

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes: February 8, 2017

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Sam Gray at 2:29 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

Roll-call of committee members:

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| • Chairman | Sam Gray | Present |
| • Vice-Chairman | George “Rob” Beam | Present |
| • Secretary | Trena Philo | Excused Absence |

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Office Staff:

- | | | |
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| • 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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| • Finance Director | Michele Johnson | Present |
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Agenda Changes: Mr. Gray suggested introductions from the potential committee members attending the meeting. The following introduced themselves: 1) Charles Baker, Air Force Veteran, 2) Ron Cady, Navy Veteran, and 3) Troy Johnson, Retired Marine Veteran.

Citizens Time: None.

Correspondence: None.

Additional Topics:

- Director Edlefson shared a video in honor of Black History Month, sharing information and a video on the Montford Point Marines.
- Director Edlefson presented a summary of the monthly budget for Veterans Relief Funds.

Veteran's Relief Fund Applications:

Applicant 16-162: Request was an appeal for help with Semco Energy in the amount of \$38.97 and water bill in the amount of \$54.59. Both requests were denied.

Applicant 16-164: Request was an appeal for help with rent in the amount of \$575.00. Request was approved.

Applicant 17-11: Request was for help with rent in the amount of \$847.00. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-12: Request was for assistance with propane in the amount of \$468.17. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-13: Request was for help with car repairs in the amount of \$199.36. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-15: Request was for assistance with car repairs in the amount of \$2187.07. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-19: Request was for help with rent in the amount of \$1500.00. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-20: Requests were for assistance with rent in the amount of \$569.74, car payment in the amount of \$386.56, and Consumers in the amount of \$235.45. All requests were approved.

Applicant 17-21: Request was for assistance with rent in the amount of \$1037.91. Request was approved.

Applicant 17-22: Request was for help with mortgage payment in the amount of \$780.76. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-23: Requests were for assistance with propane in the amount of \$690.00 and Consumers in the amount of \$543.66. Requests were partially approved. Propane was denied (\$690.00) and Consumers was approved (\$543.66).

Applicant 17-24: Requests were for help with two home repairs in the amount of \$19,434.04 and \$9,639.59; also for help with a range in the amount of \$899.00. All requests were denied.

Administrative Update:

- Director Edlefson presented a breakdown of the denials and approvals for the Veterans Relief Funds that was requested by the committee. Also included, was a chart showing reasons for denials in 2016.
- Director Edlefson proposed a date for the 2017 Strategic planning meeting to occur in July.

- Director Edlefsen discussed the 2017 Training Plan.
 - Spring 2017 - Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors Spring Conference (MACVC). Planned attendees: Director Edlefsen and Service Officers Higgins and Cape.
 - Summer 2017 – National Association of County Veterans Service Officers in San Diego. Planned attendees: Service Officers Higgins and Cape.
 - Fall 2017 – MACVC Fall Conference. Planned attendees: Director Edlefsen and Service Officers Higgins and Cape.

Minutes from January 11, 2017: Mr. Beam motioned to accept the minutes as given. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

Old Business:

- Director Edlefsen presented the budget from 2016 for the CCVA Office.
- Director Edlefsen and those present discussed the Veterans Relief Funds best practices.

New Business: Committee members inquired on status of new committee members. Director Edlefsen commented that the timeline depends on several issues corporate counsel is currently reviewing.

Good of the Committee:

- Service Officer Cape announced a Veteran had dropped off information regarding the Blessings of the Bikes 3rd annual, held Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 11am – 3pm at the Sand Hill in Marshall, MI. They will be raising money for the South West Michigan Veteran Relief Fund
- Mr. Beam mentioned American Legion Post 298 on 20th street holds breakfasts for the public every first Saturday of the month between 8am – 11am.
- Director Edlefsen announced the Town Hall meeting on Saturday, February 11, 2017 being held at the Albion American Legion. Director of The American Legion, Gary Easterling will be attending. Also, all CCVA office staff will be attending this event.
- Mr. Beam mentioned the VFW in Athens is holding chicken dinners on February 10, 2017 and February 24, 2017.
- Mr. Gray announced Post 298 is having Motown Monday at American Legion Post 298.
- Mr. Gray mentioned the ticketed event for Martin Luther King, Jr., “I have a Dream” banquet at the Urban League of Battle Creek on Friday, February 10, 2017 at 6:30pm.
- Director Edlefsen announced Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will be taking about his new book, Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White. The event is March 14, 2017 at the Miller Auditorium in Kalamazoo. Attendees must RSVP, but event is free.

Adjournment: Mr. Beam made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gray seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 3:40 pm.

Sam Gray, Chairman
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

Aaron D. Edlefsen, Director
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs