

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes: April 12, 2017

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Sam Gray at 2:40 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

Roll-call of committee members:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Chairman | Sam Gray | Present |
| • Vice-Chairman | George “Rob” Beam | Excused Absence |
| • Secretary | Trena Philo | Present |
| • Committee Member | Charles Baker | Present |
| • Committee Member | Ronald Cady | Present |

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:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| • Administrator / Controller | Kelli Scott | Present |
| • Assistant Administrator | Brad Wilcox | Present |
| • Finance Director | Michele Johnson | Present |
| • Comm. Development Director | Jen Bomba | Present |
| • Corporate Counsel | Jim Dyer | Present |

Agenda Changes: None.

Citizens Time: None.

Correspondence: Thank you card received from Senior Services for participating in the Senior Fair on Thursday, April 6th.

PowerPoint Presentation:

- In honor of April being National Poetry Month, Director Edlefson spoke about four “War Poets” who served during World War I.
- Poems from the four “War Poets” were shared:
 - John McCrae – “In Flanders’ Fields”
 - Siegfried Sassoon – “Suicide in the Trenches”
 - Isaac Rosenberg – “In the Trenches”
 - Wilfred Owen – “The Last Laugh”

Veterans Relief Fund: Director Edlefson presented the monthly budget with a breakdown of the beginning and remaining balances for 2017.

Veteran’s Relief Fund Applications:

Appeal 17-26: Request was an appeal for help with rent in the amount of \$455.00. Request was denied.

Appeal 17-42: Requests were appeals for help with car repairs in the amount of \$914.00 and car insurance in the amount of \$499.82. Both requests were denied.

Applicant 17-44: Request was for assistance with rent in the amount of \$599.00. Request was approved.

Applicant 17-45: Request was for help with rent in the amount of \$1689.51. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-46: Request was for assistance with rent in the amount of \$254.00. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-49: Request was for help with roof repairs in the amount of \$15,610.00. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-51: Requests were for assistance with rent in the amount of \$1077.63 and Consumers in the amount of \$209.19. Both requests were denied.

Applicant 17-53: Request was for help with rent in the amount of \$505.56. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-54: Request was for assistance with rent in the amount of \$1842.73. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-55: Request was for assistance with rent in the amount of \$581.61. Request was denied.

Administrative Update:

- Director Edlefson presented information on a scholarship opportunity at Western Michigan University. Also, mentioned was the desire to raise funds for this scholarship.
- Director Edlefson mentioned tickets still available for the Michigan State University baseball game at McLane Stadium for Military Appreciation Day on Saturday, April 15th at 1:05pm. They will be playing Ohio State.
- Director Edlefson and Service Officers Higgins and Cape will be attending the Spring Conference for the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors (MACVC) April 18-21, 2017 in Lansing, MI.
- Administrative Assistant Case will be attending the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) Accreditation Training May 15-19, 2017 in Lansing, MI.
- In June 2017, Service Officers Higgins and Cape will be attending the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) Conference in San Diego, CA.

Minutes from March 8, 2017: Ms. Philo motioned to accept the minutes as given. Mr. Cady seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

Old Business: Director Edlefson presented a brief update on the budget counseling. Approximately 75% of veterans were referred to the counseling and only one did not follow through with requirements. Also, Dawn Dean from Goodwill has set up a schedule to be available in our office every Tuesday morning for veterans.

New Business: Director Edlefson presented the Veterans Affairs Committee Bylaw changes. Any questions the committee had were addressed by Director Edlefson and Mr. Dyer.

Bylaws of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee adopted April 12, 2017: Mr. Baker motioned to accept the bylaws as given. Mr. Cady seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

Other Business: All administration present, briefly spoke on current happenings:

- Ms. Johnson commented on the current budget schedule plans.
- Mr. Wilcox thanked the new committee members for their military service and also their service to the Calhoun County Committee.
- Ms. Scott also thanked the new committee members. The budget was also briefly discussed and she commended Director Edlefson on efforts with the fund balance usage.
- Mr. Dyer also thanked the new committee members.
- Ms. Bomba introduced herself to members she had not met at previous meeting.

Good of the Committee:

- Director Edlefson mentioned the office participating in the Senior Fair and the new seed packets dispensed were a success with the seniors.
- Mr. Baker inquired on some type of identification, possibly name tags, for the committee members to wear when visiting the local posts and outside meetings.

- Director Edlefson discussed that Mr. Gray and himself were able to attend the Kareem Abdul Jabar event in Kalamazoo last month held at the Miller Auditorium.
- Mr. Gray mentioned the opportunity for participation with a booth at the Cereal City Festival. The parade will be on Friday, June 9th and the breakfast table will be on Saturday, June 10th. Details are available on the BC Festival website.
- Director Edlefson shared music performed by a local veteran. The office will be playing his music in the waiting room to share his talents, just as we already share art work donated by veterans. The veteran will also be singing the National Anthem at the Stand Down this fall.

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

Sam Gray, Chairman
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

Aaron D. Edlefson, Director
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs