VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

555 Court Street, Rockford, IL 61103 – 815-516-2850 – VAC@wincoil.us

Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: 14 OCTOBER 2020 @ 1730 hours

I. OPENING – 1835 Hours

A. Installation of New Officers.
- **1.** Dave Davis – President
- **2.** Nancy Clark – Administrative Coordinator
- **3.** Todd Burton – Finance Coordinator
- **4.** Theresa Cris-Amos – Services Coordinator

B. Meeting held via Zoom Meetings (internet-based meeting platform).

C. Roll Call of Commission Officers, Certified Organizations Delegates & Alternates
Officers_4_ Delegates_6_ Alternates_4_ Cert. Org._8_ Quorum _YES_
John Kline entered meeting at 1801 hours.

D. Recognition of Guests and or Visitors Guests_2_ Visitors_0_
Steve Thomas, Superintendent; Julie Weis, Secretary

E. Accept the AGENDA: Any additions or changes to be made?
NOTE: Additions can be made. NO MOTIONS or VOTES TAKEN until a following meeting. First Vote taken by Roll Call (R/C). Subsequent votes will be by Show of Hands (S/H) with R/C votes as needed.

Motion presented by reading agenda. 2nd Jim Nelson
R/C vote: Y_7_ N_0__ Result of Vote: _Unanimous_

F. Reading and Disposition of September's minutes.

Motion presented by reading of minutes. 2nd Jim Nelson
S/H vote: Y_7_ N_0_ Result of Vote: Unanimous

II. REPORTS

A. VAC-Administration Reports

1. President
- **a.** New By-Laws are now in effect as of 01 OCT 2020.
- **b.** IGA still at the County. Waiting to hear back from them.
- **c.** Budget was approved by the County as submitted with NO Changes.

2. Administrative Coordinator
- **a.** 10/15 Advisory meeting – Discuss Services and any issues from last Commission meeting.
- **b.** 10/22 Advisory meeting – Finance.
- **c.** 10/29 Advisory meeting – Policies – Work on the Handbook.

- **d.** 11/5 Advisory meeting – Month-end wrap-up and Agenda Preparation.
- **e.** The Commission Meeting for November is cancelled since it falls on Veterans' Day. The next meeting will be 09 DEC 2020.
- **f.** Update on New Van - VTS #2
    1. Van is ready for Pick up in Kentucky.
    2. The Hospital Drivers are picking it up for us.
    3. The van will be run by the VAC.
    4. The van is donated to the hospital for our use to provide rides to our local Veterans.
    5. Once Madison receives the van, they will get it titled, licensed, and equipped for our use. CoVid most likely will slow this process down.
    6. The DAV donated approximately $16,500 towards the van and the VAC paid $20,500 for it.

3. **Services Coordinator** – No Report – No Personal Issues – No report

4. **Appeals Committee** – No Appeals – No Report

Motion presented by reports as given. 2nd Jean Henning
S/H vote: Y _7_ N _0_ Result of Vote: Unanimous

John Kline Joined Meeting at 1801.

5. **Finance Coordinator**
    - **a.** Budget Details
        1. Last year's budget was approximately $567,000 and they approved $652,000 for this year's budget.
        2. Fund Equity ended the year at $128,000 even though the finance statements say $184,000. That difference is because we over spent and were given approval for a budget amendment as well as moved some money from operations to assistance.
        3. The county is allowing us keep our Fund Equity at $128.000 which is closer to the 25% of our total budget.
        4. Our Budget breaks down to $333,685 for operations and $318,000 for assistance.
    - **b.** Finance Reports – Total assets $441,864.64. Checking balance $45,700. Savings balance $157,700. Vehicle Recapitalization $22,000 to replace vehicles. See Meeting packet.

c. Audit will be taking place in the future now that the 2020 Fiscal Year is over. Todd will be sending out a new letter requesting bids for the audit. 5 letters were sent out last year and we did NOT get any bids. Government Auditors are hard to find and we are a very small entity.

Motion presented by finance reports as given. 2nd Jean Henning
R/C vote: Y_8_ N_0_ AB_0_ Result of Vote: Unanimous

B. VAC-Operations – See Meeting Packet

1. Superintendent
- **a.** Received 1st quarter draw of $83,400.00 from operations budget of $333,000.00.
- **b.** We blew our assistance budget of $246,000.00 last year. We spent $318,000.00 and that is what we got this coming year for our assistance budget.
- **c.** November 3rd is a holiday this year for election day in Winnebago County.
- **d.** VSO Training – 2 employees are now working on VSO Claims after completing the VSO Training.
- **e.** Dave Draeger finished VSO Training and quit shortly thereafter.

2. Client Assistance helped 77 clients.

3. Veterans Service Officers connected with 60 Veterans last month for a total of 137 clients.

4. Outreach

5. Transportation
- **a.** A lump sum payment of $3,096.00 was made for the VTS Van so it is paid through Fiscal Year 2021.
- **b.** Todd suggested we pay next year's payment in August or September so that we stay 1 year ahead.
- **c.** Groups can make donations to the VTS Van still through Madison

Motion presented by reports presented. 2nd Jim Nelson
S/H vote: Y_8_ N_0_ Result of Vote: Unanimous

III. CORRESPONDENCE

A. The American Legion in Rockton, post 332, changed their Alternate from Rueben Hernandez to David Draeger.

B. Letter from Illinois Cremation Society regarding a Veteran Appreciation Lunch.

C. Sergeant P's Lap-gans is struggling financially due to CoVid and needs some support.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **A.** The Power Point Briefing ready for Presentations – Col. Draeger did a trial presentation at the Rockton American Legion Post 332 at their monthly meeting.
- **B.** The briefing can be presented at any VMO meetings, the County Board, and/or any other organization interested in learning about our VAC.

V. NEW BUSINESS – Meeting on November 11th has been Cancelled for Veterans Day.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- **A.** The Cremation Society of Illinois is offering a free Drive-Thru Lunch for Veterans on Nov 6th from 11am – 1pm.
- **B.** 2-Go Feed-a-Vet meal program is on their 26th Meal – 14 Nov will be a Thanksgiving Meal.
- **C.** Standdown is 30 October from 9am to 1pm at the 7th Street VFW.
- **D.** VA is now giving Flu Shots.
- **E.** Please follow social distancing rules and wear your masks. CoVid Positivity Rates are on the rise.
- **F.** Several Raffles going on for SheVets and AmVets at the Ross Pearson VFW Post on 7th Street. Stop in and buys some chances for those.
- **G.** Theresa is asking for names of Veteran Owned Business to create a directory of Veteran Owned Businesses to help our fellow veterans.
- **H.** There is a committee trying to figure out the needs of Veteran's Family Members. They have grant money available to help Veteran Family Members

VII. CLOSING

A. Next Meeting is on **December 09, 2020 @ 1730 hours**

Motion to Adjourn:** **Nancy Clark** **2nd** **Jean Henning
Voice Vote:** **8** **Ayes** **0** **Nays

B. Meeting Adjourned at: 1848 Hours

Meeting Recorded and Filed **Julie Weis, Secretary**