

**Calhoun County Veterans Affairs
Committee Meeting
Minutes: October 11, 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	Present
• 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

Other Calhoun County Representation:

• Assistant Administrator	Brad Wilcox	Present
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Agenda Changes: None

Citizens Time: None

Correspondence: A very thoughtful thank you note was received from veteran for assistance through last month’s Veterans Relief Fund.

VRF Monthly Budget: Director Edlefson gave a year-to-date budget review for the Veterans Relief Fund and the projections for the remainder of the year.

Veteran’s Relief Fund Applications:

Applicant 17-118

Vehicle Repairs: \$672.72

Decision: Denied

Applicant 17-119

Consumers: \$138.74

Semco Energy: \$203.69

Auto Insurance: \$169.56

Land Contract: \$600.00

Decision: All requests were denied

Applicant 17-120

Rent: \$1874.00

Decision: Denied

Applicant 17-121

Old rent/collections: \$1430.00

Decision: Denied

Applicant 17-123

Consumers: \$1236.13

Decision: Approved

Applicant 17-124

Consumers: \$552.27

Decision: Partial approval in the amount of \$276.14; contingent upon other half paid.

Applicant 17-125

Home Owners Deductible: \$1000.00

Decision: Denied

Applicant 17-127

Rent: \$539.00

Decision: Denied

Applicant 17-128

Partial Rent: \$891.00

Decision: Denied

Applicant 17-129

Rent: \$681.81

Consumers: \$62.62

Decision: Partial approval for rent in the amount of \$681.81. Consumers denied.

Administrative Update:

- Director Edlefson discussed new advertising prospects.
- Director Edlefson mentioned a recent opportunity regarding a vehicle donation.
- Mr. Gray inquired on the Finance committee meeting that was held in August. Members briefly discussed.

Old Business:

- Mr. Beam inquired on the process of Strategic Planning.
- Mr. Gray and Director Edlefson had the opportunity to meet Dr. Edward Montgomery, President of Western Michigan University, at an event for influential military supporters throughout southwest Michigan. The event was held at WMU.
- Mr. Baker mentioned that he reports to his local posts about our committee.

New Business: None

Minutes from September 12, 2017: Mr. Baker motioned to accept the minutes as given. Ms. Philo seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

Good of the Committee:

- Director Edlefson mentioned the 2017 Blanket Drive from September 18th – October 18th. The drop-off locations for the County are 10th District Court at the Justice Center, Senior Services at the Marshall building, and our office for the Toeller building. There are also other locations throughout the county. Distribution will be at the VA Stand Down on October 20, 2017.
- Director Edlefson mentioned the 2017 Homeless Health Fair & VA Stand Down being held on Friday, October 20, 2017, at Full Blast from 8:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Mr. Gray will be leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor of Battle Creek and the Director of the VA Medical Center will be the keynote speakers.
- Director Edlefson mentioned the 84th Annual NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner on Friday, October 27, 2017, at 5:30 P.M. The keynote speaker is Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony.
- Director Edlefson mentioned the Veterans Day ceremony at KCC on Thursday, November 9, 2017, from 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.
- Mr. Baker mentioned the Veterans Day ceremony in Marshall is on Saturday, November 11, 2017, at 11:00 A.M.
- Mr. Gray mentioned the Veterans Day ceremony at Fort Custer Cemetery is on Saturday, November 11, 2017, at 11:00 A.M.
- Mr. Beam mentioned the 50th Anniversary Vietnam Pinning Ceremony is being held on Friday, October 27, 2017, at 2:00 P.M. at the Air National Guard Base. Calhoun County Veterans Affairs will be attending the event.
- Mr. Gray mentioned attending the Military Affairs monthly meeting that is at the Chamber of Commerce.

- Mr. Gray noted that Post 257 was renamed from Fort Custer to SSG Michael Dickerson. There will be a ribbon event for this.
- Service Officer Cape mentioned that her husband recently retired from the Air Force after close to 35 years of service. Director Edlefson attended. Congratulations were given.
- Assistant Administrator Wilcox mentioned in his position the continued interest and investment in all county employees. He also mentioned the continued work with the internal operating procedures and the County's budget.
- Mr. Baker asked about prospects on new businesses in the County. Mr. Wilcox continued discussion on this topic. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment: Mr. Beam made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Philo seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 4:08 P.M.

Sam Gray, Chairman
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

Aaron D. Edlefson, Director
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs