

BAY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY DECEMBER 17, 2019

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Vaughn Begick at 3:00 PM, followed by roll call.

Present at meeting: Vaughn Begick, County Commissioner; Marilyn Lazarz, Mike Pergande, Jon VanTol, Troy Stewart, Craig Goulet, Director of Administrative Services/Veterans Affairs and Heather Pitcher, Corporation Council.

Minutes: **2019-30** Motion made by Troy to accept 11-19-2019 minutes as presented and supported by Jon; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS.

Citizens Input: Fred Zippler commented on the format of the Bay County Veteran Affairs Committee meeting agenda. Questioned on why Citizens Input was at the beginning of the meeting and not at the end. Vaughn will take this under advisement and consider Citizens Input be at the end of the meeting. Fred inquired on why the Committee voted to take away the burial benefits from Veterans. Jon explained to Fred the Funeral Expenses of Veterans Act 235 of 1911, a Michigan State Law, and the estate limit provided for the Veteran is \$40,000.00. Any Veteran that has assets \$40,000 or more is not entitled to the \$300 burial benefit. Fred stated that a Veteran works himself up in life and should still get his County burial benefit of \$300.

Petitions and Communications: None

Reports/Resolutions: a) Budget Adjustment – Vehicle Repair & Maintenance: Craig said that there was an unexpected invoice for vehicle repairs and the Committee will have to make a budget adjustment. **2019-31** Motion made by Troy to take \$217 for vehicle repair from one budget category to the next for unexpected vehicle repairs and supported by Mike; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS.

Old Business: a) Mike handed out a draft for review and comments on By-laws for Bay County Veteran Affairs Committee. The By-laws are from Roscommon County Department of Veterans Affairs. Mike asked for comments on the draft and to return comments to Mark Kaczmarek and Mike will pick them up and incorporate changes. He stated there should be policies for vehicle operation and burial funds. b) Bay County Veterans funeral expenses were discussed and the Act 235 of 1911. Marilyn requested to get clarification from Corporation Council to determine what the Act is stating in Sec 2, 35.801. Vaughn commented that there is an option of paying everyone or no one the Veterans \$300 burial expense. Jon handed to the Committee members a new Bay County Veteran Burial Assistance form for the funeral homes to determine if the Veteran is eligible for the \$300 funeral expense. Life Insurance will need to be added to the form. c) Budget Adjustment – Transportation Drivers: Craig mentioned the motion made to increase the drivers pay to \$3.00 per Veteran needs additional language to be added; “add any necessary budget adjustments.” **2019-32** Motion made by Marilyn to add any necessary budget adjustments language to the motion increasing the drivers pay to \$3.00 per Veteran and supported by Mike; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS. d) Vaughn mentioned to have a ceremony for the Yuill family and will contact the family. Mr. Yuill was born in Bay City, enlisted here and in 1943 his ship was torpedoed. Craig is making

the arrangements for the engraving on the Memorial and will hopefully have definite numbers in January.

New Business: None

Miscellaneous: None

Announcements: Mike excused himself from the January meeting. American Legion Post 18, keeping up with annual tradition, gave \$1000 and the American Legion Women's Auxiliary gave \$500 toward the Bay County Veterans Food Baskets. **2019-33** Motion made by Jon to receive the \$1500 for the Bay County Veterans Food Baskets from the American Legion Post 18 and supported by Mike; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS. Vaughn stated Mark Smith's Food Pantry donations are doing well and received donations from DVA, PLAV, Fund raiser at AMVET's and a breakfast at Knights of Columbus hall. Also the Lions Club is giving out gold coins. Jon stated the VA Christmas Party was December 10<sup>th</sup>. Next meeting is January 21, 2020.

Vaughn asked if there was any Public Comment: Fred Zippler asked the Committee to reconsider the Veterans funeral expense of \$300. Stated "What's good for one is good for all."

Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:30 PM.