



Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2024 – 10:00 am
Winnebago Co Health Department Board Room

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge

Present: Steve Bosma, Troy Thompson and Mary Lou Kleveland. Absent: Dave Peterson

2. Review and Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes

The December monthly meeting minutes were reviewed. Thompson motioned, seconded by Bosma to approve the December minutes. All in favor. December minutes were approved.

3. Veteran Services Officer Report

- a. Monthly VA numbers: Mary Lou shared the statistics for December 2023. There were no questions about the numbers for the December activities for the VA office.
- b. County Outreach Efforts – There were no outreach events for December 2023.
- c. Review Monthly Expenditure Report for Approval - The commissioners and Mary Lou reviewed the expenditures for December. Bosma motioned and Thompson seconded to approve the December expenditures. All in favor. The December expenditure report was approved and the commissioners signed off on the report.

4. Old Business

- a. Change in engraving fee for Veterans Memorial Wall – This has already been approved and has been made part of the Winnebago County VA policy.

5. New Business – VA New and Emerging Information

- a. VA New and Emerging Information – The veteran failed to turn in his application for financial assistance from Winnebago County Veterans Affairs so there was nothing to review although this item had been on the agenda for January. Mary Lou and Thompson shared about the budget meeting on 1/16/2024 with the Board of Supervisors. Thompson asked when the FY 24-25 budget would be finalized. Mary Lou stated the Board of Supervisors would be approving the budgets at a future BOS meeting but Mary Lou didn't know when that would be.
- b. Commissioner Compensation and comparison with Iowa counties – Mary Lou advised that there had been a discussion in her recent VSO forum regarding compensation amounts for County Commissioners. Mary Lou stated that many of the counties pay much more than \$25 per meeting, which is what the Winnebago County Commissioners are currently receiving. Mary Lou stated that she would be happy to pay the Commissioners a greater monthly compensation amount as there was money in the budget to do so. All of the Commissioners said that they were fine with continuing with the \$25 monthly compensation and would rather the budget go to services to the veterans of Winnebago County.
- c. Discussing about utilizing a newsletter for Winnebago Co veterans – There was a brief discussion regarding using a print newsletter to disperse information to Winnebago County veterans. Mary Lou shared that there were other counties utilizing this form of communication and there is a company who prints, addresses and mails the newsletters for a cost. Thompson stated that he was

not a fan of this kind of communication because he doesn't think the benefit would outweigh the cost.

- d. First reading of Winnebago Veterans Affairs Policy with discussion of revisions – There was discussion regarding the current policy and potential revisions for the future. Thompson motioned and Bosma seconded to table further discussion to a later date when specific revisions could be discussed. All in favor. Policy and revisions will be tabled to a future date.
- e. Next Meeting Date: February 26, 2024 at 10:00 am at the Winnebago County Courthouse

Adjournment – Peterson motioned; Bosma seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

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