

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Minutes: April 13, 2016

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Vice-Chairman, Jack Hunn at 2:32 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

Roll-call of committee members:

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| • | Chairman | Rodger Seidel | Present, by phone |
| • | Vice-Chair | Jack Hunn | Present |
| • | Secretary | Samuel Gray | Present |
| • | Member | George "Rob" Beam | Present |
| • | Member | Trena Philo | Present |

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Office Staff:

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

Calhoun County Administration:

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| • | County Assistant Administrator, Brad Wilcox | Present |
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Agenda Changes: None.

Citizens Time: None.

Correspondence: The Veterans' Affairs office received a thank you letter from the Senior Services office for participating in the Senior Fair. Another thank you letter was received from Homer School Association for participating in their Employment Fair.

Veteran's Relief Fund Applications:

Applicant 16-13: Request was for past due Consumers bill in collections in the amount of \$3451.58. Request was denied contingent upon input from case worker at HUDVASH.

Applicant 16-14: Request was for help with rent in the amount of \$500.00. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-15: Request was for help with repairs on an electric scooter in the amount of \$370.00. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-16: Request was for assistance with car repairs in the amount of \$1679.98 and new tires in the amount of \$308.78. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-17: Request was for Smart Start for VTC in the amount of \$95.40 and Consumers bill in the amount of \$141.30. Both requests were approved.

Applicant 16-18: Request was for assistance with rent and utilities in the amount of \$993.08. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-19: Request was for help with water shut off in the amount of \$113.89. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-20: Requests were for multiple utilities: Consumers \$860.14, Semco \$71.93, and water \$93.54. In addition, requests were made for roof repairs in the amount \$936.00, diagnostic test on vehicle in the amount of \$50 and car insurance in the amount of \$153. All requests were approved.

Applicant 16-21: Request was for assistance with water shut off in the amount of \$153.71. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-22: Request was for help with Consumers in the amount of \$70.40, Dept. of Treasury in the amount of \$137.19, dental credit card for \$275.75, Verizon in the amount of \$227.12, and Semco in the amount of \$283.40. All requests were approved, with partials for Dept of Treasury (\$25.00) and dental credit card (\$97.00). There was also a request for Property taxes in the amount of \$1471.47. This request was denied.

Applicant 16-25: Request was for help with first and last month's rent in the amount of \$1000.00. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-26: Request was for Semco in the amount of \$314.78 and Consumers in the amount of \$176.90. Both requests were approved.

Applicant 16-27: Request was for help with hotel for 1 week in the amount of \$390.49. Request was approved.

Applicant 16-28: Request was for past due consumers bill in the amount of \$1060.11. Request was denied contingent upon verification of housing details.

Applicant 16-29: Request was for assistance with a traffic ticket in the amount of \$330.00, driver's license reinstatement fee of \$125.00, and driver's responsibility fees for VTC in the amount of \$1956.00. All requests were denied.

Administrative Update:

- Director Edlefson discussed the presentation of a certificate to Service Officer Nickolas Easterling of Vietnam Veterans of America for his dedicated service to the veterans of Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs office and hopes that Mr. Easterling will be able to return to CCVA.
- Director Edlefson mentioned the number of veterans who came to the office last month. He anticipates that these numbers will increase going into May.
- On Thursday, March 10th, Director Edlefson and Service Officers Higgins and Cape attended the VAMC Art Competition. Director Edlefson mentioned the ceiling tiles that will be displayed in the CCVA office. The 1st place winner will be invited to share his story.
- On Friday, March 18th, Director Edlefson and Service Officer Cape participated in an active shooter demonstration at the Marshall County building. Service Officer Cape was commended for techniques used to ensure safety.
- On March 29th, Director Edlefson and Service Officers Higgins and Cape attended the Vietnam War Commemorative Event at the VAMC.
- On Thursday, April 7th, Director Edlefson and Service Officers Higgins and Cape participated in the Senior Fair at Marshall MS. They were joined by numerous community partners.

Minutes from March 9, 2016: Ms. Philo motioned to accept the minutes as given, Mr. Gray seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Director Edlefson announced upcoming changes with the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. Also, announced by Director Edlefson was the change in staff due to Service Officer Easterling leaving. Although he will be changing Veterans Service Organizations, the CCVA office is hoping to he will be able to return in a similar capacity.

Good of the Committee:

- Ms. Philo announced the KCC Employment Fair in Coldwater is Wednesday, April 20th.
- Mr. Gray mentioned the Habitat for Humanity Restore as a resource in addition to Veterans Helping Veterans.

Adjournment: Ms. Philo made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Beam seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 4:19 pm.

Jack Hunn, Vice-Chairman
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

Aaron D. Edlefsen, Director
Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs