

Veterans Committee Minutes
May 4, 2015 - 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kinowski; Supervisors Tollisen, Allen, Barrett, Jenkins, Lucia and Collyer; Frank McClement, Veterans Director.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Tollisen the minutes of the March 2, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. McClement presented the following summary report to the committee:

1. Veterans Service Officer Summary Report

- a. Thirty-five new claims assembled and submitted for March and April
- b. Conducted 61 scheduled appointments
- c. Walk-in clients 32
- d. DSS referrals -12

2. Veterans Outreach Events

- a. 3/5 - Presentation SAIL
- b. 3/23 - Transition Assistance Program - NAVY Site
- c. 4/1 - Interagency Awareness Day, Saratoga Springs City Center
- d. 4/9 - Yellow Ribbon Day
- e. 4/15 - American Legion National Commander Dinner
- f. 4/20 - Transition Assistance Program - NAVY Site

3. Saratoga County Veterans Transportation

- a. Van Transportation provided 317 rides for March and April
- b. New van scheduled into service this month

4. Veterans Trust Fund

- a. Balance on hand of \$29,408.09
- b. Application consideration
 - 1. Clarence Seeley

5. Peer to Peer Summary

- a. Funding continued for NYS thanks to Senator Marchione
- b. May 13th - NYS Jail Educators Conference
- c. Family day - June 20th
- d. Saratoga County Vets and Pets - Starting this month

6. Honor our Deceased Veterans

- a. April - Thomas Jourdanaise Jr. - Town of Waterford
- b. May - Dante Orsini - Town of Moreau
- c. June - Stephen Krondat - Town of Providence

Mr. McClement said there is an application to the Trust Fund from a Veteran that was referred by the County Employment and Training. The individual is a service connected disabled Veteran who is living with his brother and currently unemployed. He has an opportunity for a job and is in need of obtaining fingerprinting which is referred to as a Twix card where there is a business in Albany that will do the fingerprinting and background check at a cost of \$273. Mr. McClement said this is a good use of the funds and is what the fund is designed to do.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Collyer to approve a Trust Fund request for \$273 to help a disabled Veteran obtain fingerprinting and a background check for a job opportunity. Unanimous.

Mr. McClement requested approval to have a New Van Ribbon Cutting to take place on May 19th at 1:30p.m., before the Deceased Veterans Ceremony. The committee approved.

Mr. McClement said the Veterans Office has been reaching out to different band organizations with one solid contact that was received from Master Sargent Johnson from the United States Air Force Heritage Band. He said they have several configurations and most certainly could do the traditional concert that has been done in the past, but a conversation that came up was that they offer a popular music group. He said they are looking to put a tour together in the area in the fall. A suggestion was made to have the United States Air Force Rock Band at the City Center in Saratoga Springs to do a concert and for refreshments put together a tasting from Saratoga County in the lobby, and in one of the adjacent conference rooms a Veterans Information Booth. The event would be open to the public with a focus toward assisting Veterans and their families.

Mr. McClement said another possible piece through the Peer to Peer Program would be to have a speaker before the band concert. He said there was a Navy Seal that spoke at an event in Saratoga Springs and is now an author, and does a lot of public and motivational speaking. There are also a couple of other Veterans from recent conflicts that do the same thing and the thought was to possibly engage one of those individuals as well. The cost of the event would be underwritten by the Peer to Peer Grant.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Collyer to approve recommending the City Center as the Venue for a Veterans Concert in the fall of 2015. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom