

# *Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting*

## Minutes: August 12, 2015

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Rodger Seidel at 2:34 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance–Moment of Silence.

### Roll-call of committee members:

- |              |                   |                 |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Chairman   | Rodger Seidel     | Present         |
| • Vice-Chair | Jack Hunn         | Present         |
| • Secretary  | Samuel Gray       | Present         |
| • Member     | George “Rob” Beam | Excused Absence |
| • Member     | Trena Philo       | Present         |

### Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Office Staff:

- |                            |                     |                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| • Director                 | Aaron Edlefson      | Present         |
| • Service Officer          | Kristina S. Higgins | Excused Absence |
| • Administrative Assistant | M. Luann Cape       | Excused Absence |

### County Administration Staff:

- |                                  |             |         |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| • County Administrator           | Kelli Scott | Present |
| • County Assistant Administrator | Brad Wilcox | Present |

Agenda Changes: None.

Citizens Time: None.

Correspondence: None.

**Soldiers & Sailors Review and Applications:** Two applications that were approved by the Director were presented to the Committee. A third application was presented to the Committee for approval. Discussion ensued. Committee unanimously voted to approve application.

**Calhoun County VA Administration Update:** Director Edlefson gave a presentation which informed the Committee that Kristina and Luann have received accreditation, outlined office updates, and provided information regarding outreach and collaborative efforts. The presentation

also showed the number of veterans who have presented at the office for the month of July.

**Minutes from July 8, 2015:** Mr. Hunn moved to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Gray seconded that motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

**Old Business:** Discussion began with Kellogg Community College Scholarship in regards to criteria/eligibility, along with name and amount considerations. To be further discussed at subsequent meeting.

Recommendation for reappointment to Veterans' Affairs Committee for Trena Philo was discussed. Mr. Gray moved to recommend reappointment. Motion was seconded by Mr. Seidel, all in favor.

2016 Budget proposal was reviewed. Subcommittee consisting Ms. Philo and Mr. Hunn will assist office with 2016 budget.

**New Business:** New Service Officer position was discussed. Director Edlefson discussed the benefits of hiring the new Service Officer and that the position is already authorized.

**Good of the Committee:** Discussion about possibility of changes to concurrent/non-concurrent receipt of benefits. Question was raised if office has seen more dependency adds in light of recent court decisions regarding same-sex marriages. Agent Orange exposure for veterans who served near the DMZ was also discussed. Future press releases and public communication options were discussed.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Gray made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Philo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 3:46 pm.

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Rodger Seidel, Chairman  
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

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Aaron D. Edlefson, Director  
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs