

VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2013

PRESENT: BOB WARNKE, DALE WITZKE, JIM ROMNEK, TOM SNIDER, JOE MAHEL, ROBERT STONE, JUDY STECKBAUER AND SIMON HAYES

ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

Bob Warnke requested a motion for the acceptance of the meeting agenda. Tom Snider so moved, second by Joe Maehl. All ayes, motion carried. Bob Warnke called for Public Comments. As none, minutes of the July 8, 2013 meeting were read. Bob Warnke requested a motion for the acceptance of the meeting minutes. Dale Witzke so moved, second by Tom Snider. All ayes, motion carried. Bob Warnke requested motion for acceptance of the August 13, 2013 financial report. Dale Witzke so moved, second by Jim Romnek. All ayes, motion carried. The demand on this assistance seems to wax & wane. Robert also believes that staff attitude has something to do with this. The purpose of this assistance is not to solve long term problems but to help in emergency/short term situations.

Old Business: Discussion on taxable vs. non-taxable mileage. The non-taxable amount is currently \$.14/mile. Joe suggested that a resolution regarding this issue be brought before the County Board. Tom offered to take to the floor. Robert gave his philosophy on the issue and suggested that perhaps there are bigger issues at the current time.

-Veterans Court again discussed. A letter from Judge Seifert distributed along with a Post Crescent article re: mentors for this program. All had a chance to review the packet from Waupaca County since the last meeting. Bob feels very strongly on this issue because of all of the veterans with TBI & PTSD. Tom suggested that if this avenue already exists for the veterans of Winnebago County, why create a parallel program. Many of the surrounding counties have a Veterans Court and take referrals from Winnebago County. This whole idea needs to start with the police department. A lot of time would have to be devoted to get this up and running. Robert feels that something else would slip! Decision made that a letter should be drafted by Robert & Bob to Judge Seifert and all other judges in support of their utilization/referral to this program and all Commissioners to sign. Tom Snider will also find out how many veterans in Waupaca County have gone through their Veterans Court.

New Business: July CVSO Report distributed. The WSACVSC Annual Meeting is slated for 9/13/13 at the Wisconsin Veterans Home. Agenda and letter from the President distributed. Everyone to let Judy know if they plan on attending so registration fee can be paid. Robert thanked everyone that had volunteered at the Winnebago County Fair last week. The veterans' booth saw about 175 veterans on Friday alone. Robert explained that the office budget has already gone before the County Executive and no changes were made. It has also been presented to the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee. An issue regarding the "care of veterans graves" rose at that level. This is mandated by state statute. Also Veterans Court discussed. All current veterans utilizing VA health care are receiving a letter regarding enrollment in VA health care and the health care Affordable Care Act. With this letter an original application to access is enclosed and veterans that are not utilizing VA health care are encouraged to apply. Robert and staff recently toured the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. There are a lot of new employees in key positions at the home including Commandant, Vice Commandant, Admissions Director and Community Liaison. Official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new VA Mega Clinic in Green Bay slated to 8/15/13. Robert and some staff will attend. He has already had a VIP tour and was very impressed with the facility. Specialty care will be phased in. Robert again spoke on staffing issues and how this has affected the pending files and pending actions numbers.

Bob Warnke requested motion to go into closed session. Joe Maehl so moved at 10:00 a.m., second by Jim Romnek. Roll Call – Bob Warnke –aye, Dale Witzke – aye, Jim Romnek – aye, Tom Snider – aye, Joe Maehl - aye. All ayes, motion carried. Convened in closed session for the purposes of acting on applications for financial, medical, social, or personal histories of such applicants which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or date, as provided in sec. 19.85 [1] [f], Wisconsin State Statutes.

Bob Warnke requested motion to come out of closed session. Dale Witzke so moved at 10:30 a.m., second by Tom Snider. Roll call – Bob Warnke – aye, Dale Witzke – aye, Jim Romnek – aye, Tom Snider – aye, Joe Maehl - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

The next meeting will be on September 12, 2013 @ 8:00 a.m. @ the J.P. Coughlin Bldg., 625 E. County Rd. Y, Volunteer Room, Oshkosh, WI.

Tom Snider moved to adjourn, seconded by Dale Witzke. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Steckbauer, Secretary

