

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY  
COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

March 21, 2019

9:00 A.M.

**AGENDA**

- **Roll Call:** Phil Jacobs, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present Bob Jorgensen, Member; Jesse Shea, Member, Ellen Fritz, Member; Skyler Dooley, Member; Darlene McMartin, Administrator; Peggy Becker, Caseworker III; Pam Wilke, Caseworker II and BOS Liaison Scott Belt, also present from the BOS Tim Wichman. Absent Lori Swisher, Caseworker II
- **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda:** Jesse Shea, Member requested the Topic of Outreach be added to the Agenda. Under New Business add Outreach
- **Commissioner/BOS Update:** Scott Belt reported that County Budget has been approved. A presentation of a plaque and quilt was made to Former Commissioner Phil Killion
- **Public Comment:** There were approximately 20 people present for the meeting the most notable being Donna Berry representative of Senator Grassleys Office.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Approval of the minutes and executive summary for February 2019:** Motion by Bob Jorgensen, Member second by Jesse Shea, Member all in favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries
- **Approval of assistance given for February 2019:** No assistance provided no motion needed
- **Budget review 2018-2019 Amended:** The amended budget was not available at the time of the meeting
- **Budget review 2018-2019:** Should be at 67% we are currently at 58%
- **Federal/County Assistance Report of February 2019:**
  - Office Visits: 241
  - Office Calls: 446
- **Facilities Usage Report:**
  - The building continues to be used by the regulars, VFW and the VA Hospital as well as the County Offices scheduling use of the MPR on a regular basis
- **Old Business/unfinished business**
  - Remembering the Fallen Display: Was on display in the MPR we had approximately 100 people come to view the display
  - Spring School, April 15-18: All Staff will be attending for CEU Training
  - Legislative Update: Nothing new to report it is unknown if the State Grant was approved or not
  - **Operation Tohidu Women Veterans Conference March 4-9:** All expenses paid Women Veteran's Conference to review the unique issues Women Veterans are experiencing. Darlene McMartin Attended
  - **Rotary Presentation March 14:** Darlene McMartin gave a presentation to the Rotary Club
  - **Memorial Service Lt Robert Schuelzky March 17:** When Lt Robert Schuelzky left for the service his wife was pregnant, prior to the birth of his son Lt Schuelzky was KIA in 1945, the remains were buried overseas. There is no local memorial, the son wished for some remembrance of his father be placed locally so our office assisted in obtaining a VA Headstone so the family has invited the office to attend the memorial service for Lt Schuelzky after placement of the headstone in a local cemetery. Darlene McMartin attended also Ellen Fritz, several other Veterans and several Honor Guards were also present to honor the Veteran

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**NEW BUSINESS**

- **State Commission:** Darlene McMartin announced that she is now a member for the State Commission representing the Veteran At Large. It is a 4 year appointment
- **Boy Scout Food Drive:** The collection of food is April 13 and will be brought to the office. The office will provide lunch for the troop
- **Honor Flight Iowa and Nebraska:** 2 Groups the Nebraska group is for Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipients and the Iowa group is for Vietnam Veterans. Darlene McMartin has been asked to go on the Iowa flight as a guardian
- **22 Veterans Suicide Awareness Association:** Kyle Maher the director of the project is going to assist in setting up the 660 flag displays in each Pottawattamie County Community. The Iowa Veteran's Foundation is going to assist with the purchase of some of the flags.
- **Community Foundation:** The Community Foundation reported that there is \$594.90 in interest to be distributed to our office, a discussion was held by the Commission in regards to the use of those funds before the end of the fiscal year 2018-2019 (June 30, 2019). It was determined that since there is no immediate project for the funds to be utilized the funds should be rolled over into the IA Veteran's Foundation to be utilized at a later date. Motion by Skyler Dooley, Member second by Jesse Shea, Member all in favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries
- **Discussion and Decision on Director position recommendation to the BOS.** The Commission held a discussion in regards to the recommendation to the BOS which also included answering questions and listening to feedback from the gallery. A Motion to table the recommendation to the BOS was made by Ellen Fritz, Member second by Bob Jorgensen, Member all in favor 2 Aye all opposed 2 Nay with 1 Commissioner Phil Jacobs recusing himself from the Vote. Motion deadlocked Since the Commission deadlocked on tabling the presentation an additional discussion was held which also included comment from the gallery, a Motion to proceed with the recommendation to the BOS was made by Skyler Dooley, Member second by Jesse Shea, Member all in favor 2 Aye all opposed 2 Nay and 1 Commissioner Phil Jacobs recusing himself from the Vote. Motion deadlocked
- **Outreach:** Jesse Shea, Member requested the Outreach discussion to be held at a later time.

***CLOSED SESSION AS ALLOWED PER CODE OF IOWA CHAPTER 21.5, 1(A)March ASSISTANCE REQUESTS,*** Motion to go into closed session at 10:30 by Phil Jacobs, Chairman second by Bob Jorgensen, Member all in favor 5 Aye opposed 0 Nay Motion carries. Present Phil Jacobs, Chairman; Bob Jorgensen, Member; Ellen Fritz, Member; Jesse Shea, Member; Skyler Dooley, Member; Darlene McMartin, Administrator; Peggy Becker Caseworker III and Pam Wilke Caseworker II. Out of closed session at 10:58 a.m. motion by Skyler Dooley, Member second by Jesse Shea, Member all in favor 5 Aye opposed 0 Nay Motion carries.

Approval of assistance as discussed in closed session motion by Skyler Dooley, Member second by Bob Jorgensen, Member all in favor 5 Aye opposed 0 Nay Motion carries.

***OPEN SESSION***

***Adjourn***

***Next meeting April 11, 2019 @ 9:00 am***