a lot of moving pieces to these plans.

The Board of Commissioners will complete a Strategic Planning session on Friday, February 12th from 3 pm to 8pm. This will be held at Prairie View Park.

A Lead meeting between the City of Kalamazoo, the County and a few others was held to discuss potential lead sources in the community; the City replaces 7% of old pipes in the City each year. Since 1956 an anti-corrosive system has been in place. Water softener...is not good, takes all chemicals out. Dr. Stoltman, Health Office, shared the department is working to improve the lead prevention and education program. Additionally, the City plans to hold a town hall meeting in the near future to share information with community that the County will participate in as well. HCS will be updating its website pages and working with many community groups to address lead questions and issues.

Dr. Stoltman also said it is important to note that lead is not the only problem; in the "Healthy Homes" concept it is critical to look at air quality and other aspects of the structure/environment that can affect one's health.

Commissioner Seals congratulated the department on its recent award of State Accreditation; The State was at the past Board meeting to present the award.

On March 16th there will be a Mass Fatality Symposium; this is open to the community and is organized by Region 5.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by T. Burton, seconded by B. Becker and carried. Chair Quinn adjourned the meeting at 8:42 AM.

