

Veterans Committee Minutes
December 2, 2021 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members Preston Allen, Ed Kinowski, Dan Pemrick, Mo Wright, Benny Zlotnick; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Frank McClement, Veterans.

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

On a motion by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, the minutes of the November 1, 2021 meetings were approved was unanimously.

Veterans Office Report

Mr. McClement said they are staying busy taking advantage of training opportunities, they continue to conduct coffee nights and the new Peer Program Coordinator is working out well. They have added Wednesdays to the transportation service schedule, and it now runs three days a week Tuesday through Thursday.

Veterans Trust Fund Report

Mr. McClement said the fund's current balance is \$117,604.41 which includes a donation from the Town of Greenfield of \$3,000 which was raised at their veterans support golf event at Brookhaven Golf Course. Mr. McClement thanked Mr. Pemrick, the Town of Greenfield and Brookhaven Golf Course. Mr. Richardson thanked Mr. Pemrick.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, committee approval authorizing an increase in the disbursement limit from the Veterans Trust and Agency Fund and amending the Trust and Agency Fund Rules and Regulations accordingly. Unanimous.

Mr. McClement said the trust fund is funded by donations and fundraising efforts and is used to provide grants to veterans who have emergencies or crises and no other benefit programs are available. Mr. McClement said that costs have risen and that \$750 is no longer enough and recommended increasing the individual grant amounts to \$1,500 and grants to veterans' organization from \$2,000 to \$2,500. Mr. McClement said they would also like to add to the Rules and Regulations that the Chairman of the committee shall have the authority to approve disbursement in an emergency. Mr. Wright said he thinks section F should be written more clearly to give the Chairman authority to approve emergency disbursements only up to the \$1,500 limit, anything over that should go before the committee. Mr. Kinowski suggested the committee could approve by email in an emergency and suggested that the word "be" be taken out of section G line two.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, committee approval of Honoring Veterans Grant Program Applications for the Towns of Stillwater, Halfmoon, Greenfield and Day. Unanimous.

Mr. Kinowski said the Town of Stillwater divided the \$2,500 up between Post 1644 and Post 490 and they ran programs in accordance with the requirements. Mr. McClement said the Town of Halfmoon is requesting \$2,500 and the Town of Greenfield is requesting \$1,650. Mr. Allen said they bought flags and plaques and had a ceremony on Veterans day to honor living veterans.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, to amend Resolution 107-2021 to authorize the transfer of un-allocated 2021 Veterans Grant funding into the Saratoga County Veterans Trust and Agency Fund. Unanimous.

Mr. Wright inquired whether the unused veterans grant funds could be used for the Christmas Support. A discussion took place regarding how the unused veterans grants funds could be reallocated to the Veterans Agency. Mr. Hartnett said it would require a Board resolution and Mr. Bulger said it should be done this year because it's this year's appropriation.

A motion was made by Mr. Zlotnick, seconded by Mr. Allen, committee approval to authorize Trust Fund disbursements in an amount up to \$5,000 for Christmas support to families. Unanimous.

Mr. McClement said this money would allow them to purchase gift cards for toys, clothes and groceries for veteran families to help them have a nice Christmas.

Upcoming Honor Deceased veterans Ceremonies

Mr. McClement said they will not be having a ceremony in December but will start up again in January with the Town of Malta, in February with the Town of Stillwater and March with the City of Mechanicville.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Rider
Deputy Clerk of the Board