

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

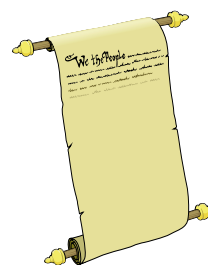
Minutes: December 11, 2013

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Secretary Rodger Seidel at 2:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance–Moment of Silence.

Roll-call of committee members:

Chairman,	Arnold Arquette,	Excused
	Rodger Seidel,	Present
	Samuel Gray,	Present
	Jack Hunn,	Present
	George “Rob” Beam,	Present



Calhoun County Administration in attendance:

Calhoun County Administrator/Controller, Kelli Scott
Calhoun County Assistant Administrator, Brad Wilcox

Citizens' Time:

Mr. Phillip Savage, retired Air Force, Vietnam Veteran and former long standing Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee member.

Reading of the November 13, 2013 Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes:

Following review, Mr. Sam Gray made a motion to accept the November 13, 2013 Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, Mr. Rob Beam seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 4-0, the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

Applications for Emergency Assistance from the Calhoun County Veterans' Relief Fund:

Due to lack of information the one (1) application for emergency assistance was rescheduled for Monday, December 16, 2013.

Old Business:

Director Scott C. Losey informed the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee members that in order to create ease for the Finance Department, release of the Purchase Orders for the additional office workstation, track filing cabinet and office egress restructuring will be pushed to after the first of the year. Director Losey introduced Lisa Vanameyden as the newly hired temporary third staff member of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Office. Director Losey stated that to the best of his knowledge, Ms. Vanameyden is interested in applying for the permanent third position when the hiring process begins. After the first of the year, Director Scott C. Losey and Human Resources Director Kim Archambault will initiate the formal third person hiring process. Director Losey reiterated that the temporary position would not automatically segue into the permanent position and that the permanent position would be an open hiring process as always.

New Business:

Discussion pertaining to the deliberative process of applications made to the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Relief Fund for Emergency Assistance. Director Scott C. Losey explained that the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meetings fall under the Open Meetings Act. Director Losey delineated that the Open Meetings Act is very specific in regards to the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund deliberating emergency assistance applications behind closed doors, the County Emergency Assistance programs are not referenced one way or another. Director Losey stated that he would not feel it either fair or prudent to subject a Veteran who is soliciting emergency assistance to be in a position to answer sensitive questions in an open forum. Director Losey expressed that historically the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee has deliberated behind closed door. Colonel Rodger Seidel suggested having Calhoun County Corporate Counsel render an opinion based on the Open Meetings Act. Assistant Administrator Mr. Brad Wilcox agreed with Colonel Seidel that Corporate Counsel should be asked to render an opinion.

Director Scott C. Losey delineated that the recent passage of Public Act 161 of 2013 had kept the staff of Calhoun County Veterans Affairs busy over the last couple of weeks. Public Act 161 of 2013 amended MCL211.7b regarding property tax exemption for disabled veterans and unremarried surviving spouses of eligible disabled veterans. To have 2013 property taxes exempt, the affidavit that was made available both at the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Office as well as online at the Calhoun County website, needed to be filed with the local tax assessors for the December board of review. Director Losey stated that the role of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Office is to make the information readily available that the local tax assessors need to make accurate determinations as well as have the information

available to the public.

The elections for the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee positions will take place at the January 8, 2014 meeting. Service Officer Kristina Higgins informed the members of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee that Chairman Arnold Arquette had served as a member of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee for twenty (20) years as of December 3, 2013.

Good Of The Committee:

Mr. Samuel Gray expressed that he would like to see Mr. Arnold Arquette, Mr. Dave Martin and Mr. Phil Savage all receive proclamations, plaques or some sort of recognition acknowledging their many years of service to the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee. Mr. Gray asked if Calhoun County provided recognition for these matters. Calhoun County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott stated that Calhoun County does proclamations at the request of staff or others. Administrator Scott delineated that anything with a cost would need to be provided. Colonel Rodger Seidel requested that the process begin to initiate proclamations for Mr. Arquette, Mr. Martin and Mr. Savage.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gray made a motion to adjourn the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee meeting at or about 3:30PM. Mr. Rob Beam seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 4-0, the December 11, 2013 Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee meeting was adjourned.

Arnold Arquette
Chairman, Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

Scott C. Losey
Director, Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs