Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County
December 11, 2024 - Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Opened: 1730 hours - 5:30 pm

Attendees:

Board Members	**Guests**
Terrell Lewis – President (Rock Valley AmVets #922)	Jesus Pereira – Superintendent
Nancy Clark – Administrative Coordinator (VFW Post #5149)	Debra Hoover – VACWC Secretary
Eric Willard – Finance Coordinator (VVA Post #984)	Francesca Montanez – VACWC
Lana McCants – Service and Personnel Coordinator (VFW Post #342)	Mayra Toral – VACWC
Gary Holmes (American Legion Post #332)	Luz Ortiz-Rivera – VACWC
Dave Davis (American Legion Post #1207)	Timothy Hotchkiss – VACWC
George Meissen (American Legion Post #1207)	Willie Borden – VACWC
Reuben Hernandez (VFW Post #2955	Crystal DesRoberts – Guest
Gene Schaefer (VFW Post #9759)	Julie Weis – Guest
Ken VanLandeghem (American Legion Post #288	Kristine Spivey – Guest
Donald Reynolds (Marie Corps League Post #083)	Gary Christopher – Guest
John Kline – Zoom – Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29)	Ray Richmond – Guest
	John Clark - Guest

- Motion to Allow Zoom Attendees: Don Reynolds 2nd – Ruben Hernandez – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Elected Official Roll Call – 10 attendees from 9 posts
- Motion to Waive reading of Agenda: Gary Holmes – 2nd – Dave Davis – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Motion to Waive reading of Minutes: Gary Holmes - 2nd – Don Reynolds – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Public Comments: (Max. 3 minutes each)
    - Ray Richmond Jr.
    - Crystal DesRoberts
    - Kristine Spivey
    - Julie Weis
    - Debra Hoover

President's Report – Terrell Lewis – Welcome

- If you get any questions from the press regarding the current budget issue please refer to Superintendent Jesus Pereira
- Required to complete OMA and FOIA Training – Reach out to Debi if you need the training link
- Considering a Confidentiality Agreement that will be a requirement of all board members to sign

Admin Coordinator Report – Nancy Clark

- Presented dates for upcoming meetings
- No longer have the week after recap meeting – move to Agenda Prep meeting

Appeals Committee

- Gary – we should be honoring the current bylaws
- Nancy – MVAA trumps the bylaws in regards to appeals
- Jesus – the appeal process is a state law
- Attorney – reviewed the law and the process we will need to follow

Gary Holmes left the meeting at 6:11 pm

Services and Personnel Coordinator – Lana McCants

- We should not be required to sign a confidentiality agreement until it is added to our bylaws

Finance Coordinator – Eric Willard

- We are at 13% of our expenditures and completed 16% of the year

Superintendent Report – Jesus Pereira

- Reported on VAC business
    - Office update – Power Point Presentation
    - Appeals – working with States Attorney Lafa on the proper procedure – this is new for the county so they need to come up with a process
    - Outreach for November
    - Need for additional volunteers for VA Transportation Program (VTN)
    - Met with Volunteer Drivers to explain the different between VTN and VTS
    - There have been some unfavorable Facebook Posts – remind clients they can send complaints on our website

Unfinished Business

- Continue search for Veteran friendly banking institution – Woodforest National Bank
- Use of personal phones and computers for VACWC business – looking into County providing phones/computers and e-mail addresses for elected officers

New Business

- Virtual GA – new program for the VAC to track General Assistance and Emergency Assistance
- Cheaper than one new employee
- $17K to purchase and $3K per license

Went into Closed Session at 6:44 pm – Superintendent Evaluation
Motion to go into Closed Session – Nancy Clark 2nd Don Reynolds – Voice Vote Unanimous
Closed Session Ended at 7:50 pm

Closing: Next Full Commission Meeting 1/8/20254 – 5:30 pm – 555 N. Court St., Room 115, Rockford

Commencement of Meeting – 7:56 pm

- Motion to adjourn Lana McCants 2nd Ken VanLandeghem Voice Vote: Yes - unanimous