

Dodge County Veterans Service Commission

Tuesday August 18, 2015 at 9:30 A.M.

The Handouts for the Meeting are as follows:

1. 2014 Meeting Minutes
2. Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs Memo dated April 17, 2015
3. Report of USDVA and WDVA expenditures in Dodge County

The meeting of the Dodge County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) was called to order by Chairperson Caine at 9:01 A.M. August 26, 2014, room 253 of the Dodge County Administration building, located at 127 East Oak St, Juneau WI followed by the pledge of allegiance being recited by all.

Members present: Chairperson Chester Caine (Lowell), Robert Patrouille (Waupun), and Dennis Johnson (Watertown)

Members absent: None

Others present: Mark Grams, Dodge County Veterans Service Officer & VSC secretary

Inquiry was made by Caine if Johnson wanted to remain on the VSC for another three year term. Johnson does want another three year term. Caine will communicate that to the County Board Chair before the December 2014 meeting.

Elections were held with Caine being reelected chair and Patrouille being reelected vice chair both were by acclamation.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the VSC meeting of August 13, 2013 and approved unanimously.

The proposed 2015 VSC budget was briefed by Grams. After discussion and all questions that VSC members had were answered to their satisfaction a motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously with a roll call vote to approve the VSC budget as proposed. The budgeted amount is \$6000. With no balance applied.

Grams briefed the proposed Veterans Service Office (VSO) 2015 budget to include the increase of the administrative secretary II position from 30 hours per week (.75) to 32 hours per week (.80). The entire VSC was in full support of the proposed VSO budget.

Grams read and passed around to all members a thank you card received from a veteran in Fox Lake that had received assistance with a grant from the VSC.

Upon a motion duly made and carried, the VSC convened in closed session at 9:39 A.M. for the purpose of review and consideration of personal, financial medical and social history information over which the VSC has jurisdiction and exercises responsibility in accordance with Section 19.85(1)(f) of the Wisconsin Statutes, (Report of distribution of VSC funds to include denials were distributed and then collected from all VSC members).

The VSC reconvened in open session at 10:13 A.M.

Grams distributed a letter from John F. Corey Dodge County Corporation Counsel in response to the request from Grams for an explanation for the reason there is a special bonding requirement for the VSC member as opposed to utilizing a blanket bond. The state statutes require the bonding and don't prohibit the use of the county blanket bonding, but the insurance provider declines to include the VSC member in the blanket bond.

Under agenda item of commission members matters not subject to adoption:

Patrouille asked for an explanation of who gets to use the veterans' nursing homes and who is exempt from payment in those facilities and community nursing homes. Grams explained that the three state VA nursing homes located in King, Union Grove and Chippewa Falls and VA contracted nursing homes allow a veteran that is 70 per cent service connected disabled or higher to be a resident at no cost because the federal VA pays the costs.

It was also discussed at length the theft of the veteran grave flag holders. Grams informed the VSC that Dodge County was now going to be providing plastic flag holders to reduce the chance of them being stolen for the purpose selling them to recyclers for money.

There was no public present for any comments.

The VSC adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark H. Grams" followed by a horizontal flourish.

Mark H. Grams

Dodge County Veterans Service Commission Secretary



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APR 20 2015

Veterans Service Office
Dodge County, WI

WISCONSIN
COUNTIES
ASSOCIATION

April 17, 2015

Dear County Veterans Service Officers:

In order to ensure Wisconsin's veterans continue to receive the best services possible, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) have worked together to clarify several issues relating to the administration of grants for County Veterans Services Officers (CVSOs) in 2015 and beyond. Details of these changes are as follows:

Hiring Process for CVSOs:

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance on April 17, 2015 adopted statutory language that amends Wis. Stat. 45.82(2) to effectively "grandfather" all CVSOs currently employed by counties as of April 15, 2015. WDVA will not require counties to provide any additional documentation that current CVSOs were hired in compliance with civil service or other requirements.

CVSOs hired after April 15, 2015, will be required to follow civil service procedures in the hiring of County Veterans Services Officers if the county wants to remain eligible for the annual CVSO grants. County executives, administrators, and administrative coordinators will be required to certify in writing to WDVA that their county has complied with the civil service hiring process when a new CVSO is hired.

