



Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting

Monday, June 27, 2022

10:00 am

Courthouse Board Room

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge

Present: Barney Ruitter, Steve Bosma, Dave Peterson and Mary Lou Kleveland.

2. Review and Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes

The May monthly meeting minutes were reviewed. Peterson motioned, second by Bosma to approve the May minutes. Minutes were approved.

3. Veteran Service Officer Reports:

- a. Monthly VA numbers: Mary Lou shared the statistics for May.
- b. Community Outreach –There were new ads running on KIOU during the months of April, May and June. Mary Lou continues to do the voiceovers for the ads. Mary Lou gave the commissioners the sticky notes and magnets that she had ordered from Bison Graphics. She shared they will be used for community outreach as well as with the veterans Mary Lou is working with.
- c. Review Monthly Expenditure Report Approval – The June expenditure report was reviewed and approved. Peterson motioned to approve the June expenditure report and Bosma seconded the motion. Barney Ruitter signed the June report.

4. Old Business

- a. Hancock County Issues Update - At the recommendation of two of the commissioners at the 6/27 commissioners meeting, Mary Lou attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on 5/31/22. She shared the background information about Hancock County and asked for approval to bill Hancock County on the 5 cases she was working on for Hancock County. The Board of Supervisors agreed that Mary Lou should bill Hancock County for the work. Mary Lou shared with the commissioners two letters that she had received from Gerald Edgar, the director of Hancock Co VA. Mary Lou advised that she had called the Hancock County Auditor and she seemed to understand why Winnebago Co VA had billed them. Mary Lou asked if they thought she should have any more contact with Gerald Edgar as he just wants to talk about non issues. The commissioners agreed that Mary Lou should continue to serve the five Hancock County veterans and to not worry about communication with Gerald Edgar, especially as he is retiring in four days.
- b. Consider for approval VA Office Policy Change for financial assistance – This issue was briefly discussed again but there will need to be ongoing discussion on this issue before a policy change is approved and implemented.

5. **New Business**

- a. VA New and Emerging Information - Mary Lou has begun working on the State Grant Allocation Report which shows how the \$10,000 grant was used for FY 21-22 in Winnebago County. The report will be submitted at the end of July.
- b. Puckerbrush Parade – There was a discussion about whether Veterans Affairs should participate in the Puckerbrush Parade. It was decided that this would not be a beneficial use of Mary Lou’s time. However, all of the commissioners agreed that Mary Lou should consider attending the Winnebago County Fair to share information about Veterans Affairs. Mary Lou will check into this.
- c. Winnebago County Memorial Monument/Wall – Mary Lou shared that there is only room for a maximum of 3 names on the monument designated for Forest City veterans. Mary Lou also shared that she has 4 requests to have names engraved and that there must be 5 requests before the engraver is willing to come to engrave on the monuments so there will need to be another monument designated for Forest City Veterans. The commissioners and Mary Lou discussed how the monuments were done initially. The commissioners stated that Jack Caputo spearheaded the project and Wayne Johns was also involved. Barney offered to contact Jack Caputo to find out more. Further discussion on this topic will occur at the July meeting and other future meetings.
- d. Next Meeting Date: July 25, 2022 @ 10 am

5. **Adjournment** – Bosma motioned; Peterson second. Meeting adjourned.

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