

Livingston County Veterans' Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2018

I. Call to Order

Hansel Keene called to order the meeting of the Livingston County Veteran's Committee at 6:00 pm on January 8, 2018 at Livingston County Veteran Services.

II. Roll Call

Hansel Keene conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Bruce Hundley, Jim Wallace, Kevin Nagle, Joe Riker. Also present, Andrea Hodges and Adam Smiddy.

- III. Approval of Minutes:** For the minutes dated 16 November, 2017, Joe Riker asked to correct paragraph 2 under New Business and add, "The Committee informed the Director that it is part of the committees' duties for oversight of the office." Motion to approve the minutes dated 16 November 2017 as amended: Joe Riker. Second: Kevin Nagle. Discussion, None. Motion voted upon, 5 yeas: Minutes Approved.

For the minutes dated 5 December, 2107, Bruce Hundley asked that he requested "Administrative Aid was allowed to deliver bread to for 10 hours a week" be added to the Approval of Minutes which was not recorded as a correction to minutes dated November 7, 2017. Joe Riker asked that paragraph 2 in the call to the public is based on a Veteran complaint and should read ". Mr. Parish expressed concern based on a veteran report that procedures that Livingston County Veterans' Services is using to deliver relief to Veterans such that he perceives the procedures to be more buerautic than previously." Motion to approve the minutes dated 5 December 2017 as amended: Jim Wallace, Second: Joe Riker. Discussion, None. Motion voted upon, 5 yeas: Minutes Approved.

- IV. Call to Public:** None.

V. Applications for Relief:

17-052: \$117,595.00 Appeal for termite damage repair. The applicant stated that as a Veteran he is asking that the committee aid his family in addressing issues caused by termite damage. The applicant addressed previous suggestions by the Committee to pursue legal action, home condemnation and bankruptcy such that after legal consults, those avenues are not viable. The Committee expressed concern over the lack of other avenues to address the issue being brought forth by the applicant such that tax money could not be disbursed without every available avenue being pursued. Motion to deny

the appeal: Joe Riker, Second: Jim Wallace. Discussion, The Committee discussed the ability for the family to reapply and the need for the family to pursue other avenues for funds to repair the termite damage. Vote, 5 yeas, Appeal Denied.

18-01: \$1,220.00 for Dental Care, the Committee inquired to the status of healthcare enrollment for the Veteran and that his needs were being seen to which the Counselor affirmed the status. Motion to approve the application: Bruce Hundley. Second: Kevin Nagle, 5 yeas. Application Approved.

18-02: \$1,061.40 for Car Repair, the Committee inquired to the condition of the vehicle and is it were worth fixing, the Counselor conveyed that the applicant would like to see the car repaired. Motion to approve the application: Joe Riker. Second: Hansel Keene, 5 yeas. Application Approved.

18-03: \$1,134.90 for Car Repair, the Committee inquired to the applicants' employment, the nature of the repair and the age of the vehicle. Motion to approve the application: Joe Riker. Second: Bruce Hundley, 5 yeas. Application Approved.

18-04: \$2,900.00 for New Furnace, the Committee inquired to ensure that the Furnace replacement would be completely covered within the invoice that the counselor affirmed. Motion to approve the application: Jim Wallace. Second: Bruce Hundley, 5 yeas. Application Approved.

18-05: \$3,908.89 for Rent, Utilities and Child Care. The committee inquired as the nature of the family resources and their ability to respond quickly to office inquiries. The counselor responded with needs of the family and asked for a budget to cover childcare needs for 60 days. The committee asked that the requirements for the childcare policy be met. Motion to pay \$3,908.89 for rent and utilities as well as up to 2 months of childcare at 50% payment rate up to \$3,000.00 total childcare costs.

VI. Old business:

The Committee asked the Director if he has reached out to Ingham County Veterans Services concerning their transportation program. The Director stated that he declined to do so and was working through the issues internally.

VII. New business:

The Director reported productivity totaled 90 office appointments, 70 transportation appointments, 11-relief applications 1 eviction and 1 homeless veteran. The Director reported that interviews for the new Driver position would be occurring on 10 January. The Committee asked about the new position and new procedures concerning the driving program. The Director reported the changes and a timeline for the

implementation of those changes to the Committee. The Director highlighted the total relief applicants and responded to questions.

The Committee asked for an update to the staff. The Director indicated that Ms. Hodges is performing well and has great follow through. Ms. Kenny is a very hard working, has been training other staff on compensation claims, and handles a large share of the workload. Ms. Learst is doing great work at the treatment court and is improving her work as a Veterans Services Officer. Ms. Cassie works hard as well and is very dedicated. Mr. DeLisle works very hard, works very well with the Veterans, and has been working to help change the transportation program. The Committee also asked about the counseling services being offered and the Director responded with the positive reviews of that service.

The Director informed the Committee that they do have the right to see into personnel files but that notifications would be required by the committee to inform the employee of the discussion.

The Director informed the Committee that there is a balance of \$127,814.00 from FY 2017 and that there would be resolution presented by Finance to create a budget to spend down the remaining cash in Fund 293 on Wednesday January 10th.

The Director informed the Committee of December events to include the office sponsoring four families for Christmas gift donations, the receipt of 36 bags of goods for the homeless from a private family and the receipt of Holiday cards from students of Parker Middle School. January Events will include mobile office hours at Brighton VFW on the 23rd from 1400-1600.

The Director will be drafting a resolution for the purchase of the van as well as training funds to fulfill requirements for the Treatment Court and VSO training as well as advanced training for employees.

The Director informed the Committee that a local family would like to donate two family homes to the County for use by Veterans as temporary housing.

Another private citizen has also offered to donate a vehicle to the department for donation to a needy veteran. The Director asked for any indication that the committee would be against rehabbing the vehicle. The Committee indicated that the repairs would be welcome to allow the office to donate the car to a veteran.

The Director extended the price agreement with the Baymont Inn, wrote a letter of support for OLHSA to continue to be the SSVF Grant coordinator and introduced the new office logo.

VIII. Good of the Order

Motion any travel by employees outside the borders of Livingston County must be approved by the Committee: Joe Riker, Second Bruce Hundley. Discussion, Jim Wallace asked the nature of the motion. Joe Riker indicated that the Director previously stated that the office would conduct outreach to a Veteran event at Ford Field without seeking the endorsement of the Committee and those should occur with the consent of the Committee. Vote, 4 yeas, Motion Approved.

IX. Adjournment

Joe Riker motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm, Kevin Knagle seconds. 5 yeas, Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Adam Smiddy

An audio recording is available.