

# ***Livingston County Veterans' Committee***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

November 7, 2017

### **I. Call to order**

Hansel Keene called to order the meeting of the Livingston County Veteran's Council at 6:03 pm on November 7, 2017 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, Andrea Hodges and Adam Smiddy

**III. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve: Jim Wallace. Second: Kevin Nagle. Discussion, None. Motion voted upon, 5 yeas, Minutes Approved.

**IV. Call to Public:** None

### **V. Applications for Relief:**

17-094: \$42,219.00 For Home Modification. Committee asked the applicant if moving to a more appropriate home may be necessary, which the applicant would not consider. Committee members expressed concern over the scope of work on the home compared to the value of the home with current mortgage obligations. Committee also asked the applicant if the placement of a lien on the home would be accepted, the applicant indicated that a lien would be agreed upon and that there are no plans to move from the home. The Director asked the applicant to provide more detail into the refinancing of the home a few years prior and if there was a cash payout associated with the refinancing, the applicant stated that she did not believe she received money during the refinancing. The committee asked the applicant if other credit card debts owed would be manageable with current income. The applicant stated that a cash gift was received from a friend and the current debts would be taken care of. The committee informed the applicant that they would continue to discuss the application and that they would be notified the following day of a decision, the applicant left the meeting. The committee continued to discuss the debt situation and the scope the project compared to the home value. Motion to deny the application: Bruce Hundley, Second Joe Riker, 5 yeas, Application Denied.

17-083: \$4,917.00 for Tax Assessment from Cedar Lake Improvements. Committee expressed concern about the need to pay the entire amount of the tax assessment. Committee members asked that further investigation be made to determine if an application is to be made to pay for dental procedures identified by the Veteran. Motion to Approve the Application up to the amount of \$1,900.00 such that the result

will lower the monthly payment made by the Veteran to a manageable level: Joe Riker, Second: Kevin Nagle, 5 yeas, Application Approved.

## **VI. Old business**

17-050: The Director updated the Committee on the return of funds from Burton Family Construction relating to the failure to complete work under contract.

## **VII. New business**

The Director updated the Committee on the Child Care Program and Counseling Services rollout and an upcoming press release to announce the availability of those services. The committee asked that verification be made for counselors' accreditation. The committee asked that any childcare services provided are done with the recipient having an obligation to notify Veterans' Services of any changes to employment or otherwise that would affect the need for the services.

The Director asked for monies to be spent to provide flag cases to families and veterans filing for burial benefits totaling \$3,440.00 for 100 cases. The committee expressed concern over purchasing that volume of cases and the storage requirements for the cases. The committee asked that investigation be made into finding cheaper cases that can be purchased in smaller volumes. Motion to provide flag cases to burial benefit claimants: Kevin Nagle, Second: Joe Riker, 5 yeas, Purchase Approved.

The Director updated the committee on state of the current budget with actual expenditures of \$126,305.00 for 2017 and an available budget of \$185,694.93. Productivity for the department totaled 132 office appointments and 75 transportation appointments and 11 applications for relief during October. Kevin Nagle appreciated the information provided and asked that a summary of relief services provided be given in the future to see how people are helped. The Director advised the committee that department Driver has continued to work above the scheduled 19 hour average and that there is a need to hire an additional part-time driver. Committee members expressed a need for more data on office operations and more information to justify the hiring of an additional driver. Bruce Hundley submitted an example of a driver log to justify the need for an additional driver and an example vehicle maintenance check. Committee members also questioned the desire of employees to accept changes in the transportation program, which was based upon conversations that occurred during a hearing. The Director informed the Committee that the staff is willing to be flexible. The Director informed the committee that more data would be provided but questioned the need for a level of detail that without the context currently being provided, would be unnecessary as an independent source of information. Bruce Hundley suggested that riders of the

transportation program sign an agreement that as part of their ridership the Veteran will not request mileage funds from the Department of Veteran Affairs. The Director agreed that riders should not be receiving funds for their appointments but enforcement of a program would be difficult. Bruce Hundley suggested that the Department pursue rescheduling Veteran medical appointments to reduce the number of trips taken to Ann Arbor. Jim Wallace expressed his disagreement with the nature of the changes being discussed. The Director indicated that the ability of the department to undertake Veteran medical and transportation scheduling would necessitate the hiring of additional staff to do so due to current demands and job descriptions of employees, for example, the Administrative Specialist spends approximately 10 hours a week sorting and distributing bread donations through the East Complex.

The Director updated the Committee on Veterans day activities and the nomination of a needy family to receive assistance for the holidays from Tanger Outlets.

#### **VIII. Good of the Order**

**None**

#### **IX. Adjournment**

Joe Riker motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 pm, Kevin Nagle seconds. 5 yeas,  
Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Adam Smiddy