

Veterans' Committee Minutes
September 9, 2013 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Collyer, Hargrave, Kinowski, Lucia, Richardson, Southworth, Wood, Grattidge, and Sausville; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Felipe Moon, Director of Veterans Services; Lisa Scaccia, Employment and Training; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Bob Mitchell, Resident; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the August 5, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Moon gave a brief overview of the Veterans Executive Summary Report.

Mrs. Scaccia said that Mr. Perkins, Veterans Counselor from the Department of Labor, has taken a promotion. Mrs. Scaccia said her office would have coverage for Veterans on Monday, with Mr. Ruggerio from the Queensbury Office and on Wednesday with Mr. Wells, from the Washington County Office. Mrs. Scaccia said any of the county Employment and Training Counselors are always available to see Veterans as well.

Mrs. Scaccia said the Employment and Training office will be participating in the Town of Malta job fair, servicing Veterans as well as job seekers in general.

Mr. Moore said Assemblyman McDonald's office will be keeping the County informed with information on the bill drafting for the renaming of the Highway.

Mrs. Johnson said that the Veterans Trust Fund balance remains steady.

Mrs. Johnson said that a proposal to change the Honor a Deceased Veterans Program was brought to the committee approximately two months ago. She said the changes that are being proposed is to change the name from "Honor Deceased Veterans" to "Honor Our Veterans"; and the other change was to include Deceased or Living Veterans in the language.

Mr. Lucia said he is in favor of keeping the Deceased Veterans Program as is. He said by making the proposed changes it would take away from the original intent.

Mrs. Johnson said she didn't really understand how allowing living veterans to be honored would cause families to argue with each other. I don't think it is fair if a town doesn't have a Deceased Veteran, that they would be eliminated from participating in the county program.

Mrs. Southworth said that everyone has done a lot of good things with organizations and when you try to honor one person over the other there tends to be issues. She said that Veterans in

her town came to her stating that they wanted the program to remain the same, only honoring the Deceased Veteran.

Mr. Kinowski said to allow those townships who don't have a Deceased Veteran to honor a living Veteran; it would make it fair for all towns to participate in the program.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve a change to the Honor a Deceased Veterans Program that would allow living Veterans to be honored. Roll call was taken: Mrs. Johnson, Yes; Mr. Collyer, No; Mr. Hargrave, No; Mr. Kinowski, Yes; Mr. Lucia, No; Mr. Richardson, Yes; Mrs. Southworth, No; motion failed.

Mrs. Johnson said the Commemorative Partners Program was given out by Supervisor Yepsen at last month's meeting with a copy forwarded to all committee members for their review. The program is run out of Washington, D.C., with a request to join the program for three years. The guidelines are already in place so when you want to do something for Vietnam Veterans you send what you want to do and it is then reviewed for approval or disapproval, with a follow up to make sure that everything is done as stated. A request can be made at any time if the guidelines are not followed, she said.

Mrs. Southworth asked what the advantage would be to the county to be in the program. Mrs. Johnson said she didn't see any advantage. She said that Saratoga County does a good job honoring all Veterans.

Mr. Grattidge said NYSAC is holding their Fall Conference in Saratoga Springs September 25th through 27th. They have asked the Chairman if he would name a Not for Profit organization to benefit. Mr. Grattidge said he has named the Saratoga County Veterans Trust Fund to be the beneficiary.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom