

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes: May 10, 2017

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Sam Gray at 2:30 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	Donald 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

Agenda Changes: Will be presenting all Veterans Relief applications at the same time.

Citizens Time: Director Edlefson introduced Mr. Tom Burton, Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee Member, visiting our meeting.

Correspondence: Thank you card was received by a veteran and spouse for receiving assistance from the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.

Presentation: Mr. Billy Clayton (U.S. Army Retired) Military Advocate with Western Michigan University’s Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Presentation:

- Director Edlefson shared a Memorial Day Video.
- Director Edlefson presented “Memorial Day: A Historical Perspective” slideshow.

Veteran's Relief Fund Applications:

Appeal 17-51: Requests were appeals for help with rent in the amount of \$1899.63 and Consumers in the amount of \$344.45. Both requests were denied.

Applicant 17-56: Request was for assistance with rent in the amount of \$229.00. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-58: Request was for help with vehicle repair in the amount of \$964.98. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-59: Request was for assistance with rent in the amount of \$994.03. Request was approved.

Applicant 17-60: Request was for help with travel home from another state in the amount of \$248.77. Request was approved.

Applicant 17-61: Request was for assistance with Consumers in the amount of \$2653.76. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-62: Request was for help with rent in the amount of \$550.00. Request was approved.

Applicant 17-65: Request was for assistance with Consumers in the amount of \$3106.52. Request was denied.

Applicant 17-67: Request was for help with rent in the amount of \$880.00. Request was denied.

Administrative Update:

- Director Edlefson presented the budget performance report.
- Director Edlefson gave a breakdown of the Calhoun County Veterans Services projected fund balance as given by Calhoun County Finance Department.
- Director Edlefson commemorated Service Officer Higgins for her 7 years of service with Calhoun County.

Citizens Time: Mr. Gray introduced L.E. Johnson of BCVision, a community led initiative supported through the United Way, WKKF, BCCF, and Kellogg Company. Mr. Johnson briefly shared information from their program. Their program began in 2015 and engages the community and hearing the communities concerns.

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

Old Business:

- Director Edlefson discussed the scholarship opportunity at Western Michigan University. He proposed different options for moving forward with this scholarship. The committee members requested further information before proceeding.
- Director Edlefson presented plans for Calhoun County Veterans Affairs shirts that committee members will be able to purchase to wear at public events they attend.

New Business: None.

Good of the Committee:

- Director Edlefson discussed the Memorial Day Ceremony at KCC; a date has not been set, but will be between May 23rd - 25th.
- Ms. Philo mentioned the Memorial Day Ceremony at Fort Custer, Sunday, May 28th, at 2:00 pm.
- Mr. Gray mentioned the CerealFest – World’s Largest Breakfast Table, downtown Battle Creek, Saturday, June 10th, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Director Edlefson and Administrative Assistant Case will have a table set up.

Adjournment: Mr. Baker made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Cady seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 4:10 pm.

Sam Gray, Chairman
Calhoun County Veterans’ Affairs Committee

Aaron D. Edlefson, Director
Calhoun County Veterans’ Affairs