

# *Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting*

## **Minutes: April 8, 2015**

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Secretary, Mr. Samuel Gray at 2:33 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance–Moment of Silence.

### **Roll-call of committee members:**

- |   |            |                    |                              |
|---|------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| • | Chairman   | Rodger Seidel,     | Present, by Conference phone |
| • | Vice-Chair | Jack Hunn          | Absent, Excused              |
| • | Secretary  | Samuel Gray,       | Present                      |
| • | Member     | George “Rob” Beam, | Present                      |
| • | Member     | Trena Philo        | Present                      |

### **Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Office Staff:**

- |   |                          |                     |         |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| • | Service Officer          | Kristina S. Higgins | Present |
| • | Administrative Assistant | M. Luann Cape       | Present |

### **County Administration Staff:**

- |   |                                |             |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|
| • | County Assistant Administrator | Brad Wilcox |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|

### **Agenda Changes:**

None.

**Citizens Time:** None.

**Correspondence:** One of the Committee Applicants from last fall recently contacted the office. Assistant Administrator, Brad Wilcox, will contact him and explain that we are fully-staffed.

### **Administrative Updates:**

County Assistant Administrator, Bradley Wilcox shared some updates concerning the transition that the office is going through.

Service Officer Kristina Higgins relayed that she has been working on some of Mr. Losey's cases that he left behind. All Veterans since January have been served. Office Assistant, Luann Cape shared that Gary Easterling, State Representative for the American Legion met with 20 Veterans in the first part of one week in March. Nick Easterling from Vietnam Veterans of America (field Officer) is handling all of the new cases that come in. He is here every Wednesday. There are no Veterans waiting to be seen, all have been served.

County Assistant Administrator, Brad Wilcox, gave information on VetraSpec. Kelli Scott met Rob Price at another meeting in Lansing. We hope Mr. Price will set up VetraSpec for the office.

County Assistant Administrator, Brad Wilcox, updated everyone on the Office Director hiring process. Out of 51 applications, 4 were interviewed, all strong candidates. Mr. Aaron Edlefson was hired and will begin May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. His last day in Kalamazoo will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The office will have a general e-mail that will be advertized, and accessible to the Office Assistant.

**Minutes:** Mr. Beam moved to accept the minutes as presented, Ms. Philo seconded, and all were in favor, motion passed.

**Applications for Emergency Assistance from the Calhoun County Veterans' Relief Fund:** None.

**Old Business:** Committee By-laws will be discussed at the next meeting, which after a discussion, will be held one hour before the Strategic Planning Meeting, May 7<sup>th</sup>. The regular meeting will be 9-10am, and the Strategic Planning is 10-2pm and will include lunch. County Counsel, Richard Lindsey should be able to attend the meeting to help us with the by-laws.

**New Business:** New shirts for the County Staff with the county logo would be a good idea for when we are out in the Community at fairs and similar events.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Beam made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Philo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 3:43 pm.

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Sam Gray  
Secretary, Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

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Bradley J. Wilcox  
Assistant County Administrator