

Veterans Committee Minutes  
March 8, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members Preston Allen, Ed Kinowski, Dan Pemrick, Mo Wright, Benny Zlotnick; Steve Bulger, Matt Rose, Brian O’Conor, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Hugh Burke, County Attorney; Frank McClement, Veterans.

Vice Chairman Zlotnick called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Chairman Richardson is with us remotely and has asked Mr. Zlotnick to run today’s meeting.

Mr. Zlotnick said there was a subcommittee appointed to discuss the proposed grant program to Honor Veterans. He asked Mr. Wright to present a summary.

Mr. Wright said that he, Supervisor Allen, Supervisor Lawler, and County Administrator Bulger had a conference call to discuss a grant program. They vetted many ideas and thought the best option would be to come up with a grant program similar to the Economic Development Grant Program. A Town could spend the money for a Veteran's event, multiple Veterans events or something to do with Veterans in the year 2021. The County would reimburse the Town/City after they completed a short application. The Program would be worked through the Veterans Services Office and through this Committee to approve the grants. At first, they talked about doing a matching grant. They discovered that there could be problems with some Towns not having the money in this year’s budgets as the budgets are already done. The suggestion was to put a limit of up to \$5,000 per Town or City for the year of 2021. He said he knew the City of Saratoga Springs wanted to buy flags for a cemetery. Some Towns may want to do a Veteran's Memorial. The subcommittee did not want to limit the options. There was discussion on limiting it strictly to Memorial Day festivities; however, some of Towns do not have the time or the ability to do this between now and Memorial Day. The Subcommittee thought if given the whole year, then Towns/Cities could decide if they want to do something for Flag Day or Veterans Day, any anything. The County would reimburse them up to \$5,000. The \$5,000 number was put out there and could be up for debate on what other Supervisors want to do. The Committee wanted to get something on the agenda for Law and Finance. The Subcommittee's recommendation is to set up this grant program to mirror the Economic Development Grant Program with a limit of up to \$5,000 per Town/City.

Mr. Zlotnick thanked Mr. Wright and asked if any Supervisor on the phone had any questions or comments.

Mr. Kinowski asked if this was new money. He asked what the impact on the budget was. Mr. Zlotnick said it was new money and the program could be \$105,000 if each town/city used all of the \$5,000. Mr. Wright said it could come out of fund balance and confirmed it was new money.

Mr. Kinowski said everything should be succinct. Mr. Wright said this grant program would be anything to do with Veterans. It does not have to be an event. As long as it is a project about

Veterans. A Supervisor may choose to work with their American Legion or VFW. Mr. Kinowski said this is a good venture and thanked the subcommittee for their suggestions.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, to authorize up to \$5,000 grant for each town and the cities with a similar application to the Economic Development grant. Unanimous.**

Mr. Zlotnick said there was one item under other business that Mr. McClement wanted to present.

Mr. McClement said his office had been notified that the State funds for the Peer to Peer Program have been released. He said the County has been made whole by the monies that were passed in last year's State budget cycle and should have funding through the end of calendar year 2021. Because of this notice, he would like to postpone the proposed resolution that was passed at the Veterans Committee this month.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, to postpone the resolution request approved for this month regarding the Peer to Peer Funding. Unanimous.**

Mr. Richardson thanked Mr. Zlotnick for running the meeting for him.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Wright  
Clerk of the Board