

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

June 13, 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; Darlene McMartin, Administrator; Peggy Becker, Caseworker III; Pam Wilke, Caseworker II; Lori Swisher, Caseworker II; BOS Liaison Scott Belt and Justin Schultz Absent Skyler Dooley, Member
- **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda:** Under New Business Email from Client to Commission
- **Commissioner/BOS Update:** Scott Belt BOS Liaison reported the County is still dealing with flood issues. He stated it is difficult to assess the damage to the roads when there is still water over them. Justin Schultz stated that the application deadline for the Commission is now closed; the BOS and Interviewing panel will conduct interviews next week.
- **Public Comment:** No Comments were received from the Public

OLD BUSINESS

- **Approval of the minutes and executive summary for May 2019:** Motion by Phil Jacobs, Chairman second by Jesse Shea, Member, All in favor 4 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries
- **Approval of assistance given for May 2019:** No cases were decided in the meeting no motion needed
- **Budget review 2018-2019:** Should be at 91% we are currently at 83% all warrants must be turned in by June 21st for the payments to be made within this fiscal year
- **Federal/County Assistance Report of May 2019:**
 - Office Visits: 319
 - Office Calls: 630
- **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**
 - **Legislative Update:** Nothing passed through
 - **Bench:** The space for the bench was remeasured and should be here by the end of the month
 - **Resource Fair YMCA (Center) April 15th 3:00-4:00pm:** We received a Thank You from Senator Joni Earnst for participating in the event
 - **Honor Flight:** The honor flight out of Omaha on 5/23-24 was for Gold Star Parents and Purple Heart recipients. Darlene McMartin went on the flight as a guardian
 - **Mental Health Conference 4/25-26/2019 IWCC:** Darlene McMartin, Administrator attended
 - **May 18th Flags for the Fallen Display:** Our office with the help of Commission Chairman Phil Jacobs, VFW's James Wayman and Dick Ryba, Pottawattamie County Safety Coordinator Jacob Head, Pottawattamie County Planning and Development's Shawn Stevens and Norma Farris put up 660 Flags to recognize the 22 Veterans a day that commit suicide. Upon removal of the flags on May 30th by Lori Swisher, office Caseworker it was determined that we were only missing one flag which maybe someone took in remembrance of a loved one. The display will be handed over to Treynor to display during Treynor Days and will eventually make it to each community within Pottawattamie County.
 - **Adult Abuse/Child Abuse Training:** Is being offered at Iowa Western for a \$50 registration fee. Commission Members are to let Darlene McMartin know if they are interested in attending

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• **NEW BUSINESS**

- **VA Expenditure Annual Report 2018:** The report indicates there are approximately 7014 Veterans in Pottawattamie County. The report also indicates that over 55% of those Veterans are over the age of 65 however the report does not reflect the widows or Veteran survivors within the county
- **Commission Appointment:** BOS Liaison Justin Schultz reviewed the process for appointing the next commissioner for the vacancy left by Bob Jorgensen when his term expires at the end of this Month. The packets for the applicants will be distributed to the currently seated Commission Members who will in turn rank each applicant based upon the point system provided and return their rankings to the BOS for review. The BOS will then choose the best candidate for the seat.
- **Email received by Commission:** Phil Jacobs, Chairman reported that a person emailed the BOS in regards to his dissatisfaction of how his claim was handled. The BOS forwarded the email to the Commission requesting that it be looked into. The individual indicated in the email that due to the mishandling of our office he was owed back pay from his claim not being filed in a timely manner. Because the Commission does not have authority to review federal claims and there is no release signed by the Veteran giving the Commission permission to review his federal file the case was reviewed by the office Director Darlene McMartin. Darlene McMartin reported that our office keeps track of every person and every call that comes into the office, she went on to report that the Veteran did contact our office several times and worked with several different people. Upon at least two of those meetings he signed paperwork that secured his date of claim which would have given him a year each time to submit a claim but he did not follow through after those forms were signed. Darlene McMartin advised the Commission at that point that the claim belongs to the Veteran; it is the Veteran's responsibility to follow through if information or documents are needed.
It was determined at that time that the Commission Chair Phil Jacobs would respond to the email.

CLOSED SESSION AS ALLOWED PER CODE OF IOWA CHAPTER 21.5, 1(A)June ASSISTANCE REQUESTS,

There are no requests for Assistance for June but closed session was held to review a case that was approved by Administrator review after the May meeting

Motion to go into closed session at 10:02 by Phil Jacobs, Chairman second by Jesse Shea, Member all in favor 4 Aye opposed 0 Nay Motion carries. 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 10:14 a.m. motion by Phil Jacobs, Chairman second by Jesse Shea, 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 July 11, 2019 @ 9:00 am