

**POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

April 8, 2021 in Person & Virtual Meeting
Virtual Connection information provided on Agenda
9:00 A.M.

AGENDA

- **Call to Order:** Skyler Dooley, Chairman called the meeting to order @ 9:00 am
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** All those attending either in person or virtually stood where they were and recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- **Roll Call-** Skyler Dooley, Chairman; Holly Collins, Secretary; Ellen Way, Member; Jesse Shea, Member and Mick Gutttau, Member Office Personnel Nick Jedlicka, Director; Peggy Becker, Caseworker III; Pam Wilke Caseworker II; Paul Rosenberg, Caseworker II; Brenna Maher, Caseworker I and Jess Boese, Receptionist
- **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda:** There were three additions added under New Business due to the length of the discussion held in regards to the topic Senator Axne's Earmark Fund, Needs Study and The Tritan Project
- **BOS Updates-**Lynn Grobe and Justin Schultz BOS Liaison brought up the topic of a project to present to Senator Axne's Earmark Project Fund: The project of Tiny Homes for Veteran's placed under New Business
- **Commissioner Updates:** None Provided
- **Public Comment (3-minute speaking limit per person)** No public present

OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ **Approval of the minutes for March:** Motion to approve made by Skyler Dooley, Chairman second by Jesse Shea, Member All in Favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion Carries
- ❖ **Approval of assistance given for March:** Motion to approve made by Skyler Dooley, Chairman second by Holly Collins, Secretary All in Favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion Carries
- ❖ **Budget Review-2020/2021:** We should be @ 75%, overall, we are at 66%.

➤ **Federal County Assistance Report for March 2021:**

| | March | Previous Month February |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------|
| Walk Ins: | 180 | 133 |
| Calls: | 526 | 421 |
| Total: | 706 | 554 |

| County | State | Federal |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| New Clients /Calls 7 | Driver License Application 7 | Total Fed Forms 163 of these were |
| Pantry/Clothing 10 | License Plate Application 2 | Benefit Application 51 |
| Grave Marker 1 | Hunting/Fishing License 2 | Intent to File 14 |
| Mail I/O 75 | | Headstone Application 1 |
| 180 Walk Ins, 48 had Appt | | SF-180 2 |

➤ **Facilities Update:**

- ❖ **MPR Usage:** The MPR is still being utilized by County Depts and Service Organizations. There are still issues with 2 windows leaking, Building and Grounds has been notified Justin Schultz recommended that our office reservice several parking spaces for Veterans usage as well as the staff because once the Services Building is vacated it will be torn down which will implement employee parking strictly to our lot approximately 30-40 more vehicles as well as some storage trailers.

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ❖ **Outreach Opportunity Vaccine Clinics:** The outreach our office did at the Covid Vaccine Clinics on Fridays has brought in several new Veterans to our office. We are no longer able to put up a table at the clinic because the number being Vaccinated has increased and there is not room

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- ❖ **VAH Mobile COVID-Vaccine Clinic:** The Omaha VA Hospital sponsored a Mobile Vaccine Clinic at our office. We had 13 Veterans that were immunized here then the Clinic went to Treynor and Avoca, they also did a home visit for administering the immunization. Johnson and Johnson was the Vaccine that was provided meaning they only need one shot to be covered.
- ❖ **Relocation Grant:** Nick Jedlicka, Director and several of the Commissioners will be meeting with the County Attorney to review the Relocation Grant and advise in regards to any changes that would need to be added to our bylaws. The Commission requested that this item stay on the Agenda for progressive updates.
- ❖ **Spring School of Instruction Des Moines IA:** April 14-16 Skyler Dooley, Chairman and everyone from the office except Pam Wilke, Caseworker II and Jess Boese, Receptionist will be attending. Office personnel will be going up on Wednesday afternoon due to a meeting that is being held that evening, they will return Friday night.
- ❖ **Update on Pantry Refrigerator and Freezer:** Fisher Fixture has the Freezer but the Refrigerator has been held up in the backlog of container ships unable to unload their cargo. Fisher will be in sometime next week to scout out the location for the units.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ **Virtual Hearings to be held at our office:** The American Legion in Des Moines contacted our office wanting to know if our office could be used as a 'local' facility to host BVA Virtual Appeals. It is looking like the BVA is going to go strictly to a virtual format and many Veterans either don't know how, don't have the capability or means to travel to make it to Des Moines. The first Virtual Appeal hearing for our office is scheduled for August.
- ❖ **Senator Axne's "Earmark" project fund:** BOS Justin Schultz reviewed the Tiny Homes for Homeless Veteran's Program that he has been working on for several years, with the current Commission. He requested their input and approval to give a presentation to Senator Axne's Earmark Project fund to hopefully bring the program into fruition. All Commissioners fully support the presentation being made for the funding.
- ❖ **Needs Study:** Jesse Shea, Member requested to revisit the Needs Study that had been tabled a few months back because no one was able to get any information most likely due to the COVID Shutdowns. Since things are opening back up now may be the time to restart the process, Jesse also requested that it be added back to the Agenda on a regular basis
- ❖ **The Titan Project:** The Titan Project has awarded a local Veteran a Backyard Crash, which is where Members of the group and community volunteers go into a person's yard and clean it up. They remove debris, trim trees and bushes and anything else that may be needed.

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

REQUESTS: At 10:10 am, Skyler Dooley, Chairman motioned to go into closed session, seconded by Jesse Shea, Member.

At 10:15 am Skyler Dooley, Chairman motioned to leave closed session, second by Jesse Shea, Member.

Jesse Shea, Member motioned to approve all items discussed in closed session second by Mick Guttau, Member. All in Favor 5 Aye 0 Nay motion carries

MEETING ADJOURNED Skyler Dooley, Member made a motion to adjourn second by Jesse Shea, Member. All in favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting May 13, 2021- 9:00 am