

Veterans' Committee Minutes
September 10, 2012 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Rowland, Kinowski, Lucia, Hargrave, Wright, Richardson, Yepsen and Southworth; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Andrew Davis, Veterans' Director; Press.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes of the July 2, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Davis said there are 16,437 Veterans residing in Saratoga County with approximately 36 Veterans annually that ride the Veterans Van and 114 which are recurring riders accounting for less than 1% of the Saratoga County Veterans population being served.

After a 22 month analysis of the van transportation, it was determined that the heaviest days of ridership were Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Mr. Davis proposed a reduction in service from five days to three days weekly. He said this would be done with significant notice to current ridership and with notification on the county website, department Facebook page and with notification to the Albany-Stratton Veterans Medical Center, with a proposed start date of November 1, 2012.

Mr. Davis said the van averages 11 mpg traveling to and from the VA Hospital. While transporting any variation of riders between one and ten, the mileage per day and cost per day is the same. With changing to three days per week it is anticipated that the van will be at full capacity with 10 riders every travel day making the service more cost effective.

With limiting van transportation to three days a week, it is projected that the cost savings will be approximately \$19,095 annually.

Mr. Davis said currently the Van is serving 0.20% - 1% of the Veterans population, yet costing more than any other single function in his department.

Mr. Davis requested committee approval to reduce the number of days per week that the Veterans Van operates, from five to three, beginning November 1, 2012.

A motion was made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve reducing the use of the Veterans Van from five days a week to three days a week, which would include Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, beginning November 1, 2012. Unanimous.

Mr. Davis said they have had a number of people stating that they would like to run in the Revolutionary Run for Veterans, but many have not actually signed up. He is encouraging all supervisors to get the word out about the run and to encourage people to sign up for the race so they can move forward in ordering T-shirts. He said that the majority of the \$30 registration

fee will be put into the Veterans' Trust Fund for Veterans. The current balance in the fund is \$1,476.

Mr. Moore said that he is still waiting for information from the Department of Transportation about the signage for the Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Richardson thanked all those who helped to make the August 11th event in Mechanicville honoring 51 people who were killed in action from Mechanicville a success. He said it was a great event and was well received by the community.

Mr. Kinowski said the 656th Radar Squadron, located at the Saratoga Springs AFS in Stillwater, held their first reunion at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, with membership of 1,300+. The Radar Squadron opened in 1952 and closed in 1977. The 656th mission was initially a Ground Control Intercept and warning Station charged with guiding interceptor aircraft toward any unidentified intruders. The group will be visiting many areas in Saratoga County, he said.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom