

Veterans Committee Minutes
November 1, 2021 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members Preston Allen, Ed Kinowski, Jack Lawler, Dan Pemrick, Mo Wright, Benny Zlotnick; Supervisors Tara Gaston, John Lant and Chairman of the Board Theodore Kusnierz; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Frank McClement, Veterans; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Kevin Veitch.

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 August 30, 2021 meetings were approved was unanimously.

Communications to Committee

Mr. McClement said they had no communications.

Veterans Office Report

Mr. McClement provided a brief overview of the report for September and October 2021 which included 72 new claims, 48 scheduled appointments and 40 walk-ins. Mr. McClement said they continue to take advantage of training including taking part in the NYS Division of Veterans Services annual training, they are advocates for veterans to the Department of Veterans Affairs, they support the Transition Assistance Program of the NAVY base, they participated in an appreciation luncheon with Malta Veterans and participated in NAMI's annual conference where the former Peer Connection program coordinator was honored with an award for her work with the program. The demand for transportation services has increased, coffee night at Saratoga Coffee Traders is ongoing, and Mr. McClement said they hosted a Mental Health Summit at their offices on Sept. 17 and he thanked the County Administrator's Office and Christine Rush for helping to publicize the event.

Veterans Trust Fund Report

Mr. McClement said they had a couple of emergency disbursements, but the fund remains healthy with a balance of \$116,151.70.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, to accept Honoring Veterans Grant Program Applications from the Town of Malta, Town of Providence and City of Mechanicville. Unanimous.

Mr. Richardson said the application for Mechanicville is for deceased veteran bricks for a walkway at the Veterans Monument and the Legion and Mechanicville are very thankful.

Upcoming Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremonies

Mr. Richardson said the County will be honoring Bob Mitchell on November 16th, the December ceremony will be skipped and they will move into January with the full schedule ready for everyone. Mr. McClement said the ceremony that was schedule for December had been done before the pandemic and with renovations happening in the board room, they will skip the December ceremony and come back in January with a full reboot in the regular rotation.

Other Business

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Allen, to approve the Honoring Veterans Grant Program Reimbursement voucher from the Town of Hadley. Unanimous.

Mr. Richardson said next month they will be discussing the emergency fund and possible changes to the amount of money that fund is able to spend out in an emergency.

Mr. Kinowski said they plan on submitting a package for reimbursement after an event this week.

Mr. McClement said Towns can submit for reimbursement up until January.

Mr. Pemrick said the Town of Greenfield and Brookhaven Golf Couse held a Veterans Tournament where they raised \$6,000 for veterans, \$3,000 of which will go to Mr. McClement and the Veterans' Agency and the other half to the VA Administration, both of whom are invited to attend the Veterans Luncheon on November 11th.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Rider
Deputy Clerk of the Board