

Livingston County Veterans' Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2018

I. Call to Order

Hansel Keene called to order the meeting of the Livingston County Veteran's Committee at 5:30 pm on February 5, 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, and Joe Riker. Also present were Richard McNulty, Jennifer Palmbo, Judge Carol Sue Reader and Adam Smiddy.

III. Approval of Agenda: Bruce Hundley requested that Old Business be moved to the front and for an update to the Grant and Office Incident in New Business, Hansel Keene asked that Meeting Dates be added to New Business, unanimous consent was given.

IV. Old business:

The Chair recognized Richard McNulty for discussion of a legal opinion. Mr. McNulty suggested that the meeting move to a closed session as allowed by the Open Meetings Act. Jim Wallace motion to move to a closed meeting, Kevin Nagle supported, Discussion, none. Vote, 4 yeas, Bruce Hundley opposed.

V. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes dated 8 January 2018 as presented Jim Wallace. Second: Kevin Nagle. Discussion, None. Motion voted upon, 5 yeas: Minutes Approved.

For the minutes dated 17 January 2018, Motion to approve the minutes as presented Kevin Knagle, Second: Jim Wallace. Discussion, None. Motion voted upon, 3 yeas: Bruce Hundley and Joe Riker abstained. Minutes Approved.

VI. Call to Public: The Chair recognized Judge Carol Sue Reader and allowed for discussion. Judge Reader expressed concern over the amount of work hours the Veterans Court Liaison, Dawn Learst, is able to dedicate to the Court. The Judge asked for at least 30 hours a week of dedicated time at the court from the Liaison, and that her concerns be considered before addressing them with the Board of Commissioner. Hansel Keene noted that the position of Veterans Court Liaison is supposed to place the Court as a priority over the Veterans Services Department. The Director stated that for the Liaison to maintain VA accreditation to file claims, which a minimum of 1,000 hours of claims work is necessary per year, which aligns with the current work

schedule of the Liaison. The Director recommended the duties asked of the Liaison by the Court be reconsidered to allow more important work be addressed.

VII. Applications for Relief:

18-022: \$1,917.80 for Tax Debt Relief. The Committee expressed concern about the other years of taxes that are due by the applicant. Bruce Hundley motions to approve the application, Kevin Knagle Seconds. Discussion, none. Vote, 5-0, Application Approved.

18-019: \$6,428.06 for Housing and Utilities. The Committee expressed concern about the Applicants cost of living, income, expenses and employment. The Committee suggested that the Applicant leverage other assets to assist in paying for mortgage. Kevin Knagle motions to pay \$1,599.36 toward Applicants utilities, fuel and food. Joe Riker Seconds. Discussion: Members of the Committee asked Kevin Nagle his intent; he stated that he did not want to see the family without heat and food. Vote, 4 yeas, 1 nay Hansel Keene. Application approved for \$1,599.36.

18-023: \$11,882.10 for Home Repair and Tombstone: The Committee expressed concern about the Applicants mortgage situation, living arrangements and previous application requiring a lien for home repair. Kevin Knagle motions to amend the previous application 17-040 to remove the requirement for a lien be placed on the home for work to be completed, Hansel Keene supports. Discussion, Jim Wallace stated that the lien was placed on the home for a purpose and that in his opinion the original decision should stand. Vote, 1 yea Kevin Nagle, 4 nays. Motion did not pass. Joe Riker motion to deny the tombstone, Kevin Knagle seconds. Discussion, none. Vote, 5-0, Application denied.

VIII. New business:

The Committee discussed moving to meeting date to the 4 Monday of the month at 5:30 pm to avoid conflict with other Livingston County Government Meetings, unanimous consent was given to do so.

The Committee asked for an update for an investigation of Dawn Learst. The Director informed the Committee that an investigation was conducted to determine the extent of negligence by Ms. Learst in the handling of Personal Health Information (PHI). It was determined that while Ms. Learst was negligent in the execution of her duties, the extent of corrective action would be limited to counseling and retraining. The Committee asked why this information was discovered. The Director informed the Committee that the information was uncovered because of preparation for a suggested investigation into a complaint filed by Joshua Parish, Region 9 VCAT Coordinator.

The Committee asked for an update to the County Incentive Grant, the Director informed the Committee the Grant was approved by the MVAA and the documents would have to be into the state by June 1.

The Director reported that the office had 173 office appointments, 73 transportation appointments, 38 claims filed and 16 relief claims. The Director reported that in the month of January a total of \$22,845.67 in Relief has been spent. The Director also reported that due to the current staffing levels, it would be difficult to conduct outreach given the need to staff the office and that a need exists to add personnel. The Director reported the Resolutions to authorize an office remodel and vehicle donation acceptance as well as the invoice for the new van purchase.

The Director also discussed participating in Community Connect as well as Walk for Warmth as outreach opportunities in the month of February. Kevin Nagle asked that the Committee be notified of events. The Committee also asked about tele-mental health initiatives by the VA, the Director stated that the MOU was done improperly and that it should be revisited by my Civil Council prior to pursuing it further.

IX. Good of the Order

Joe Riker announced that the Veteran of the Year election is coming at the end of February.

X. Adjournment

Joe Riker motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm, Kevin Nagle seconds. 5 yeas,
Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Adam Smiddy

An audio recording is available.