

COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes of

The Regular Meeting of February 2, 2018

Meeting called to order at 8:31 am.

Attendance was taken and those present were: Norm Bednarek, Chair; John Van Wie, Commissioner; Keith Miller, Commissioner; Richard Hasse, CVSO & Executive Secretary.

It was certified that the agenda was properly posted and the meeting properly noticed. There were no changes to the agenda. The agenda was approved on motion by Bednarek, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

The minutes from the last regular meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved on motion by Van Wie, seconded by Bednarek. Motion carried.

The Commission's expense report since the last regular meeting was reviewed. Approval of the report was motioned by Bednarek and seconded by Miller. Motions carried.

Hasse advised the Commissioners that the VA has resumed online applications for the new Veteran ID Cards. Previously problems with error messages and the website locking up on applicants have reportedly been resolved. Veterans who already are enrolled in VA Healthcare and possess a VA Health ID Card should not apply. Hasse also advised the Commissioners on a new DoD/VA joint venture website which helps veterans with undesirable discharges navigate the process to request for a discharge upgrade.

Hasse advised the Commissioners that the Columbia County Veterans Service Office had applied for the newly restored WDVA CVSO Grant and offered each of them a copy of the grant package. The grant was legislatively and statutorily restored to its previous structure and application process. Columbia County will be eligible for the original grant schedule of \$11,500; which has been designated in the 2018 County Budget to be allocated against office staff wages and fringe benefits.

Hasse also advised the Commissioners about Heartland Hospice, from Madison, and their veterans-centric Veteran-to-Veteran Volunteer program. They place volunteer veterans with ill veterans undergoing hospice services and afford the ill veterans someone with whom they can share their military memories and experiences.

Lastly, Hasse updated the Commissioners on the status of the feasibility study to relocate the Barker Monument. Hasse mentioned that he has been given approval to proceed with the study by the Portage Parks Committee and by the Columbia County Executive Committee. Jim Grothman of Grothman Engineering in Portage has volunteered his services to design and estimate the materiel costs for a foundational underlayment for the new location of the monument. Hasse also mentioned that he has contacted the G. Reinke monument company in Oshkosh about providing an estimate on moving the monument. This company was the only company in the area with the expertise for such a project; as was previously researched by Hasse when he initiated the Marquette County Veterans Memorial project in Montello. Mr Grothman and Mr Reinke have agreed to communicate with Hasse on their final findings. Hasse also mentioned that Columbia County Executive Committee was requesting additional alternative sighting options besides just the location behind the flag poles in the front of the new Administration Building. Hasse showed a drawing of the new proposed intersection design at Edgewater and DeWitt streets. The Commissioners discussed the available locations for the monument on the drawing and prioritized their three choices. The Commissioners also advised Hasse they stand ready to present their choices to the Columbia County Executive Committee and Portage Parks Committee.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, March 16th, 2018 at 8:30 am. Motioned by Miller, seconded by Van Wie. Motion carried.

There being no other business before the commission at this time, Van Wie motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Bednarek. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard E. Hasse, Columbia County Veterans' Assistant Service Officer
and Executive Secretary, Columbia County Veterans' Service Commission