

Bay County Veteran Affairs

Committee Meeting

Date: March 21, 2023

Subject: REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

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

Commissioners present were Vaughn Begick, Mike Pergande, Troy Stewart, Tim Eckstein, and Van Digby. Motion (2023-6) by Digby 2nd by Stewart to accept the January 2023 Committee Minutes, all in favor.

Citizens Input

None

Petitions and Communications:

None

Service Officer report:

Kaczmarek: The 1899 Soldiers and Sailors Act shows we can give \$10.00 to each Veteran. There is support to increase the dollar amount in the resolution. Begick: we need to add the Definition of "Indigent" to the response, either money or property, also an emergency clause. Kaczmarek: Arenac County approved their Soldiers and Sailors Act. Barcia: I cant tell you how many compliments the County receives due to the great work by Mark and Gary.

Begick: There are six types of military discharges.

- Honorable Discharge
- General Discharge-Under Honorable Conditions
- Other than Honorable Discharge
- Bad Conduct Discharge
- Dishonorable Discharge
- Uncharacterized Discharge

Pergande: I recommend that only Honorable Discharged Veterans are eligible; Kaczmarek; several Bay County veterans fall into the other than Honorable Discharge group. Motion (2023-7) by Digby to receive the resolution, second by Eckstein, all in favor.

Old Business (Memorial Day)

Pergande: The flags have been ordered and given 18 cases to Gary Drzewicki.

Digby: I would like to request a minimum of 22 cases, Barcia: additional monies will come out of his account. Motion (2023-8) by Digby to increase the amount of flags to 22 cases, second by Eckstein, all in favor vice Pergande (nay vote)

New Business-

Barcia: March 29th is the Vietnam War end Anniversary, it's to be celebrated at the American Legion Post 18. on Sunday April 2nd, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) plan to be present along with the Vietnam Veterans members.

Brian Krause representing the Bay County Habitat for Humanity: Beginning of May we will have \$200,000 to help with Veterans home repairs. They plan to put a minimum of one veteran in a house for around \$100,000. They plan to do this every year with a goal of 20 homes over the next 10 years. He stated if veterans need help, they can contact the Habitat for Humanity at; brian@habitat.org . Barcia; thank you to Brian for the help they do for our Veterans. Krause ; Veterans are our #1 goal.

Beson: I have 2 Vietnam Veteran brothers, I couldn't serve due to the Sullivan act. Also his mothers maiden name was Sullivan. Region 7 which covers 10 Counties receives 5 million a year in funding, they want to build a 20 unit housing site for veterans, handicapped, and elderly in a few years. Also the meals on wheels delivers 1,100 meals per week for our Bay County Residents.

Begick and Kaczmarek; The request for grant monies deadline is May 12th at 5pm. We are not sure of the amount, the baseline is \$50,000. Barcia; we have received more in the past due to the high number of veterans that live in Bay County, currently estimated between 7,000 and 8,000 we are waiting on the 2020 census numbers.

Begick; Mark and Gary have their annual training in Frankenmuth this year. The veteran group training is April 25th to the 28th. They will attend the American Legion conference in August, is there going to be a veteran service officer assigned to Bay County? Pergande; No, because Mark and Gary are doing such a great job.

Miscellaneous- None

Citizens Input-

Motion (2023-9) to adjourn by Pergande, 2nd by Eckstein, motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 pm.