

Bay County Veteran Affairs

Committee Meeting

Date: April 20, 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, and Tim Eckstein. Motion 2021-10 by Stewart 2nd by Eckstein to accept the Mar 2021 Committee Minutes.

Citizens Input

None

Petitions and Communications

Staff update by Goulet, there has been an offer made to one of the applicants for the Emergency Relief Coordinator position. The person is a male veteran, the position is four days per week and up to 29 hours.

Goulet, We will plan on taking a Board picture during the May meeting.

Service Officer report:

Kazmerick, We had 427 veterans labeled N/A as it pertained to their service connected claims, Mark and Krystal were able to connect 420 of the claims, the remaining 7 could not be confirmed There were a few duplicates due to veterans serving multiple tours. Gulf War syndrome continues to be the hardest to prove.

Beqick, Vietnam ERA being 1955-1975, asked of the "Blue Water Navy" being service connected, he knows of 2 veterans in Bay County that are over 65 and in financial need. Beqick says Social Security typically puts them over the financial threshold.

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

There are currently two veterans requesting assistance above the financial threshold that the Service Officer is authorized to provide. The first veteran is in need of \$3,500 to help with back rent, the other needs between \$9,000 and \$14,000 for a new roof. Amber "individually the committee has met with Kazmerick in closed session about These two cases and may vote on them with a motion.

Stewart made Motion 2021-13 to give both veterans \$3,500 seconded by Eckstein, Vaughn and Stewart yea Eckstein abstained, vote passes with the majority of the quorum in favor.

Miscellaneous

Barcia, Public thank you to both Goulet and Kazmerick for their hard work with both the Veterans Affairs and the Bay County Animal Shelter.

Citizens Input

Manny Lopez, Question, In the mid 80's there was a survey done on Agent Orange, this was a survey only, no compensation at the time. Lopez said Bruce Douglas was involved, is there a record of this? Per Kazmerick, none noted. I also represent the GI Forum of Hispanic veterans of Bay County. The first Vietnam veteran KIA from Bay County was Hispanic, his name was Jaime Martinez. Lopez would like to re-start the Bay County GI forum, any veteran can join. Barcia, I used to attend the American GI Forum events. Lopez also gave thanks to Kazmerick and Barcia for veteran support.

Motion to adjourn by Eckstein, seconded by Stewart, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm.