

Veterans Committee Minutes
October 7, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members Preston Allen, Ed Kinowski, Dan Pemrick, Mo Wright, Supervisor Tara Gaston; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Frank McClement, Veterans; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. McClement distributed the monthly Veterans committee report for September. Mr. McClement said that they had 21 walk in clients for the month of September. Now that they have been in the new location for two years, people are well acquainted with where they are located. They participated in several events in September. One was a press conference for the new Veterans jail pod. Mr. McClement said that they have doing the Incarcerated Veterans Program in partnership with the Sheriff's Department, VA, and Veterans Community Housing Coalition for a few years now. Mr. McClement said that they will be providing some training to the Sheriff's Department on benefits in service training for veterans and a class on discharge upgrades. Mr. McClement said that they participated in a 9/11 ceremony in the Town of Halfmoon. Mr. McClement attended the NYS Division of Veterans Services conference in Syracuse. The Van provided 110 rides for the month of September. The Veterans Trust Fund has a balance on hand of \$74,200.93. This figure includes a recent donation from the Town of Greenfield Golf Tournament and a yard sale in the Town of Halfmoon. Mr. McClement said that Amy Hughes is out of the office for the next two months to take care of her newborn grandchild in Texas. The office has an intern who has been a peer mentor for the past few years. She is running the Tuesday coffee nights and covering some of Amy's duties while she is out. A suicide coalition event was held on 9/13.

Mr. McClement said that the upcoming Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremonies are as follows:

October – Town of Northumberland – John Martin - KIA Korea

November – Town of Milton – Floyd Mabb - WWII

December – Town of Day – Hugh Sonner - WWII

Mr. McClement said that they will be sending out a schedule for 2020.

Mr. McClement said that the run will be held at Fort Hardy Park in Schuylerville on November 2nd at 10am. All Supervisors are welcome to attend. Welcoming ceremonies will begin around 9:30am.

Mr. Richardson said that Supervisor Gaston has brought forward a draft resolution from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. Ms. Gaston said that there is a lot of work involved in being a veteran's spouse caregiver. The Elizabeth Dole foundation was created specifically to assist veterans spouse caregivers. The foundation does a lot of research, provide funding and assistance. The foundation is working on funding research into veterans spouse caregivers and their mental health and suicide

rates, which will allow the County to obtain more funding to help support not only the veterans but their family. Ms. Gaston said that passing the resolution would be another way for Saratoga County to show their support for veterans. The resolution provided is a template and can be changed. Mr. McClement said that he will have the draft resolution sent out to the committee members for review. Mr. Richardson said that this resolution will also be reviewed by the County Administrator's office and the County Attorney's office.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board