

Bay County Veteran Affairs

Committee Meeting

Date: May 18, 2021

Subject: REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting called to order by the President of the Board , Vaughn Beqick at 3:00 pm.

Commissioners present were Vaughn Beqick, Troy Stewart, Marilyn Lazarz and Tim Eckstein. Motion 2021-14 by Stewart 2nd by Lazarz to accept the Mar 2021 Committee Minutes.

Citizens Input

Fred Zipler, Update on the driver situation, we have a new driver starting today which Brings us to 5 driver's total. We are still on a 4 day M-T schedule with a max of 8 Trips per day. He has amended his original request of \$10.00 per veteran transported To \$5.00 per veteran.

Petitions and Communications

Kazmareck introduced his new assistant being Gary Bowersock. Bowersock is an Air Force veteran and spent 24 ½ years as a VA eligibility/enrollment person. Per Bequik he is also a very good blooperball player.

Goulet, Reminder we will plan on taking a Board picture during the June meeting.

Service Officer report:

Kazmareck, Flag update, Post 18 has the flags for Memorial Day, and the payment Paperwork has been submitted to the County. Davis asked for a list of veterans by Name, Cemetery and branch of service. Per Kazmareck Chaplin Campbell will be Reaching out to the cemeteries for this information.

Beqick, Read off several of the Memorial Day Ceremonies and times.

Beqick also stated that the emergency relief dollar amount is still being worked On. The indigent definition is also being worked on, may be the same verbiage as The 1899 verbiage.

Lazarz; can we get an updated rules from Gary. Also can spouses of veterans use the Transportation, or can the widow?, Davis; We will get back with us on this, she thinks Widows can utilize the service, but will check to confirm.

Davis; The veterans funds cannot receive both donations and tax dollars (mileage).

Kazmareck, The VA is reviewing all Blue Water Navy claims (approx.. 15,000).
Bowersock; if the veteran is found to be 100% their children would rate
Education benefits.

Old Business

The American Legion requested funds for 17 gross of grave site flags. Eckstein made a Motion 2021-12 to give up to \$3,000 to cover the cost of the flags, shipping and possibly late fees. Second by Stewart. These flags along with the gently used flags stored at the Legion will Be enough for the Counties cemetery's. The funds are to come out of the general fund.

Amber, Board Rules when it comes to appointments. The Board of Commissioners have to approve the rule prior to the Veterans Committee adding it to ours.

New Business

Zipler; We drive to all 3 VA Hospitals, in reference to transporting widows, Fred Can only think of one time that that has ever happened. The VA hospitals have their Own "inner Hospital" transportation.

Miscellaneous

Begick; He is still doing VA physicals, he is seeing a lot of Sleep Apnea and PTSD..
Kazmareck; Burn Pit compensation claims have been submitted. Begick added That Gulf War Syndrome claims are also being submitted.

Citizens Input

Zipler; I'm from Pennsylvania originally when I pass will I qualify for a headstone here In Michigan? Kazmareck; First are you indigent, and Honorably Discharged? The VA Does take care of the headstone, you must be a resident of Bay County either then or Now. He currently has 2 cases that he is working on. One is a septic problem, the Other is a basement issue. 22% of awaiting claims are past 125 days. St. Louis is slow Due to COVID 19.

Motion to adjourn by Eckstein, seconded by Lazarz.

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 pm.