

Veterans' Affairs Transcript 3/8/2021

SPEAKERS

Ed Kinowski, Mo Wright, Benny Zlotnick, Frank McClement, Several Supervisors, Tom Richardson

Benny Zlotnick

Okay, good afternoon. Welcome, everyone to this special meeting on March 8, the Veterans Affairs Committee. We've taken attendance and we do have a quorum. Chairman Richardson is with us remotely and he's asked me to take over the meeting for today, so I'll do that for him today. Item number two is the proposed grant to honor our veterans through the County. We had a subcommittee on that. Mo, do you want to give us a little report on that if you can?

Mo Wright

Oh, sure. I know Jack Lawler was kind of in charge. Obviously, Jack's not on the phone? All right. Yeah, we had, I believe Monday afternoon, myself, Supervisor Allen, Supervisor, Lawler and County Administrator Bulger had a conference call and discuss this grant program. What vetted it a lot of stuff back and forth, we thought the best option would be to come up with a grant program similar to the Economic Development grant program, where a Town can spend the money on a veteran's event or multiple veterans events or something to do with veterans in the year 2021. And the County would reimburse them back after they fill out a small application, work through the Veterans Services Office and through this Committee to approve the grants. But we batted around some numbers. At first, we talked about doing a matching grant. But we discovered that there could be some problems with some Towns not having the money in their budgets already, because the budgets already done. So what we had suggested at the time was to put a limit of up to \$5,000 per Town or City for the year 2021. For either an event for veterans or events for veterans or anything to do with veterans. I know Saratoga Springs wanted to buy flags for the cemetery. Some people may want to do a Veteran's Memorial. We didn't really want to just limit it to, I know we discussed limiting it strictly to Memorial Day festivities. But a lot of Towns don't have the Town or the ability to get something done between now and Memorial Day. So we thought we'd give them the whole year, if they want to do something for Flag Day, for Veterans Day, anything. Any veterans event or something for veterans in year 2021, the County would reimburse them back up to \$5,000. The \$5,000 was a number we just put out there that can be, that's up for debate, what other Supervisors want to do. We just wanted to get something to put on the agenda for Law and Finance. That's why I believe why we requested to have this meeting today so that we could come up with something and Towns would at least know that they have money coming up if they do want to do it for Memorial Day or whatever, they can start planning that process. So I would say at this point, the subcommittee's recommendation is to set up this grant program to mirror the Economic Development grant program with a limit of \$5,000, up to \$5,000 per Town and City. Thank you.

Benny Zlotnick

Thank you Supervisor Wright. Anyone on the phone have any additional comments?

Ed Kinowski

Benny this is Ed Kinowski, total impact to the budget? This is new money, correct?

Mo Wright

That is correct. That would be coming out of fund balance. And I would say if every Town and City uses their whole \$5,000 the budget impact is going to be right around \$100,000. Is that correct?

Benny Zlotnick

\$105,000, if every Town was to use their \$5,000.

Ed Kinowski

Thank you

Benny Zlotnick

Anyone else? Okay, so do we need a motion to move this along? Or a resolution? What do we do here to get that to you guys, Law and Finance?

Tom Richardson

I'll make a motion.

Benny Zlotnick

Oh, I'm sorry. Who is that?

Tom Richardson

It's Tommy. I'll make a motion is Tommy.

Benny Zlotnick

Okay. So the motion would, so just let me get started here. Tom, the motion would be then to pass along this idea of a \$5,000 grant, up to \$5,000 for each town with a similar application like the Economic Development Grant was last year. Are you okay with that wording, Tom?

Tom Richardson

Yes, that's great.

Benny Zlotnick

Can I get a second?

Ed Kinowski

I'll second the motion, Ed Kinowski. And that the intro to the grant Tom or Benny, needs to be pretty succinct, then I would think on how we're going to introduce this is as veteran's program. It's for all Veterans Program reports?

Mo Wright

We had discussed anything to do with veterans. So it doesn't necessarily have to be an event. If you have a Town project that has anything to do with veterans, you could do it, use it to work with your, in conjunction with your VFWs or American Legions or something. That's going to be entirely up to the Towns and the City. I mean, it's similar to the Economic Development. Everybody, every Town, is going to have a different idea for this. And our idea was as long as it pertained to veterans, that would be an acceptable use of the money.

Ed Kinowski

Also so the intro is flexible enough written resolution to bring this before the Board. That was my only concern that the expression of it fulfilling enough for everybody to vote for this good venture, quite frankly. Thanks Tom, for bringing it up.

Benny Zlotnick

Okay, so, all in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Benny Zlotnick

Any nays? Hearing none, motion passes. Thank you, gentlemen.

Benny Zlotnick

Benny thank you.

Benny Zlotnick

Yep. Hang on just a second. We got one more, something under other business here. Frank, if you would, please?

Frank McClement

Thank you, Supervisor just speaking with Chairman Richardson last week and our County Administrator, we've been notified at the late hour that our State funds for the Peer to Peer program have been released. So we have been made whole by the monies that were passed in last year's State budget cycle. So we should be covered through the end of calendar year 2021. And therefore, as a result, we would be able to postpone the proposed resolution that was passed here at the Veterans Committee last Monday. So we're asking the Committee to postpone that resolution and not table it just in case we need to bring it back later on. Should there be any other issues with that funding stream but we are asking to postpone? Because at this time, we believe we may not need it.

Mo Wright

I will move the postpone on that resolution. Mr. Chairman.

Benny Zlotnick

Thank you.

Ed Kinowski

I'll second it.

Benny Zlotnick

Supervisor Kinowski with the second. Any further discussion on this? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Benny Zlotnick

All opposed? Hearing none motion carries. Thank you, gentlemen. Did anyone have anything else?

Mo Wright

Motion to adjourn.

Tom Richardson

Second

Benny Zlotnick

All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye

Benny Zlotnick

Thank you all.

Tom Richardson

Benny, thanks a lot, I appreciate it.

Benny Zlotnick

Anytime, Tom.