

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

Monday August 8, 2022 @ 3:00 pm

- Call to Order: Holly Collins, Chairwoman called the meeting to order @ 3:00 pm
- Pledge of Allegiance: All in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: Commission: Holly Collins, Chairwoman; Brad Powell, Secretary; Mick Guttau, Member; Brittney Rockwell, Member Office Staff: Peggy Becker, Caseworker III, Paul Rosenberg Caseworker II and Randy Markel, Caseworker II
- BOS Updates: No BOS present
- Commissioner Updates: No Commissioner updates

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the minutes for Regular monthly July 11, 2022: Motion to approve made by Mick Guttau, Member second by Brad Powell, Secretary All in Favor 4 Aye 0 Nay Motion Carries
- Approval of the minutes for Special Meeting July 18, 2022: Motion to approve made by Mick Guttau, Member second by Brad Powell, Secretary All in Favor 4 Aye 0 Nay Motion Carries
- Approval of the minutes for Special Meeting July 22, 2022: Motion to approve made by Brittney Rockwell, Member second by Brad Powell, Secretary All in Favor 4 Aye 0 Nay Motion Carries
- Approval of assistance given for July 2022: No assistance provided no motion necessary
- Budget 2021-2022: Should be @ 8% currently @ 9.4% Education benefits are reflected coming out of FY23 Budget, but it is an accrued expense which is why we are a bit above normal. The state allocation report was sent to Camp Dodge and we have already received the \$10,000 check for this FY
- Federal County Assistance Report for July 2022

	July	Previous Month June
Walk Ins:	182	151
Calls:	353	247
Total:	535	495

County	State	Federal
New Clients /Calls 13	Driver License Application 0	Total Fed Forms 194 of these were
Pantry/Clothing 9	License Plate Application 4	Benefit Application 42
Grave Marker 2	Hunting/Fishing License 0	Intent to File 28
Mail I/O 132	MTE/DMTE 0	Headstone Application 3
Appointments 58		Home Loan Certificate 0
		SF-180 1

FACILITIES UPDATE:

- MPR Usage: The building usage contracts for the VFW, IVF and CB Parade Committee were presented to and approved by the BOS

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Outreach events/car shows:
 - VFW 11355 Car show @ the VA Building Saturday August 6: From the office Peggy Becker stayed the day to answer questions and inquiries and Kara Behrens stopped by. From the Commission Brad Powell & Brittney Rockwell were present. Overall, the car show went really well, there were about 90 entries and had good attendance. Dick Ryba VFW Commander wanted to take a moment and thank us for them being able to use the grounds and having the office open for respite from the heat using the building overall for their meetings and special events is greatly appreciated
 - OTTF @ McMullen Ford Sunday August 7th: From the office Paul Rosenberg set up a booth to answer question and inquires. From the Commission Brad Powell present. There were about 200 entries, and a custom toolbox was actioned off

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- **Burial Assistance Review:** A discussion was held in regards to the County Assistance provided for an indigent burial currently it is set at \$1,000 and has been for over 20 years. Sam Pettit office caseworker contacted the all the funeral homes in Pottawattamie County and just a basic no frills handling of the body, or cremation is closer to \$3,000 and even more if the purchase of a plot or opening and closing of a grave is involved. When the budget for FY 24-25 is reviewed any changes to the burial assistance policy/line will need to be reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Staffing Changes & Classifications:** Several changes have been made amongst the office staff that need to be approved by the Commission
 - Hiring of new Administrative Assistant: Kara Behrens start date 4/21/22 Motion to approve made by Brad Powell, Secretary second by Brittney Rockwell, Member All in favor 4 Aye 0 Nay Motion Carries
 - Change in job classification from Administrative Assistant to Caseworker I: Sam Pettit effective 4/30/2022 Motion to approve made by Brad Powell, Secretary second by Brittney Rockwell, Member All in favor 4 Aye 0 Nay Motion Carries
 - Change in job classification from Caseworker I to Caseworker II: Randy Markel effective 7/30/2022
 - Temporary addition to job classification Caseworker III to include Acting Office Administrator with salary increase: Peggy Becker effective 7/26/2022 approved in BOS meeting July 26th 2022 Motion to approve made by Brittney Rockwell, Member second by Brad Powell, Secretary All in Favor 4 Aye 0 Nay Motion Carries
- **Caseworker Updates:**
 - Paul Rosenberg Caseworker II reported that Aid and Attendance claims are on the rise. He also stated that he has been accepted to the Master's Program at IU and it was made possible by utilizing his VA Voc Rehab.
 - Randy Markel Caseworker II reported that he just got his PIV card. He also reported that business is picking up in Avoca word is getting around that there is someone there
 - Peggy Becker Acting Office Admin stated that the numbers have shown a slight increase most likely due to the passing of the Pact Act a lot of Veterans are making inquires as to how it will affect them. The numbers are expected to continue to increase
- **Iowa State Fair/Veterans Day:** Paul Rosenberg and Sam Pettit will be attending to represent the office in the parade. Brad Powell Commission Secretary stated that he will be there as well but will be representing the American Legion
- **Mill County Veteran Home Resolution:** Commission Member Brittney Rockwell stated that she is on several other committees and Mills County is asking for our support in having a Veteran's Nursing Home be placed in Mills County with the Glenwood Resource Center closing that could provide a potential location or the building that use to house the Clarinda Treatment Complex.

Public Comment (3-minute limit) Dick Ryba VFW 11355 thanked the County and the Commission once again for the use of the building. He would also like to see the return of the office director meeting with the posts on a regular basis. He also suggested that maybe the Veteran Affairs Office would be able to help sponsor the Veterans Day Parade

CLOSED SESSION AS ALLOWED PER CODE OF IOWA CHAPTER 21.5, 1(A) August ASSISTANCE REQUESTS
4 Request for Assistance

Motion to go into closed session made by Brittney Rockwell, Member @ 3:39 pm second by Brad Powell, Secretary
Motion to go back into open session @ 3:48 pm made by Brittney Rockwell, Member second by Brad Powell, Secretary

OPEN SESSION

ADJOURN Motion to adjourn made by Brittney Rockwell, Member second by Mick Gutttau, Member All in Favor 4 Aye 0 Nay meeting adjourned

NEXT MEETING Monday September 12 @ 3:00 pm Veteran Affairs Building Multi-purpose room.