Annual CVSO Grants: With regard to the CVSO hiring process, all counties will be eligible to receive their full 2015 grants under current law, though payment of the grants may be delayed until after enactment of the amendment that will retroactively exclude criteria under Wisconsin Statutes Chapters 59 and 63.

Beginning in 2016, the CVSO grants will be distributed to counties on a reimbursement basis. The following types of expenditures will be eligible for reimbursement:

- Information technology.
- Transportation for veterans and services to veterans with barriers.
- Special outreach to veterans.
- Training provided by the WDVA and USDVA for services to veterans.

Reimbursements will be made on a semi-annual basis. CVSOs will be required to provide documentation of the expenditures, but efforts will be made to minimize the administrative burden of this process. WDVA will develop administrative rules to implement these requirements.

Other Eligible Expenditures: For 2015, CVSO grants **may** be used to reimburse the cost of salaries and fringe benefits for employees. However, beginning with the 2016 grants, only **50 percent** of the grant amount may be used to reimburse salaries and benefits; in 2017, only **25 percent** of the grants may be used to reimburse salaries and benefits. After 2017, counties will be prohibited from using the CVSO grants for salaries and benefits.

Applicability: These requirements will apply to both County Veterans Service Officers and Tribal Veterans Service Officers.

WDVA and WCA appreciate the willingness of County Veterans Service Officers to provide input during the development of these new requirements. The work performed by CVSOs is very important to the men and women who have given of themselves for our state and our nation.

Further information will be forthcoming as the Legislature considers the Joint Committee on Finance's recommendations for the statutory changes outlined above.

Sincerely,



John A. Scocos
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs



Mark D. O'Connell
Executive Director
Wisconsin Counties Association

**FY14 Status of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA)
Expenditures in Dodge County, WI
(Based on Sep 2014 Population Information)**

Year	Veteran Population	Veterans Receiving C & P(1.)	C & P Expenditures	Education & Voc. Rehab	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients(2.)
FY13	6,900	855	\$11,207,000	\$1,495,000	\$297,000	\$14,913,000	\$1,723,000
FY14	7,084	924	\$13,210,000	\$1,577,000	\$391,000	\$14,380,000	\$1,720,000
Change	+184	+69	+\$2,003,000	+\$82,000	+\$94,000	-\$533,000	-\$3,000

NOTES:

1. C & P = Compensation and Pension
2. Unique Patients = Non-veterans (dependents, active duty, etc.) utilizing VA health care services
3. USDVA fiscal year runs from Oct 1 – Sep 30.
4. Does not include Home Loan Guaranty money which is granted through a single office for the country.

Year	Total VA Expenditures In Dodge County
FY13	\$27,912,000
FY14	\$29,558,000
Change	+\$1,646,000

Data extracted from:
FY13 and FY14 Compensation and Pension by County reports –
<http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Report.asp>

FY13 and FY14 Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) Reports –
<http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp>

FY14 Status of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Expenditures in Dodge County, WI

Year	Assistance for Needy Veterans Grant	WI GI Bill Tuition Remission (1)	Retraining Grant	Vet Ed Grant	Property Tax Credit (2)	CVSO Grant
FY13	\$781	(57 students) \$218,800	\$3,000	\$481	(87 eligible) \$256,998	\$13,000
FY14	\$4,060	(51 students) \$196,452	\$0	\$0	(98 eligible) \$289,492	\$13,000
Change	+\$3,279	-\$22,348	-\$3,000	-\$481	+\$32,494	\$0

NOTES:

1. Tuition Remission values are estimates based on equivalent full time, Wisconsin Technical College rate of \$128.40 per credit. Students could attend UW schools at a higher rate. No money is issued, only debt remitted.
2. Property Tax Credit values are estimates based on average property tax for Dodge County of \$2,954.00/year per single family home. Veterans receiving VA disability compensation at the 100% rate receive a full refund of their property tax from the state.

Year	Total Estimated WDVA Expenditures In Dodge County
FY13	\$493,060
FY14	\$503,004
Change	+\$9,944