

Veterans Committee Minutes
July 8, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members Ed Kinowski, Dick Lucia, Dan Pemrick, Sandra Winney, Mo Wright, Supervisor Phil Barrett; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Frank McClement, Veterans.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Lucia, the minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. McClement distributed his Veterans Office operations summary report for the months of May and June and gave a brief overview. The number of appointments for June was down slightly due to the fact that Mr. McClement and Mr. Mosseau were out of town at a conference. Mr. McClement said that being an accredited service office enables them to go to the Board of Veterans Appeals with claims. Beyond that, an attorney is needed. They recently had a hearing last month via teleconference and won the appeal for the individual. This appeal awarded back payments over \$70K to the individual. Mr. McClement gave credit to Mr. Mosseau for handling this particular appeal. Some events that the Veterans Office participated in included the Senior Luncheon, Year of the Senior Carnival, Transition Assistance Program, Quarterly VSO Conference in Albany, and Spectrum News In Focus.

Mr. McClement and Mr. Mosseau recently completed the accreditation course at the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers conference which provided national accreditation which will also provide other cross accreditations.

The office also participated in the DEC Tree Nursery Dedication. The nursery was originally founded by a civil war veteran Colonel Fox.

The Trust fund currently has a balance on hand of \$68,553.14. Mr. McClement said that they are planning to look into getting more access to the funds through partnerships with programs such as Rebuilding Together whereby funds can be provided towards home repairs.

The Peer to Peer group continue to meet on Tuesday nights at Coffee Traders. Other events included a fly fishing class and mental health first aid training. The 100 day challenge ended and a celebration was held for the final meeting. T-shirts and certificates were handed out. Mr. McClement said that a meeting is scheduled for next week to go over the program. 13 Veterans completed the program, they started with 15, 3 dropped out due to injuries and one was replaced with a new participant. There were multiple participants with 20+lbs of weight loss. A detailed report on the program will be provided in the future and decisions can be made regarding follow up programs such as hikes, etc.

Mr. McClement said that they have names for the July and August Honor Deceased Veterans event and are in the process of confirming the September honoree.

Mr. Richardson said that the honor the deceased veterans boards in the committee room have been updated and thanked the staff of the Board of Supervisors for their work on that.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board