

Veterans Committee Minutes  
March 3, 2014 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Allen, Barrett, Lucia, Martin and Sausville; Ryan Moore, Deputy Administrator; Frank McClement, Veterans; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Craig Hayner, Kathy Pastore-Jordan, County Clerk.

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes of the February 10, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. McClement gave a brief update on the Veterans Office Operations for February 2014 as follows: The office processed 39 new claims, 28 of which were Medicaid, Nursing Home or Pension. Mr. McClement said Saratoga County is the only county in the area that has a direct referral system where when a Veteran or War Time Veterans widow enters into nursing home care and Medicaid covers the cost, most of the time they are eligible for a \$90 benefit in addition to the \$50 that they are able to keep from Social Security each month. Eighteen open claim follow up actions were conducted; there were fifteen new claim appointments; and twenty-one walk in clients. One Hundred and eleven Veterans were transported via the Veterans Van to the VA Hospital in the month of February.

Mr. McClement said the Veterans Hiring Conference will take place on March 12, 2014 at the Empire State College, in Saratoga Springs, between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. He said the following fifteen companies

have committed to participate in the program:

**Angio Dynamics** – Catheter Assembly

**Ballston Spa National Bank** – Tellers

**ESPEY Manufacturing** – Electrical Engineer, B Tester, Electronics Technician

**Fidelis Care** – Benefit Enroller

**Insurance Agency Group of New York, LLC** – Insurance Agent

**Janitronics** – Cleaners

**Millwood, Inc.** – Pallet Repair

**Saint-Gobain** – Production Operator, Process Engineer

**Saratoga County** – Information on upcoming exams and job openings

**Upstate Transit of Saratoga** – Mechanics, Drivers and Garage Supervisor

**Zayachek Companies** – Welders

**Global Foundries** – Positions TBA

**Logistics One** – CDL Drivers (local driving positions available)

**The Fresh Market** – Assistant Deli Specialist, Cashiers, Meat Cutter and more

Mr. McClement said the purpose of the conference is to give each Veteran attending an interview with one of the companies

Mr. McClement said the next Veterans Outreach Program will be conducted on March 25, 2014 in the Town of Waterford.

Mr. McClement said there wasn't any activity for the month of February with regard to the Veterans Trust Fund. The current balance in the fund is \$15,222.05.

Mr. McClement said the February Honor a Deceased Veteran Ceremony was a success with the honoring of Joseph Kalinkewicz, a WWII Veteran from the town of Galway. The March Deceased Honor's Ceremony will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup>, honoring Ralph Stacey from the Town of Greenfield.

An updated "Honor a Deceased Veteran" schedule was distributed to all Supervisors.

Mr. Hayner said in October of 2013 the State Legislature and Governor signed into law that Veterans could have recognition of their military service and honorable discharge added to their driver's license. He said one of the unintended consequences of that is that they did not write into the law that the fee would be waived, should a Veteran want to have their license renewed before their normal time. Currently, DMV is charging \$12.50 to a Veteran who comes in and wants to renew their license and add the icon before the normal renewal date.

The County Clerk's Association has passed a position statement, recognizing that this is wrong that Veterans, who have given so much, are being charged this fee. At the County Clerk's level the way it has always been done is to waive any fees associated with any DD214's that are issued or submitted for.

Mr. Wright said he requested that the County Attorney draft a resolution of support to be forwarded to the committee for their approval.

Mr. Dorsey said there are four bills that are competing in the Assembly and Senate to address this problem. When the law was passed last year it stated that there should be no fees charged for the issuance of a driver's license, renewal of a driver's license or an identification card with the Veteran's notation on it.

Mr. Dorsey said a bill has been introduced by Senator Marchione in the Senate, S-05961 and a similar bill in the Assembly A-08254 introduced by Assemblyman Walter from Western New York.

Mr. Dorsey suggested passing a resolution urging the passing of these two bills and urging the Governor to sign them into law.

**A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Lucia to approve a resolution in support of Senate Bill S-05961 and Assembly Bill A-08254 and requesting the Governor to sign it into law. Unanimous.**

Mr. Wright said at the Board Meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce will be speaking about a Veterans Program they are working on.

Mr. Wright said Supervisor Martin had some questions about the signage to the National cemetery. Mr. Manz has traveled the route and has come up with some signage to put on the county roads, working with the State DOT and local engineer to come up with more signage to better post the route to the cemetery.

Mr. Wright said the Inter-county Legislative Meeting of the Adirondacks is meeting this month in Saratoga County at the Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. All Supervisors are invited to attend and should let the Clerk of the Board know ahead of time. Lunch will be provided at the Racino after the meeting and tour of the Museum. The meeting will take place on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Barrett said several months ago the Legislature passed legislation and the Governor signed it, allowing Veterans to receive a reduction on their school taxes. He said this is nothing that comes from the town; it is something that comes from the school boards, where they have to authorize this.

Mr. McClement said his office has received quite a few inquiries regarding the reduction in school taxes for Veterans. He said the Legislation would mirror the property tax exemptions that are offered on the town and county level for Veterans, but would be done at the individual school district level. The legislation did not offer funding, so the individual school district would have to do an impact assessment, he said.

**On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Martin the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom