

# Winnebago County Veterans Service Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 22, 2017

**Present:** Bob Warnke, Dale Witzke, Joe Maehl, Tom Snider, Roy Rogers, Joe Aulik and Judy Steckbauer

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** None

Bob Warnke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Bob Warnke requested a motion for the acceptance of the meeting agenda. Dale Witzke so moved, second by Joe Maehl. All ayes, motion carried.

Bob Warnke requested a motion to go into closed session. Tom Snider so moved at 9:07 a.m., second by Dale Witzke. All ayes, motioned 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 a motion to come out of closed session. Tom Snider so moved at 9:30 a.m., second by Dale Witzke. All ayes, motion carried.

Bob Warnke called for Public Comments. Tom Snider has been appointed to the NACo Veterans and Military Services Committee.

Bob Warnke called for approval of meeting minutes dated July 17, 2017. Tom Snider so moved, second by Joe Maehl. All ayes, motion carried.

Bob Warnke called for approval of the financial report dated August 22, 2017. Tom Snider so moved, second by Joe Maehl. All ayes, motion carried. Joe thoroughly detailed report since new Commissioner at meeting. Still on track for year. No questions.

**Old Business:** Office slated for move the first week of October. Still waiting for a window, trim needs to be done and carpeted.

**New Business:** The annual meeting for the WSACVSC is slated for Friday, September 8, 2017 at King. All to let Judy know ASAP if they plan on attending. Ken Wendt, president of the WSACVSC will be calling the meeting to order. He will also be speaking at the WICVSO

Association Fall Conference the week of Sept. 18-22 at the Best Western. All Commissioners invited to stop in and attend a training sessions so they can learn what training happens at the conference. Presenters/trainers are from all over the county.

-Proposed state legislation; CVSO Grant changed back to a block grant, 70% or higher service connected veterans will be eligible for the Property Tax Credit. Amount of credit will be based on percentage, taking off the residency requirement for dependents for the WI GI Bill.

-Copy of 2018 budget distributed. It is an extremely small percentage of the total County budget. Joe detailed some of the line items. The request for an additional Benefit Specialist was not approved but the move from 37.5 to 40 hours/week for all staff was approved. Joe is striving to get the office in the right position to deliver maximum benefits to veterans and their dependents as well as widows in Winnebago County. Last year benefits were increased due to making Benefit Specialist full time and new administrative person. The VA is demanding a “decision ready” claim to be submitted. Office is basically doing the VA’s work. Extra time is needed for this development and an additional Benefit Specialist can easily bring \$300,000 in benefits/year into the county. There would also be better coverage when other employees are out for training, vacations and sick time. The Training/Travel budget was reduced by \$1000. The office furniture for the new office was also taken out of the budget because there is extra furniture in the basement at the new location that can be utilized. VSC had requested an additional \$10,000 but \$8,000 was approved. Also the budget line for contractual services was increased because the user fee for VetraSpec increased.

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Orrin King Building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Conference Room, 448 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, WI.

Tom Snider moved to adjourn, seconded by Joe Maehl. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Steckbauer  
Veterans Benefit Supervisor