

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes: September 9, 2015

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Rodger Seidel at 2:44pm.

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	Present
• Administrative Assistant	M. Luann Cape	Present

Agenda Changes: The minutes to be reviewed are August 12, 2015, not July’s.

Citizens Time: None.

Correspondence: At the American Legion’s training weekend in Higgins Lake, the director, Gary Easterling, had the office staff stand and complimented us on a great turn around for an office.

Veterans Relief Applications: 15-11 Applicant needed help with rent, less than \$250. 15-14 was for \$250 worth of bills from Semco and Consumers Energy. 15-16 was an application for one week at the EconoLodge until other more permanent housing could be arranged through other relief organizations. Applicant 15-12 was for the committee’s consideration. A veteran was getting help through VA substance abuse program, is working

with HUDVASH, needed \$426. Approved by the CCVA committee. Applicant 15-13 was also approved by committee for car expenses.

Calhoun County Administrative Updates: The new Service Officer position has been posted in the Advisor, the County website, 5 other places. The position will remain open for about two weeks.

Director Edlefson and Service Officer Kristina Higgins met with Congressman Amash and his assistant, Jordan Bush. Director Edlefson did a presentation as part of Senior Day at the County Fair. Mr. Edlefson and Ms. Higgins attended the 1st Battalion Support Division, visited KCC's Regional Manufacturing Center, and had a booth for Veteran's Day at the County Fair. Mr. Edlefson approached Recreational Therapy for showcasing Veteran's artwork on ceiling tiles for the office.

The office has been quite busy since the Social Security Administration has referred 29 veterans to apply for Pension or their SSI will be discontinued.

The budget sub-committee met earlier in the month. The hiring of the new Service Officer will effect the budget, but the services offered will be increased. Ms. Philo moved to approve the budget proposal as brought by the sub-committee. Mr. Gray seconded. Motion carried, budget approved.

The by-laws will be for the Committee to work on before the next meeting.

Minutes from August 12, 2015: Mr. Gray moved to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Philo seconded that motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Old Business: A discussion ensued concerning whether our fund should be called Soldier's and Sailor's Act or Veteran's Relief Fund. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business: CCVA's participation in the JIB meeting was discussed.

Good of the Committee: There are more brochures available if anyone needs them.

On September 11th at 6pm, there is a ceremony at McCamly park commemorating the anniversary of the attacks fourteen years ago.

Adjournment: Vice-chair Hunn made a motion to adjourn, Secretary Gray seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm.

Aaron Edlefson
Director, Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Office

Rodger Seidel
Chairman, Calhoun County Veteran Affairs Committee