

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes: July 8, 2015

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Vice-Chairman, Jack Hunn at 2:27 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance–Moment of Silence.

Roll-call of committee members:

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| • Chairman | Rodger Seidel, | Excused Absence |
| • Vice-Chair | Jack Hunn | Present |
| • Secretary | Samuel Gray, | Present |
| • Member | George “Rob” Beam, | Present |
| • Member | Trena Philo | Present |

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Office Staff:

- | | | |
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| • Director | Aaron Edlefson | Present |
| • Service Officer | Kristina S. Higgins | Excused Absence |
| • Administrative Assistant | M. Luann Cape | Present |

County Administration Staff:

- | | | |
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| • County Assistant Administrator | Brad Wilcox | Present |
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Agenda Changes: none.

Citizens Time: none.

Correspondence: none.

Scholarship Presentation by Teresa Durham, Executive Director of KCC foundation:

Ms. Durham gave a short presentation on how the Foundation facilitates scholarship funding. They manage to keep the funds growing to enable scholarships to be given out after the first year. She pointed out that there are limits to what is allowed when dealing with tax dollars.

Discussion ensued.

Administrative Updates: Director Aaron Edlefson gave an update on meetings attended, the budget update, as well as, 2016 budget review. He also gave an update on ideas for the website.

The Veteran Affairs staff participated in the Cereal City Festival.

Director Edlefson did a presentation for Guardian Finance on behalf of the office.

Director Edlefson and Service Officer, Kristina Higgins, toured the Haven of Rest and met with the director there. To help the Veterans that complete the program the office may put together a small welcoming gift with cleaning supplies and personal items.

The office staff met with the Regional Director for MVAA, Michael Wilson.

The Committee members were encouraged to volunteer to be a Veteran's Court mentor, or recruit others they know that may be interested.

Minutes from June 10., 2015: Mr. Beam moved to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Sam Gray seconded that motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Veterans Relief Applications: Several applications that had prior approval were reviewed. Applicants 15-03, 15-04 were of that group.

Applicant 15-05 was asking for a new hot water heater since her's was damaged as a result of a flood. She did not have flood insurance. She obtained the required two estimates. The committee approved the application with the requirement that she get one more estimate from Lowe's.

Applicant 15-06 was requesting help with car repairs and insurance. The Committee approved the request with the following requirements: The Veteran needed to produce a copy of his Social Security Disability Award letter, have current registration for the car, a current driver's license. The SSD letter needed to show at least \$800 a month income so he could show sustainability. One month of car insurance was also approved if the above requirements were met.

Applicant 15-07 was requesting payment for two nights in a hotel, \$50 per night for six family members. They were being assisted by Volunteers of America for new housing and car repairs. With the exception of one abstention, the Committee approved the request.

Old Business: Applicant 15-02 from last month did not produce the required information.

New Business: Ms. Philo stated there was some confusion concerning her term as a Committee member. Brad stated that he would look into it.

The CCVA office all wore their new CCVA shirts. Adam's Shirt Shack made them and is ready to make them for the Committee members.

The Committee approved the new Soldier's and Sailor's Application, as well as new procedures.

It was agreed by all to limit each citizen that has a statement, to five minutes per person. The Chair is responsible for enforcing this policy.

Director Edlefson proposed sponsoring a Holiday dinner for Veterans and their families, complete with toys for the kids from "Toys for Tots". It would require an RSVP.

Good of the Committee: None.

Adjournment:

Mr. Beam made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gray seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 4:05 pm.

Jack Hunn
Vice-Chairman Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

Aaron Edlefson
Director, Calhoun County Veteran Affairs Office