

Veterans Committee Minutes
April 5, 2021 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members Preston Allen, Ed Kinowski, Dan Pemrick, Mo Wright, Benny Zlotnick; Supervisor Tara Gaston; Steve Bulger, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Frank McClement, Veterans; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health and Addiction.

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

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the minutes of the March 1 and March 8, 2021 meetings were approved was unanimously.

Mr. McClement gave a brief overview of the Veterans Office Report which was distributed with the agenda. For the month of March, 35 new claims were assembled and submitted. Mr. McClement said that the National Personnel Records Center is currently closed due to COVID and this is causing some frustration for Veterans who are requesting their discharge paperwork. The Veterans office has been taking advantage of as much online training as possible. The Transition Assistance Program at the Naval Base has started up again. Demand for the van is still low, availability is Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. If requests for rides come in, they try to schedule the appointments one of these days. They have looked into Lyft but currently there is no need for it. The Trust Fund has a balance on hand of \$96,860.18. A donation of \$1K was received from an individual last month. Coffee night is back in person. Amy has also conducted some nutrition and fitness classes via Zoom. The honor deceased Veterans Program continues to be postponed. They will look into it again in June possibly. Mr. Kinowski asked about possibly expanding the Saratoga Coffee night program to other Towns and Cities on a rotating basis. Mr. McClement said that he can discuss it with Amy. One item to note is that the weekly event is the same place and time and Veteran's may not attend every week but know they can pop in at any time. Mr. McClement said that he can talk to the County American Legion leadership to see if they are interested in this idea.

Regarding the honoring Veterans Grant Program, Mr. Richardson said that it has been brought to his attention by a few Supervisors that some of the Veterans organizations have buildings that are in need of repair and questioned if the grant program could be expanded to include repairs to buildings such as American Legion buildings etc. For example, the American Legion in Schuylerville is unable to put on events this year due to repairs that are needed in the building. Mr. Wright questioned if an application to the trust fund would be more appropriate. Mr. McClement said that Trust Fund applications are capped at \$750 for individuals and \$2K for groups. Mr. McClement said that he would need to research the Trust Fund language. Mr. Pemrick said that he is uncomfortable expanding the grant to what he sees as a business or organization rather than a community expenditure. Mr. Hartnett advised that after reviewing resolution 107-2021 which authorizes the grant program, it would need to be a municipal expenditure to be reimbursed. Mr. McClement said that he will look into potential other sources of grant funding for repairs to properties such as American Legions or VFW's.

Dr. Prezioso said that he is participating in a fundraiser at a local gym in Clifton Park, Metabolic Meltdown, on Sunday at 8am and 9:30am. The proceeds of the fundraiser will be passed onto the Veterans Trust Fund in the name of Private First Class Nate Brown, a Glen Falls native who was killed on April 11, 2004. The fitness fundraiser is open to the public. Those interested in participating can register for one of the classes and the \$25 contribution will be added to the donation. Dr. Prezioso is hoping to expand the program in to something similar to what was done a few years ago, a health and wellness program.

Mr. McClement said that the PFC Joseph Dwyer funding is in the State budget process. Mr. McClement has communicated with Senator Jordan's office and the last update he has is that the program has been put into the Senate and Assembly versions of the Bill.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board