

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes: November 8, 2017

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Sam Gray at 2:58 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

Roll-call of committee members:

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

Calhoun County Administration:

• Assistant County Administrator	Bradley J. Wilcox	Present
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Guests: County Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette and Larry Bales with Veterans Helping Veterans.

Agenda Changes: None.

Citizens Time: None.

Correspondence: Two proclamations from the Veteran Stand Down, one from the City of Battle Creek and one from Calhoun County. There was also a thank you note from the recipient of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Scholarship.

Presentation by Veterans Helping Veterans: Mr. Larry Bales explained to us the history of the organization. In February it will be six years that they have helped Veterans with household items, supplies and furniture. They have assisted 1,850 Veterans in Calhoun and Kalamazoo County. It is an all-volunteer operation and they are open Monday through Thursday each week. Their current building is \$2500/month rent. The Burmese Community pays half and the Battle Creek Foundation pays \$1200 a month. Beginning in January they will have to cover \$300 of the rent. Discussion ensued. The issue will be discussed at future meetings.

VRF Monthly Budget: Director Edlefsen presented the year-to-date budget for the Veterans Relief Fund and the projections for the remainder of the year.

Veteran's Relief Fund Applications:

17-130 Applicant

Utilities: \$387.78
Decision: Approved

17-131 Applicant

Semco: \$80.06
Consumers: \$111.99
Water: \$59.57
Decision: Denied

17-132 Applicant

Rent: \$582.00
Decision: Denied

17-133 Applicant

Rent: \$162.50
Decision: Denied

17-134 Applicant

Mortgage: \$13,523.54
Decision: Denied

17-135 Applicant

Consumers: \$367.02
Decision: Denied

17-136 Applicant

Rent: \$367.00
Cash advance loans: \$1127.15
Vehicle repairs: \$665.92
Decision: Denied

17-137 Applicant

Consumers: \$2220.79

Decision: Denied

Administrative Update:

- Director Edlefson invited everyone to the Kellogg Community College Veteran's Day Ceremony, Thursday, November 9, 2017 at noon.
- Director Edlefson presented the Budget Performance Report.

Minutes from October 11, 2017: Mr. Baker motioned to accept the minutes as given. Ms. Philo seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Good of the Committee:

- Mr. Baker mentioned the Veteran's Day Ceremony in Marshall on November 11th at 11AM.
- Mr. Gray mentioned the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Fort Custer National Cemetery on November 11th at 11AM.
- Dwayne Kelly was awarded the Battle Creek NAACP Image Award for his work with veterans by the NAACP at their Freedom Fund dinner.
- Ms. Philo shared that she is speaking on courage at a women's conference in January in Three Rivers, MI.
- Mr. Baker mentioned a program at the Marshall Public Library featuring a "Donut Dolly" from WWII. Joann Puffer Kotcher participated in the event. Kotcher wrote a book detailing her experience in Vietnam and gave a presentation at the library.

Adjournment: Ms. Philo made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Baker seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 4:15 pm.

Sam Gray, Chairman
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

Aaron D. Edlefson, Director
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs