

## Veterans' Committee Minutes

October 14, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors Jenkins, Lucia, Raymond, Sausville, and Wright; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mike Lynette; Budd Mazurek.

Mr. Barrett called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Jenkins the minutes of the September 9, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Ms. Yepsen said it has come to her attention that there is a lack of temporary shelters, exclusively for homeless female veterans. In fact, there is only one such facility in New York State right now, in Avon New York. In most cases, the homeless females seek temporary housing at homeless shelters or in some cases, hotels.

Ms. Yepsen said a committee that was established in June of this year in support of this project is currently looking for a home to house Iraqi Female Veterans. The Veterans' hospital has indicated that there are approximately a dozen females in our region, 1/3 of them with children.

The Saratoga County Rural Preservation Company that currently exists with the men's home in Ballston Spa is going to partner with this project. A real estate agent has been contracted to work in finding a home, ideally, in the Ballston Spa area near the men's home in order to share the staff and programs.

Ms. Yepsen said the county could be very proud of this if they were to move this forward and be a roll model for other states or communities within the state. The idea would be to set up a real home, a transition arrangement, considered a place to get back on track and back into the employment market once again. Handouts were distributed to all committee members with regard to the Homeless Female Veterans Transitory Housing Project being proposed.

Ms. Raymond asked who funds the current program? Mr. Mazurek said there are several funding sources, however, the County is not one of them.

Ms. Raymond asked what it costs to operate the current shelter for a year? Mr. Mazurek said approximately \$150,000/yr. after revenues.

Ms. Yepsen said a business plan is currently being established. There are grants that are currently being worked on along with a fundraiser on November 10<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fifty South Restaurant.

Mr. Barrett said the Veteran's committee would have a letter of support for the project by the end of the week to be attached to the invitation for the fundraiser on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Barrett suggested having a day specifically to celebrate World War II Veterans'. The committee supported the idea and agreed to contact the Veterans' Director, Mr. Mitchell about the planning of the event.

Ms. Raymond said Mr. Johnson, the incoming Chairman for 2009, should be consulted as well.

Mr. Barrett said he received a letter from the VFW post in the county with regard to more signage for the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery. After speaking to Mr. Ritchey, he has asked for a directive from the Veterans' Committee.

Ms. Raymond said there was a specific route that was voted on. She suggested that Public Works take an inventory of the existing signs along the route and report back to the committee with their recommendations for additional signage.

**A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Sausville to authorize Mr. Ritchey to take inventory of the existing signage along the designated route to the national cemetery and make further recommendations to the committee. Unanimous.**

Ms. Ciulla said a new flag pole was donated to the county from American Legion Post 234. A dedication is currently being worked on for either November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. or November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. There will be a dedication stone engraved. A price quote has been received from LaBrake Memorials for \$975.

**A motion was made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Lucia to approve the purchase and engraving of a dedication stone for the new flagpole to be placed in the front of the County Complex. Unanimous.**

Mr. Barrett said a letter will be distributed to all Supervisors as soon as a final date has been approved.

**On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Wright the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom