

Veterans Service Committee Regular Meeting
16 May 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Alan Strouf chairman, Fred Kozak, Richard Strain, Ronald Corbett and Lyle Bartels. Forrest Doyle CVSO / Secretary, No County Commissioners and No people from public.

Doyle reminded those present of the open meetings law posted at the back of the room.

Alan Strouf moved to approve the agenda motion carried.

Doyle read the minutes of the 17 January, 2019 regular meeting. Kozak made motion to approve the minutes as read Seconded by Strain. Voting aye: 5, nays: none motion carried.

Doyle read the report of what the office has done as to seeing veterans and dependents for claims and help from the office. From the Federal VA 8 new claims and 2 completed and 7 requests to increase Service connected claims, and 1 completed and No new Non service connected claims. 0 requests for school, 6 for Discharges from the National Archives, 4 requests for health care and 1 appointment requested. And reported to the VA and the state of Nebraska 11 Veterans have passed away and 6 spouses and, for the office 11 Veterans, 6 Spouses passed away for the office files. For widows 2 requests for compensation or pensions for Widows, 3 burial benefits and 1 completed 11 headstones or markers.

Had no request for Senators Office help and, 6 Requests for Homestead exemption letters.

Nebraska and Saline County Help from the office discharges 13 from state and 7 from the county, 5 hunting and Fishing permit, 1 State Veterans Home applications. And 20 request for transportation for health care and only completing 15 of these trips due to canceling the appointment or due to bad weather and road conditions. Office has provided 11 county markers. Have provided a copy of Obituary for a Veteran Patricia Sobotka which we cannot provide a marker as we don't know dates of service and to report her to the state. Nebraska Veterans Aid has paid from last report 4 New claims for aid \$10281.00 with 4 denied for \$5283.00 and we have 2 pending for \$4523.00. County Aid fund started at \$ 2678.25 and had 1 request for County Aid in the amount \$1297.00 which was denied due to the veteran has not lived in the county long enough Checking fund is \$2578.25 with a reserve fund for \$ 4329.00. The CVSO's where to have been given an update at NACO in December on the VA starting a new Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) which should be picking veterans up at their homes and taking them to Lincoln or Omaha appointments the first of February

Veterans Office Budget is in good shape and looking at replacing the Office computer this year or next year. Veterans Memorial Budget started at \$18587 and expended \$7087.63 as we have ordered a new Kiosk for \$4599 and it I have \$11499.37 left in the repair budget. The New Kiosk is now in the office and running and have started to get the surround for the Kiosk removed a for painting and fitting of the new kiosk. I am the only one entering information in the Kiosk and I may spend an hour each week

I am still entering information and Pictures mostly from the newspaper obituaries. As per the Commissioners the committee will need to set up a new line item in the Office Budget for up keep and repairs for the Veterans Memorial and to put the Kiosk on the office equipment list.

Reported on the states computer system Vetera Spec as it has been making filing claims easier. This office has had 126 reported interactions with the Vetera Spec system
Report on Outreach at Crete Veterans and Friends (VFW) going only the first Wednesday of the month until it shows that it is need for more time.

Went over the budget that is to be turned in and only changes to make are 2.5 % cost of living increase of salary. And to add a line item for Veterans Memorial Repair operating expenses under the office budget operating expenses for the amount for \$10,000 which may not be filled until the other budget has been expended. Went over some to the legislative bills for veterans mostly taxing of retired military pay and tax exemption for veterans Organizations.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be Thursday 19 September 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse assembly room. With no further business to come before the committee Kozak moved for Adjournment and seconded by Strain Voting aye: 5, nays: none, motion carried.
Alan Strouf adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Forrest A. Doyle, Secretary