

BAY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 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, Jonathan VanTol, Troy Stewart, Mike Pergande, Craig Goulet, Director of Administrative Services, Amber Davis-Johnson, Department of Corporation Council and Jim Barcia, County Executive.

Minutes: **2019-5** Motion made by Jon to approve 2-21-2019 minutes; support by Marilyn; 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS

Citizens Input: Fred Zippler commented the Transportation Program is necessary and needed for Veterans. The program has a good team of drivers. Currently the drivers are paid \$1.00/per person driven. Fred suggested the drivers get paid \$5.00/person. The scheduler takes 15 –18 calls/day and he requested the scheduler position to stay the same (a volunteer position). He also requested individual cell phones for nine drivers.

Bruce Douglas stated he is Commander of Veterans Rest and donations for Veterans Rest come from the Veterans Rummage Shop. Bruce commented on a lady from GM writing a check for the Veterans. He wants to know what happened to the check. Jim Barcia, County Executive, will check with the new County Treasurer on this issue.

Petitions and Communications: a) Finance Report: Craig distributed Bay County Transportation financial reports for 2018/2019. Mike discussed Quarterly Reports on Veterans Mileage and number of Veterans transported. The Committee will review reports. Amber discussed the burial funds for Veterans and where should the cost come from the General fund or Veterans fund. b) County Email Update: Created for Committee members. c) Website Update: Worked on and updated per Craig. d) Emergency Relief Approval: Amber pointed out the previous Soldiers and Sailors board had no written policy, guidelines or resolutions for the Emergency Relief Fund. The Committee needs to approve a dollar amount. A Policy Committee was formed to draft policies/procedures for the Emergency Relief Fund for April's Committee meeting. The Committee consists of Troy, Jon and Marilyn.

2019-6 Motion made by Jon and support by Marilyn to Temporary grant authority to spend up to \$850 for the Veteran Service Office staff for the Emergency Relief Fund and for the Director of Veterans Affairs the authority to spend up to \$3,000. Anything greater than \$3,000 would go to the Veterans Committee for majority approval. Motion adopted by a voice of: 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS.

REPORTS/RESOLUTIONS: a) Board Rules: Mike pointed out format issues with the Board Rules and Amber pointed out Article V to include Secretary Duties. b) Transportation Program: i) Scheduler Position: Discussion took place among the Committee members. Jon pointed out the Scheduler position needs to be changed back to the Veteran Service Office staff to schedule appointments within a required time frame. Chairman Vaughn Begick opened the discussion for public input. Frank Lewandowski commented on 50 missed calls when the Veterans Service Office Staff were taking

Veterans phone calls to schedule an appointment. The scheduler is getting calls 6 days/week from 8 AM to 8 PM. Amber stated the Soldiers and Sailors funds insurance, fuel, maintenance and a scheduler position 6 days a week would break the budget. Mike commented that every county runs their Veterans transportation program differently and what would be best financially responsible for Bay County. Frank Lewandowski agreed with limiting the time frame for the scheduler to take appointments.

Fred Zippler stated the scheduler, schedules appointments Monday thru Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM and Sunday's 12 noon to 5 PM. His solution is let the scheduler position go as is and he and Linda will continue scheduling. Marilyn asked him how he would feel if the scheduler position was a paid position. Fred stated to leave it a Volunteer position.

Connie Gummer commented that the Veterans Service Office Staff was not answering the phones to schedule Veterans rides.

Bruce Douglas he started the transportation program and paid all expenses with his own money and Derek Taylor commented he was a driver for 4 ½ years.

Troy stated that we are all Veterans and he will check with the VA hospital if the VA scheduler could get the text sent to the transportation scheduler for a Veterans scheduled appointment.

Some of the drivers have chauffeur licenses. Amber will look into this issue for April's meeting.

ii) Compensation for Drivers: No discussion

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Jon will not make April's meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting Tuesday April 16, 2019 at 3:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:00 PM.