

# Winnebago County Veterans Service Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 12, 2020

**Present:** Tom Snider, Bob Warnke (via phone), Dale Witzke, Lucy Burr, Roy Rogers, Jeff Bucholtz & Judy Steckbauer

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** None

Tom Snider proceeded as chairman, per Bob Warnke's request. Tom Snider called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Tom Snider requested a motion for the acceptance of the meeting agenda. Dale Witzke so moved, second by Roy Rogers. All ayes, motion carried.

Tom Snider called for Public Comments. None.

Tom Snider requested a motion to go into closed session. Lucy Burr so moved at 1:02 p.m., second by Bob Warnke. 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.

Tom Snider requested a motion to come out of closed session. Dale Witzke so moved at 1:25 p.m., second by Lucy Burr. All ayes, motion carried.

Tom Snider called for approval of meeting minutes dated September 14, 2020. Bob Warnke so moved, second by Tom Snider. All ayes, motion carried.

Tom Snider called for approval of the financial report dated October 12, 2020. Dale Witzke so moved noting that everyone should add 1 more application for month & year due to last minute application coming in for consideration, second by Roy Rogers. All ayes, motion carried. Jeff detailed report. After today's approvals, there is still over \$16,000.00 left for rest of year. Again, some discussion on FVVC. Question raised about rolling end of year balance over to next year so just does not go back to General Fund and veterans do not directly benefit. A roll over is not an automatic and there is a lot to it.

**Old Business:** Jeff explained that office is \$26,516 away from last years retroactive numbers and 2019 was the best year ever. There is potential to exceed in 2020. The Blue Water Navy legislation has helped. Jeff explained that if veteran had previously applied and been denied, retro funds go back to the date of the original claim not when reopened.

Some staff is rotating working from home and office due to COVID concerns. Goal is not to have everyone in the office at 1 time. Jeff and Judy are trying to minimize time in same office so Jeff is spending several days a week in Neenah office. Bob asked about Neenah Office move. Jeff is not pursuing at this time because it is good to have office in the Neenah Human Service building right now due to strict COVID protocols in place at that facility. There would be no way to enforce if office was stand alone.

**New Business:** Congress passed veterans legislation but there is no mention of the CVSO Act. Have to keep pushing issue. Jeff will start sending WDVA staff letters out to all commissioners. Tom read WDVA letter regarding COVID cases at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King.

Roy Rogers asked about the VA Care Givers Act. This program was originally for Post 9/11 veterans but now has been expanded to veterans from WWII, Korea through Vietnam. This program gives a monthly stipend to the care giver depending on the level of care and cost-of-living for particular part of country. Monthly payment could range from approximately \$1,800 - \$800. There is another phase to the program yet to come out that would expand program from Vietnam to Post 9/11.

The next meeting date is Monday, November 9, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 112 Otter Ave., Oshkosh, WI. Jeff cautioned that all county meetings maybe cancelled at some point due to COVID concerns and we would again do by phone with meeting packets being mailed. Roy Rogers moved to adjourn, seconded by Lucy Burr. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Steckbauer  
Veterans Benefits Supervisor