

Veterans Committee Minutes  
February 1, 2022 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members C. Eric Butler, Ed Kinowski, Sandra Winney and Mo Wright; Supervisors John Lant, Mike Smith; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Frank McClement, Veterans; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Mike Marcotte, American Legion Post 862.

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

**On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Richardson, the minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Richardson announced the appointment of Mr. Wright as Vice-Chair of the committee.

*Veterans Office Annual Report*

Mr. McClement said they saw a decrease in the veteran population in 2021 due to aging and transportation numbers are still low due to COVID. The Department of Veterans Affairs spent \$96,153,000 in Saratoga County in 2021, with over \$47 million in direct cash payments, and Mr. McClement's office processed 401 claims for the year which is almost double what they processed in 2020. The Veterans' Trust Fund ended the year with a balance of \$114,946.12.

**The committee unanimously approved the following 2021 Honoring Veterans Grants as presented.**

**A. Town of Clifton Park**

Mr. McClement said Clifton Park is requesting \$2,500 towards upgrading the Veterans Memorial and initiating a new program to honor Veterans.

**B. Town of Galway**

Mr. McClements said Galway is requesting \$2,500 towards the creation and expansion of a Veterans Memorial.

**C. Town of Moreau**

Mr. McClement said Moreau is requesting \$2,448 towards the purchase of US flags and flag holder grave markers.

**D. Town of Waterford**

Mr. McClement said Waterford is requesting \$2,500 towards a Global War on Terror monument.

**E. Town of Ballston**

Mr. McClement said Ballston is requesting \$1,622.45 towards flags, flag poles and vinyl signs.

Mr. Wright asked how much grant money is left to be put towards the trust fund. Mr. McClement said there was \$14,816.24 before the Town of Ballston's amount of \$1,622.45. Mr. Wright asked if another grant was in the budget for this year and Mr. Bulger said the \$2 million in COVID relief is open for nonprofits to apply for, but the grant was not put in the budget for this year.

*Discussion: Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony*

Mr. McClement said they will resume the Honoring Deceased Veterans Ceremonies in April and he will get the list for the year out to everyone at the upcoming Board meeting.

Mr. Marcotte thanked the committee for letting him sit in and listen.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridget Rider  
Deputy Clerk of the Board