

Veterans' Committee Minutes
July 9, 2013 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Collyer, Hargrave, Lucia, Richardson, Southworth, Grattidge, Sausville, and Yepsen; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Lisa Scaccia, Employment and Training; Felipe Moon, Veterans Director; Commander Vince Garcia, Commanding Officer Naval Support Activity, Saratoga Springs.

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the June 3, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Johnson introduced Commander Vince Garcia, Commanding Officer of the Naval Support Activity unit in Saratoga Springs.

Commander Garcia said his mission in Saratoga Springs is to support roughly 2,000 nuclear trained enlisted and/or officers that are training to be the next operators of nuclear power plants aboard submarines and air craft carriers. Mr. Garcia said the Saratoga Springs area contributes to training 75% of the nuclear fleet. He said the only other place that trains nuclear power sailors and officers is Charleston, SC.

Mr. Moon said he spoke to Mr. Garcia about the possibility of having him and his troops to a Deceased Veterans Ceremony, upon request, to support the program. Mr. Garcia said that the troops want to be in uniform amongst the communities, and would be very receptive.

Mrs. Johnson said the committee would keep that in mind for future events.

Mr. Moon distributed his monthly executive summary from the Veterans Office to all committee members for their review.

Mr. Moon said he has meet with the task force which included Ms. Scaccia from Employment and Training, along with the Saratoga and Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce to review the surveys, and come up with the resources to help 44 Veterans. Mr. Moon said he is going to put together a power point presentation that he will share with the task force and then he will present it to the Veterans Committee.

Mr. Moon said he received an email from District Attorney, James Murphy with regard to the Veterans Justice Outreach and his support of the program.

Mr. Moon said a course of action has been developed in case a Veteran is picked up by law enforcement, and he or she has only had one offense, they can take advantage of the resources

from Vet Help, Guardian House, DA and the Peer to Peer Program. All parties involved would come together to figure out who the person is and what their background is.

Mr. Moon said they have had four practical exercises on this, where they have been able to do the research and analysis, and the District Attorney's office is working with the Magistrates Association to move the program forward. Mr. Moon said he would keep the committee informed as progress is made.

Mr. Moon requested committee approval for the Saratoga County Veterans Benefits Outreach Initiative. He said Mr. McClement, the primary Veterans Service Officer, would be deployed into the rural and urban areas of the county. Mr. Moon said the Disabled American Veterans has a van that goes out to Disabled Veterans as well, but not in Saratoga County.

Mr. Moon said the proposal would be to go out one day per month doing a rotation of four designated towns that have been selected. He said more towns could be added if requested by a Supervisor.

Mr. Moon outlined the Schedule as follows:

8:00 a.m. The van will depart Ballston Spa

9:00 a.m. Veterans Benefits Briefing

10:00 a.m. If there are no Veterans for the briefing, the service will be open to Walk in's. He said the plan will be communicated via Supervisors, American Legion, newspaper and social media.

11:30 a.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Appointments

4:00 – The van returns to Ballston Spa

Mr. Moon said currently the four towns that have been selected for the rotation are: Corinth, Waterford, Clifton Park, and Schuylerville. At each of these locations the van will be stopping at the Town Hall.

Mr. Hargrave expressed his concerns that Galway was not a part of the van rotation. Mr. Moon said he would set up a five month rotation which would include the Town of Galway.

Mrs. Johnson said the towns that have been selected would be notified to ensure that they have space and are agreeable to having the van come to the town hall.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lucia to approve a five month rotation for the use of a county van for the Saratoga County Veterans Benefits Outreach Initiative at a cost of \$1,020. Unanimous. (Committee approval only)

Mr. Moore said he spoke to Assemblyman McDonald's office and they have assured him that both the Assembly and Senate have passed the bill for the highway designation. Mr. Moore

requested committee approval to provide the Governor and legislators with a copy of the county Resolution in favor of the bill's passage.

Mrs. Johnson said there was one change from last month's Veterans Trust Fund report, which was a \$500 disbursement for a Veteran, which would leave a balance in the Trust Fund of \$4,958.55.

Mr. Moon said his office is beginning a campaign to raise money for the Veterans Trust Fund by reaching out to the Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce along with the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce who is going to assist in the 5K run.

Mrs. Johnson said she has been in discussions with Mr. Moon regarding the Deceased Veterans Program adding living Veterans as well as Deceased Veterans to the program. Discussions have taken place with regard to who should do the search for the Veteran, whether it should be the Veterans Agency or the Town, and what are the criteria that will be used in the selection of a Veteran. Mrs. Johnson said a deadline needs to be established as to when the information has to be submitted to the Veterans Agency. She said she would have a copy of what she has discussed with Mr. Moon distributed to each committee member for their review, with anticipation of having this in place by the end of the year.

Mr. Richardson thanked Mrs. Johnson and the committee for their efforts in putting on the Ceremony at the Saratoga National Cemetery honoring Marine Lance Corporal Anthony J. Denier.

On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Collyer the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom