

**MINUTES OF THE  
CALUMET COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION  
April 19, 2023 (10:00 A.M.)**

Pete Stier called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

1. The meeting was properly announced and posted, and a quorum of members was present.

**2. ROLL CALL (Committee Member Attendance):**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pete Stier, Bill Grube, Joe Mueller, and CVSO Greg Brittnacher

**ABSENT:** N/A

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ronald Dietrich, District 19 County Board Member

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

MOTION by J. Mueller and SECONDED by B. Grube to approve the agenda for April 19, 2023. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** (January 25, 2023 meeting)

MOTION by B. Grube and SECONDED by J. Mueller to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - Ronald Diedrich, District 19 County Board Member, addressed the Commission discussing his experience with the Veteran Service Office.

Last year he attempted to obtain a bronze plaque for his uncle, who had passed away. He discovered that he was in the County VA system, but only with a final rank of PFC, based on DD214. He had however, continued in the Army Reserve and obtained rank of Tech Sergeant or higher.

The problem he encountered was obtaining proof of his final rank. He had thought the Veteran Service Office and/or the VA could “pull some strings” to ascertain that info. Apparently not. Fortunately he discovered his retirement certificate which held his rank, and the Veterans Service Office was able to utilize



that and the process moved forward.

Lesson - Veterans need to update county Veterans Service Office records while they are still alive so families will have an easier time securing a plaque and insuring that the information is accurate.

This is a tremendous benefit that most vets are unaware of or certainly don't have in their planning as they consider other estate plans.

**7. REPORTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS – None**

**8. COMMUNICATIONS – None**

**9. ITEMS FOR ACTION OR DISCUSSION – Given by CVSO G. Brittnacher**

- A. Discussion – Reviewed the Fox Valley Veteran Council Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the commission. The Commission reviewed the MOU and provided no additional changes to the document. The Commission wanted to proceed with a motion to approve the MOU upon review/edits provided by Calumet County Corporation Counsel, Finance Director, and County Administrator.
  - I. MOTION by B. Grube and SECONDED by J. Mueller to approve the Fox Valley Veteran Council MOU upon review/edits provided by Calumet County Corporation Counsel, Finance Director, and County Administrator. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - II. G. Brittnacher will initiate the review process to get MOU approval.
- B. Discussion – Provided an update of the WDVA CVSO Supplemental Grant. Let the Commission know that we did receive the funds. I ask the commission for any suggestions on what we should use the funds for. They recommended using funds to advertise benefits via newspapers or other resources. I also let them know that funds were going to be used for outreach materials and a tri-county collaboration (Calumet, Outagamie, Winnebago) to host a Veterans and dependent benefits event in May 2024.
- C. Discussion – Discussed a Veterans Service Commission (VSC) assistance request our office received regarding an individual that doesn't meet the eligibility requirements established by Calumet County VSC Policy and Procedure manual for Administration of the Calumet County Veterans Commission Relief Fund. The Commission all concurred that no exceptions will be made to current policy and asked G. Brittnacher to follow up with that individual and provide other potential assistance options outside of the VSC program.

**10. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT – Given by CVSO G. Brittnacher:**

- A. We have had three assistance requests since our last meeting. We have approved all three requests.
- B. Year-to-date retroactive cash payouts for 2023 are currently at **\$256,543.74**. Our goal for 2023 is to reach \$1,250,000.

- C. Michelle and I participated in a professional development course offered by the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP). The course covered Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) & Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP). We also registered at the National County Veterans Service Office (NACVSO) conference for June 2023. I also applied to attend the Certified Veterans Advocate (CVA) course. This course will emphasize Veterans appeals training to become a better advocate for our Veterans.
- D. I was invited to be guest speaker at the upcoming Toxic Exposure Town Hall Meeting (See attached flyer). I will be providing an overview of the Honoring the PACT act. Specifically, the Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and surrounding area of operations. The event will cover the entirety of the PACT act.
- E. Chilton Memorial Day parade: Our office will be participating in Memorial Day this year. Michelle and I will be walking with our families and handing out freebies to the children.
- F. Our office will be mailing out survey reminders to those Veterans and dependents we have worked with thus far this year. We are trying to gather information to assess how we are doing and what areas we can improve on.

#### **11. DISCUSS NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be TBA.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10: 35 A.M., MOTION by P. Stier and SECONDED by J. Mueller to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Greg Brittnacher, VSC Committee Member & Recording Secretary

APPROVED