

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes: May 11, 2016

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Roger Seidel at 2:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

Roll-call of committee members:

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

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Office Staff:

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

Calhoun County Administration:

- | | | |
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| • | County Assistant Administrator, Brad Wilcox | Present |
| • | County Finance Director, Michele Johnson | Present |

Agenda Changes: It was requested that the Trust Fund and Training be added to Old Business.

Citizens Time: None.

Correspondence: None..

Veteran's Relief Fund Applications:

Applicant 16-30: Request was for tax arrearage contract payment in the amount of \$234.00. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-31: Requests were for help with land contract in the amount of \$1000.00, water bill for \$69.79, Consumers in the amount of \$55.46, insurance for the home in the amount of \$564.96 and car in the amount of \$189.19. All requests were approved, with partials for the land contract (\$500.00) and home insurance (\$143.24).

Applicant 16-32: Request was for help with past due Consumers bill in the amount of \$356.99. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-33: Request was for assistance with court costs and fines in the amount of \$3694.00. Request was denied.

Applicant 16-35: Request was for help with hearing aids in the amount of \$1500.00. Request was denied.

Applicant 16-37: Request was for assistance with rent in the amount of \$200.00. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-39: Request was for help with back rent and court costs in the amount of \$710.25. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-41: Requests was for medical bills in the amount of \$503.09. Request was denied.

Applicant 16-43: Request was for assistance with dentures in the amount of \$598.00. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-44: Request was for help with car payment in the amount of \$328.27. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-45: Requests were for help with rent in the amount of \$250.00 and Consumers for \$372.37. The request for rent was denied. The request for Consumers was approved.

Administrative Update:

- Assistant Administrator Wilcox introduced the new Finance Director, Michele Johnson.
- Assistant Administrator Wilcox mentioned that Administration is currently working with legislature regarding current Veterans legislation.
- On Monday, April 25th, Director Edlefson and Service Officers Higgins and Cape attended the Elder Abuse Conference at Western Michigan University.
- Director Edlefson and Service Officers Higgins and Cape all attended the Michigan Association of County Veteran Counselors (MACVC) conference in Mt. Pleasant from April 26th through April 29th. Service Officer Cape was elected the Associations Chaplain.
- Service Officer Nickolas Easterling has returned to the CCVA office from the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He will be available in our office to assist Veterans six days per month.

Minutes from April 13, 2016: Mr. Hunn motioned to accept the minutes as given, Mr. Beam seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

Old Business:

- Director Edlefson presented the details of the CCVA office establishing an Endowment Scholarship at KCC. Administration has approved this Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Scholarship. The scholarship will provide \$500 awards to selected eligible Veterans; the number of awards will fluctuate relative to the endowment fund. Mr. Hunn motioned to accept the endowment gift as presented, Mr. Beam seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.
- Director Edlefson discussed the status of the Trust Fund. Mr. Baker is still here; there are no changes or updates.

New Business: The MACVA Conference in Mt. Pleasant was discussed by Director Edlefson and Service Officers Higgins and Cape. They discussed the benefits of the conference, touched on the topics and many contacts met.

Good of the Committee: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Hunn made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Beam seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 4:04 pm.

Rodger Seidel, Chairman
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

Aaron D. Edlefson, Director
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs