

# COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

## Approved Meeting Minutes of

### The Regular Meeting of February 8, 2017

Meeting called to order at 8:32 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 and no expenses had occurred or were documented since the last regular meeting. Approval of the report was motioned by Bednarek and seconded by Miller. Motions carried.

Hasse presented the Commissioners with information on the final rule on diseases associated with the water contamination exposure at Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River. It was noted that the final rule covers all military personnel regardless of branch or reserve/guard status. The final rule was published on 1/12/17 but will not become effective until 60 days from publishing, which will be on 3/14/17.

Hasse also presented the Commissioners information about the appointment by Governor Walker of Dan Zimmerman or Berlin, WI, to be the new Secretary of the WDVA, effective immediately. It was noted that Zimmerman does not come to the WDVA with the proven business acumen and experience, as well as a proven track record in business, which the WDVA is sorely in need of; particularly considering the findings and allegations at the King Veterans Home of financial problems. It was also mentioned that Tom Rhatican has apparently been returned to the WDVA from the currently troubled WDOT, but no official announcement has been made of his new position at WDVA. He was previously the veterans homes administrator at WDVA. It was also mentioned that apparently Kathy Marschman remains at WDVA but there has been no official announcement of her current position there. It was also noted that these two individuals have a long history at the WDVA and as legislative aides; with no practical private business experience so desperately needed. The jury is still out as to how effectively reform is being implemented at WDVA.

Hasse mentioned that he will be out of country from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup> while traveling with his UW Madison MBA class to China and Vietnam for field research. Hasse discussed with the Commissioner his itinerary to Hong Kong and Hanoi. The Commissioners wished Hasse good travels and expect a full report on his experiences when he returns.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 8:30 am. Motion 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 Miller. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,



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