

BAY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, April 16, 2019

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Vaughn Begick at 3:04 PM, followed by roll call.

Present at meeting: Vaughn Begick, County Commissioner; Marilyn Lazarz, Troy Stewart, Mike Pergande, Craig Goulet, Director of Administrative Services, Amber Davis-Johnson, Department of Corporation Council, Jan Histed, and Heather Brady Pitcher, Assistant Corporation Council.

Minutes: **2019-7** Motion made by Troy to approve 3-19-2019 minutes; support by Mike; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS

Citizens Input: Fred Zippler addressed the Veterans Transportation program. He pointed out that no committee member or Soldiers/Sailors staff is qualified to evaluate the program and the drivers are the experts. Fred invited the committee members to ride with the drivers. He requested increase compensation and cell phones for the drivers.

Art Schupback pointed out on Memorial Day the American Flags placed on the Veterans graves are used from the year before. The flags are stored at the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

Petitions and Communications: a) Transportation Statistics for 1st Quarter: Craig distributed Bay County Veterans Transportation statistics for 1st Quarter of 2019. **2019-8** Motion made by Marilyn to receive the Transportation Statistics for 1st Quarter; supported by Mike; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS. b) Emergency Relief Guidelines (First Reading): Mike stated to delete last sentence of the Emergency Relief Guidelines. Marilyn questioned if the guidelines need to incorporate Act 190 of 1965 and Act 214 of 1899. Depending on the fund the Emergency Relief for Bay County Veterans comes out of; Act 190 of 1965 and Act 214 of 1899 would have to be incorporated in the guidelines per Amber. The policy committee will be scheduling another meeting. **2019-9** Motion made by Mike to accept 1st reading of the Emergency Relief Guidelines and to table for next meeting; supported by Marilyn; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS. .

REPORTS/RESOLUTIONS: a) Committee Rules: Amber stated that changes still need to be made to the Committee Rules and should be tabled until next meeting. **2019-10** Motion made by Mike for the Committee Rules to be tabled until next meeting; support by Troy; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS. b) 2019 Grant Budget (Approval): Craig informed the Committee of moving and remodeling the Veterans Staff Office to 1st floor at the Bay County building. Mike commented the American Legion spends two to three thousand on Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for needy Veterans and a line item in the budget should be added for food baskets. **2019-11** Motion made by Troy to approve 2019 Grant Budget with the thought of adding a line item for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for needy Veterans; seconded by Mike; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS.

OLD BUSINESS: a) Scheduler Position: Troy pointed out that VA hospital cannot text the Bay County Transportation scheduler for a Veterans scheduled appointment. b) Compensation for Drivers: Heather handed out to the committee a Research Request regarding volunteer drivers that receive minimal compensation required to have a chauffeurs' license. The volunteer drivers do not fall under the definition of a "bus" which means a vehicle with a seating capacity of 9 or more passengers and

receiving compensation. The cost of obtaining a chauffeurs' license is \$35 and a paper test is required. No drivers test is required. Heather recommends the volunteer drivers obtain their chauffeur's license if they continue to accept compensation because of liability issues. Mike wanted to know how much is spent on driver's compensation. **2019-11** Motion made by Mike do find out how much was spent on drivers compensation for this quarter and tabled for next meeting; supported by Troy; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike pointed out that 3,000 American Flags placed on Veterans graves are purchased each year through the American Legion and questioned how many flags are out there to reuse. Fred Zippler addressed the Committee stating the Flags are being reused and does not recommended buying that many flags each year. **2019-12** Motion made by Mike to purchase the American Flags for 2019, reuse the flags the following years and order a certain number of flags on a year to year basis; seconded by Troy; 4YEAS, 0 NAYS. Mike will send a Memo to the Veterans Posts regarding this motion.

Vaughn will be meeting with the Bay County Veterans Council, Fred Zippler and Art Schupback.

MISCELLANEOUS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting Tuesday May 21, 2019 at 3:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:50 PM.