

Veterans Service Commission
Minutes of Meeting August 24, 2016

The meeting of the Dodge County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) was called to order by Chairperson Caine at 8:58 a.m., August 24, 2016 in room 253 of the Dodge County Administration building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI.

Members present: Chairperson Chester Caine (Lowell), Vice-Chairperson 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 18, 2015 VSC meeting. Johnson stated a desire to discuss some items in the minutes later in the meeting.

Caine stated that he wished to remain on the VSC for another three year term. Miller stated that he would submit the memo to County Board Chairman Kottke around December 1, 2016 to take care of reappointment.

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

The proposed VSC and VSO budgets were discussed. VSC budget would stay the same and VSO budget would decrease by about \$400. Members asked about and discussed the grave flags and markers and their costs, as well as non-productive pay, and how something like lift chairs and wheel chairs were covered. Johnson mentioned that there is a storefront in King that says they can repair automated chairs. 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.

While specific communications were not printed, a discussion about services occurred after Miller summarized for the commission the positive and negative communications that have been received by the office.

Upon a motion made, seconded, and carried, the VSC convened in closed session at 9:33 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). Johnson asked if there were any veterans who continuously came in to seek aid. Miller stated that there were a few who did at the beginning of his hiring, but that they were informed that they couldn't use the VSC as a supplemental income. Miller also stated that any who are in dire straits are offered budget and financial counseling. Patrouille commented on and Miller confirmed that most of the veterans only seek help one time, or for one thing. Miller stated there are a few exceptions, but that is true for the most part. Commission members were given a redacted version for their reference to take with and the report with names and addresses was collected up by Miller at the end.

Upon a motion made, seconded, and carried, the VSC reconvened in open session at 9:48 a.m.

Miller briefed the new CVSO grant process and discussed how it has changed over the last year, 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.

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

A review and discussion was made of the rest of the material provided by Miller: Federal and State expenditure reports and new veteran letters and flyers. Johnson asked about how the Combat Veterans Court is working and if any feedback has been received. Miller stated that there have been three veterans who have been referred and mentored through the program since he came on board and has heard good things from each. Patrouille asked how the addresses were obtained for the mailings to new veterans. Miller informed the commission that a memo requesting them must be submitted to the VA with a listing of zip codes for getting the right locations.

Johnson stated that he still needed the company that the county uses for obtaining flags. Miller gave him the company name and will forward the company information to him.

Johnson handed out a letter from Yvonne Duesterhoeft, Jefferson CVSO, talking about the privatization of VA health care. He also handed out a mini-flyer for the Watertown Military Show. Miller informed Johnson that DAV would be interested in having their van at the show next year.

Johnson also requested that agenda item 14, "Public comment", be moved to the beginning in case there are any members of the public that want to make a statement but not stay for the duration of the meeting. He pointed out this was already discussed last year and was in the minutes. Miller stated he would ensure the next meeting would be corrected.

No public was present for comment.

Upon a motion made, seconded, and carried, the VSC adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Miller

Dodge County Veterans Service Commission Secretary