

Veterans Committee Minutes  
March 1, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members Preston Allen, Jack Lawler, Mo Wright, Benny Zlotnick; Supervisor Matt Veitch; Steve Bulger, Brian O’Conor, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Hugh Burke, County Attorney; Frank McClement, Veterans; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. McClement gave a brief overview of the Veterans Office Report which was distributed with the agenda. The office has been actively taking advantage of training throughout COVID. There have been a lot of virtual training opportunities. At the moment they have one part time driver on call Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Trust Fund has a balance on hand of \$95,860.18. Coffee night is currently being held virtually and they have started some nutrition and fitness classes also.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Wright, to authorize funding of the 2021 Veterans Peer Connection Program in the amount of \$82,513 for the remainder of the programs current 2021 budget cycle. Unanimous.**

Mr. McClement said that the PFC Joe Dwyer Peer Program is funded through the New York State Senate. Saratoga County was one of the four original pilot counties, and historically, has received funding every year. None of the funding allocated in last years State budget has been received to date and at this point, the program is out of funding. The budget was adopted based upon the anticipated State revenue, which has not been received this year. Mr. McClement said that he has been working with Senator Jordan’s office who has been working to get updates. Mr. Wright asked what the total funding amount is for 2021 for the complete Joseph Dwyer Program. Mr. McClement said \$4.5M. Mr. McClement said that there are approximately 250 active participants in Saratoga County. Mr. McClement said that \$95,600 was budgeted for 2021 for this program, there was some funding carried over from previous year’s funding, therefore the shortfall is currently \$82,513 to fund the program to the end of 2021.

Mr. Veitch brought forth a proposal to create a new grant program for County municipalities in support of Veterans initiatives. The idea came forward due to the fact that the City cut their budget to supply the Memorial Day flags for Veterans’ graves. The funds could potentially be used to put toward a parade, or flags, something that could help each community out at a certain level. Mr. Lawler suggested that Mr. Richardson appoint a sub-committee to come up with a formula, methodology on how funding should be allocated and how much funding should be proposed. Mr. Richardson appointed Supervisors Lawler, Wright and Allen to the sub-committee and suggested coming back to the committee with recommendations. Mr. Wright said that with Memorial day coming up soon, this decision needs to be made by April at the latest. Mr. Lawler suggested perhaps using a method similar to the Economic Development program where each community

fills out a form, and they come back to the committee for approval. Mr. Lawler also suggested that this could also be a matching funds program. Mr. McClement said that he will gather information to share with the sub-committee. Mr. Richardson said that it may be possible to hold a special committee meeting in order to get this item on the March Board meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board