

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

April 11, 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 attending via conference call; Darlene McMartin, Administrator; Peggy Becker, Caseworker III; Pam Wilke, Caseworker II; Lori Swisher, Caseworker II; BOS Liaison Justin Schultz, Tim Wichman and Scott Belt also present was Jana HR Director
- **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda:** Commissioner Jesse Shea, Member motioned for a vote for the Director position be added to the Agenda, second by Bob Jorgensen, Member All in favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries topic added under Old Business/Unfinished Business. Darlene McMartin, Director brought up that the part-time caseworker position also needs to be reviewed this was added under New Business
- **Commissioner/BOS Update:** Justin Schultz reported that he has been working on Federal Grants for our office in order to proceed with implementing the Tiny Homes for Homeless Veterans.
- **Public Comment:** There were approximately 30 people present for the meeting all comments in regards to the Director's position were instructed to be held until the topic comes up in the Agenda. No other public comment was made at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Approval of the minutes and executive summary for March 2019:** Motion by Jesse Shea, Member second by Bob Jorgensen, Member, All in favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries
- **Approval of the minutes for Special Meeting held March 28, 2019:** Motion by Jesse Shea, Member second by Ellen Fritz, Member All in favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries
- **Approval of assistance given for March 2019:** Motion by Jesse Shea, Member second by Bob Jorgensen, Member All in favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries
- **Budget review 2018-2019:** Should be at 75% we are currently at 65.44%
- **Federal/County Assistance Report of February 2019:**
 - Office Visits: 290
 - Office Calls: 594
- **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**
 - **Spring School Of Instruction Des Moines April 15-18:** All Staff will be attending for CEU Training
 - **Legislative Update:** The Increase for the MTE did not make it through
 - **Boy Scout Food Drive:** Flyers are being handed out tomorrow door to door then on April 13 the donation bags will be picked up and brought to our office. Darlene McMartin, Director will meet the Troops and provide them pizza for lunch. Everyone present is invited to come and help especially all the Commissioners and staff.
 - **Community Foundation:** The Foundation is preparing to allot funds
 - **Bench:** Darlene McMartin, Director was able to get ahold of the fabricator in Carson. He is going to come to the office and see what we have and get measurements of where we want the new bench to go so everything can match.
 - **Director Position:** After listening to comments, suggestions and dialog from various National Guard Members, Service Organizations, Commentary from the Board of Supervisors, Commission Members and the General Public, Bret Martin, District Commander for the American Legion, wanted in noted in the minutes that an email penned by 5 local Council Bluffs Service Organizations and signed by the Commanders of those Organizations was sent to several of the afore mentioned entities stating that they represent the Veteran population of Pottawattamie County and endorse the candidate that has been named for the position. Mr. Martin wanted it clarified that 5 Service Organizations of Council Bluffs do not represent all of Pottawattamie County. Each Community within the County has a Service Organization with its own merit and after checking with the American Legion posts in those outlying Communities he was informed that no contact or

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communication had been made to/with them in regards to this endorsement. He also wanted it noted that there are over 5000 veterans in Pottawattamie County that do not belong to a Service Organization therefore those 5000 Veterans cannot be represented especially not by the 5 Service Organizations of Council Bluffs. After the discussion and comments were finished Commissioner Jesse Shea, Member Motioned that the candidate Nick Jedlicka be recommended to the BOS for the Director Opening second by Commissioner via conference call Skyler Dooley, Member All in favor 2 Aye All opposed 2 Nay Commission Deadlocked on submission of candidate to the BOS Motion fails.

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NEW BUSINESS

- **Resource Fair YMCA (Center) April 15 3:00-4:00:** Senator Joni Ernst is sponsoring our office so we can have a booth present Lori Swisher Caseworker II and Pam Wilke, Caseworker II will be representing the office during this event.
- **IA National Guard Civic Leader Center of Influence:**
April 24 Council Bluffs 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
May 8 Red Oak:
- **Mental Health Conference 4/25-26/2019 IWCC:** Darlene will be attending
- **ESGR Training May 3rd Camp Dodge IA:** Darlene McMartin, Administrator will be attending. The ESGR will be working with the NG in regards to working with deployed members that have been discriminated against in their employment
- **Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day May 7th, Capitol Grounds Des Moines:** Darlene McMartin will be attending and setting up an informational booth
- **Budget Approved Part-Time Caseworker Position:** A discussion was held in regards to getting the ball rolling as far as hiring a Part-Time Caseworker. The funds are already in the 2019-2020 Budget. The position is part-time to begin and as the candidate learns it can lead into a full-time caseworker position. Darlene will get with Human Services and do an updated job description as well as review some of the applications received from the receptionist position as some of those applicants could be considered viable candidates.

CLOSED SESSION AS ALLOWED PER CODE OF IOWA CHAPTER 21.5, 1(A)April ASSISTANCE REQUESTS,
Motion to go into closed session at 10:59 by Phil Jacobs, Chairman second by Jesse Shea, Member all in favor 4 Aye opposed 0 Nay Motion carries (Skyler Dooley, Member had disconnected the Conference Call by this time). Present Phil Jacobs, Chairman; Bob Jorgensen, Member; Ellen Fritz, Member; Jesse Shea, Member; Darlene McMartin, Administrator; Peggy Becker Caseworker III; Lori Swisher, Caseworker II and Pam Wilke Caseworker II. Absent Skyler Dooley, Member
Out of closed session at 11.10 a.m. motion by Phil Jacobs, Chairman second by Skyler Dooley, Member all in favor 4 Aye opposed 0 Nay Motion carries.

Approval of assistance as discussed in closed session motion by Bob Jorgensen, Member second by Jesse Shea, Member all in favor 4 Aye opposed 0 Nay Motion carries.

OPEN SESSION

Adjourn

Next meeting May 9, 2019 @ 9:00 am