

Veterans Service Commission
Minutes of Meeting August 18, 2015

The meeting of the Dodge County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) was called to order by Chairperson Caine at 9:40 a.m., August 18, 2015 in room 253 of the Dodge County Administration building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI.

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

Members absent: None

Others present: Andy Miller, Dodge County Veterans Service Officer & VSC Secretary

It was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2014 VSC meeting.

The new CVSO grant process was discussed along with measures that can be taken to ensure that Dodge County can continue to receive the full \$13,000 each year until it is no longer available. Miller described measures that he has taken to work with Human Service and Health to track and utilize the County Transportation Program as a means of getting reimbursement through the new grant policies. Caine suggested that a letter be drafted that can go to Mark Born, Keith Ripp, and John Jagler of the State Assembly; Scott Fitzgerald and Luther Olsen of the State Senate; and Mark O'Connell of the Wisconsin Counties Association. This letter will be drafted by Miller and approved/signed by VSC members outlining the need for this grant and the benefits of keeping veteran services at the local level.

The proposed VSC and VSO budgets were briefed by Miller, discussing difference between 2015 and 2016. VSC budget would increase by \$2,000 and VSO budget would decrease by \$28,000. After all questions that VSC members had were answered to their satisfaction, a motion was made and seconded to approve the VSC budget as proposed. It passed unanimously with a roll call vote. The budgeted amount is \$8,000 with no balance applied. The VSC was in unanimous support of the VSO budget.

Upon a motion made, seconded, and carried, the VSC convened in closed session at 10:29 a.m. for the purpose of review of personal, financial, and medical 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 VSC members). Caine asked about donation given to Gold Star Memorial. Miller pulled records which showed that money was given to the Gold Star Memorial in the name of the Veterans Service Commission, but through the donations of 4 individuals. No money came out of the VSC budget for the donation. Discussion was made regarding the creation of a policy for financial aid to veterans, all members were for such a policy. Miller will draft and get revision/approval from the commission. VSC members were given a sterilized copy of financial assistance without names/addresses for their records.

The VSC reconvened in open session at 11:00 a.m.

Inquiry was made by Caine if Patrouille wanted to remain on the VSC for another three year term. Patrouille would be honored to serve another term. Caine asked Miller to remind him a month prior to term expiration (December 1, 2015) to take care of reappointment.

Miller distributed a letter from Verliss Winnie thanking the VSC for the lift chair that was purchased for her.

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

Patrouille asked about whether the new law for Stolen Valor pertains to individuals that are no longer in and are improperly wearing the uniform. Miller informed him that unfortunately, there is no law against that, only wearing items that you have not earned or been awarded.

Johnson asked who the county purchases flags from, because he wants to see if they can get cheaper for City of Watertown cemeteries. Miller stated that he would get the company and price information to Johnson.

Caine stated that he would like to see copies of the expenditure reports created by Miller to be included as handouts for the County Board. Miller is going to check with County Clerk to see if there is a day when Annual Reports are due for the County Board, or if that can coincide with the release of data from the VA. Caine also requested that agenda item 12, "Public comment", be moved to item 3 in case there are any members of the public that want to make a statement but not stay for the duration of the meeting.

No public was present for comment.

VSC elections were held. Patrouille motioned to nominate Caine for Chairperson, seconded by Johnson. Voted unanimously and approved. Johnson motioned to nominate Patrouille for Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Caine. Voted unanimously and approved.

The VSC adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Miller

Dodge County Veterans Service Commission Secretary