

# Department of Veterans Affairs

## Commission Meeting

Date: February 18, 2020

Subject: Regular Monthly Meeting

Meeting called to order by the President of the Board, Vaughn Begick.

Commissioners present were Mike Pergande, Troy Stewart, Marilyn Lazarz, and Jonathan VanTol

### **CITIZENS INPUT**

**Gary Drzewicki** announced the number of funerals the Bay County Veterans Honor Guard did in 2019 along with numerous Color Guards on Veteran/Military significant dates.

**Fred Zipler** asked about funding for another van for the Bay County Veterans Transportation program.

**Mark Smith** status of his Food Program. Helped a number of Veterans and thanked the organizations that are supporting this program.

### **DIRECTOR GOULET**

Spoke on the State Grant application. It is filled out and is with the Corporate Counsel for review and then to the County Board of Commissioners for final review before submitting to the State. On schedule to be submitted on time.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Engraving of name** to the Veterans memorial will cost approximately \$100. Will contact the contractor and schedule for

spring/summer. Begick asks for assistance in tracking down family members so they can be there engraving unveiling.

**Veteran Burial reimbursement of \$300.** Question was asked of the Corporate Counsel if the County Board of Commissioners could opt out of part of the act limiting reimbursement to those that have LESS than \$40,000 in assets-minus their homesteads or if they would have to opt out entirely. Lazarz has asked the current Commissioners if they knew about this, they did not. Most if not all the current Commissioners were elected after action was taken on this by previous board members. Corporate Counsel will check if/when it was previously approved to conform to this act.  
**IN THE FUTURE REQUEST FOR OPINIONS FROM THE COUNTY COUNSEL WILL HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED ON THE APPROPRIATE FORM TO ENSURE THEY ARE ADDRESSED AND RECORDS KEPT.**

**Commission Bylaws draft** was handed out by Pergande. Corporate Counsel recommends removing job descriptions from the bylaws. They are for the operation of the Veterans board. The employees are covered under their contract or if these positions become county employee positions their job duties would be under the positions Job Description.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION 2020- 6**

**Motion by Lazarz to accept the minutes of the January 7<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes, seconded by Pergande, MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION 2020-7**

**Motion made by VanTol to support the Military Order of the Purple hearts request for \$2500 to be used for their State convention in Bay County, Seconded by Stewart.**

During discussion it was confirmed that the funds come out of the County General Operating Funds and that ALL Veterans groups can request these funds. In the past the Military Order of the Purple, the Marine Corps League and the Polish Legion of American Veterans have received this assistance for hosting State Conventions in Bay County. It assists the Veterans organizations and brings tourist money to the county.

**MOTION PASSED**, 3 in favor-1 against,

#### **ANOUNCEMENTS**

**Barcia** apologized for arriving late for the Veteran of the Year announcement at the AmVets Post. Congratulated Lazarz on being named the Bay County Veteran of the Year and also congratulated Mark Smith, a non-veteran for being recognized for all his endeavors in assisting Veterans of Bay County.

**Begick**, handed out proposed changes to Public Act 214 of 1899 to board members. There will be a meeting on Monday February 24<sup>th</sup> on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the County building in the Personnel conference room to discuss proposed changes to public Act 214 of 1899. **Barcia** would like to see an increase from the \$300 limit on assistance to a higher amount. Emergency needs are costing more.

**Pergande**, the American Legion post 18 will be open before, during and after the St. Patrick's Day parade.

**Motion to adjourn** by Pergande, seconded by Stewart and  
**MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED.**