

# Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes: July 17, 2018

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Chair, Sam Gray at 2:31 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

## Roll-Call of Committee Members:

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

## Calhoun County Veterans Affairs:

• Director	Aaron Edlefson	Present
• Service Officer	Kristina Higgins	Excused Absence
• Service Officer	M. Luann Cape	Present
• Administrative Assistant	Heidi Case	Present

## Calhoun County Administration:

• Assistant Administrator	Brad Wilcox	Present
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## Other Calhoun County Staff:

• Community Development Director	Jen Bomba	Present
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## Agenda Changes:

- Inclusion of the Special Meeting Minutes from June 19, 2018.

## Citizens Time:

- Juan Gonzalez, the new Veteran Navigator for Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services introduced himself and stated he was attending to observe.
- Dr. Denise Washington attended the meeting to introduce herself and share her experiences with different organizations that she volunteers for.

**Correspondence:**

- The Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee received a thank you letter from Billy Clayton, Military Advocate at Western Michigan University, regarding the new Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Scholarship.

**Old Business:**

- None.

**New Business:**

- Director Edlefson reviewed Public Act 210 of 2018 with the committee and discussed the impact that the act would have on the office.
- Director Edlefson reviewed the Veterans Affairs 2017 Geographic Distribution Expenditures (GDX) Report with the committee.

**Administrative Update:**

- Director Edlefson presented the year-to-date budget for Calhoun County Veterans Affairs.

**Veterans Relief Fund Applications:**

**Applicant 18-058**

Rent: \$400.00

Decision: Approved

**Applicant 18-061**

Rent: \$1,181.98

Decision: Denied

**Applicant 18-062**

Vehicle Repairs: \$782.56

Decision: Denied

**Applicant 18-063**

Rent: \$775.00

Decision: Contingent Approval

**Applicant 18-064**

Consumers: \$260.49

Decision: Contingent Approval

**Minutes from June 13, 2018:**

- Mr. Baker motioned to accept the minutes as given. Mr. Cady seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

**Minutes from June 19, 2018 Special Meeting:**

- Mr. Baker motioned to accept the minutes as given. Mr. Cady seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

**Good of the Committee:**

- Director Edlefson discussed the following upcoming events:
  - The Moving Wall, a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is July 20<sup>th</sup> – July 22<sup>nd</sup>, at JB Whiskey in Springfield, MI.
  - Talons-Out Honor Flight fund raiser is Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, at JB Whiskey in Springfield, MI.
  - Senior Day at the Ball Park is Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, at C.O. Brown Stadium.
  - Senior Day at the Calhoun County Fair is Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Veterans Day at the Calhoun County Fair is Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Battle Creek’s “Alive & Running VA5K” is Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Women Veterans Expo 2018 is Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at Grand Rapids Community College.
- Chair Gray shared that American Legion Post 257 is having a ceremony at Pasche’s Lakeside in Battle Creek on July 17<sup>th</sup>, to honor and remember Staff Sergeant Michael Dickinson.

**Adjournment:**

- Mr. Cady made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Baker seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 3:20 P.M.

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Sam Gray, Chair  
Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee

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Aaron D. Edlefson, Director  
Calhoun County Veterans Affairs