

# COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

## Approved Meeting Minutes of

### The Regular Meeting of March 17, 2017

Meeting called to order at 8:36 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 Van Wie, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

The minutes from the last regular meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved on motion by Bednarek, seconded by Miller. 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 advised the Commissioners that as of March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Federal VA would begin to process all claims for service-connected disability associated with the water contamination at Camp Lejeune and the adjoining MCAS New River. Hasse advised the Commissioners about recent news of a Columbia County veteran whom he assisted with a claim for Burn Pit exposure in Iraq had been awarded 100% for cancer associated with that exposure. This is the first burn pit exposure claim success in Columbia County. Hasse also mentioned that he had sent the new Federal VA Secretary, Dr David Shulkin, a copy of his proposal to utilize the existing CHAMPVA health insurance program, originally meant for dependents of 100% SC veterans, as a method to relieve the congestion at the VA Hospitals and the troubled Choice Program by allowing non-disabled veterans to enroll in the insurance program under a special category, perhaps even with modest premiums and copays.

Hasse provided the Commissioners with copies of a recent news article which announced the WI Senate committee confirmation of the new WDVA Secretary, Dan Zimmerman. He also mentioned that Tom Rhatican is the new Deputy Secretary, having been moved over from the troubled WI DOT, and Kathy Marschman remains as the Assistant Deputy Secretary. The article goes on to say that Mr Zimmerman promises a new attitude and new direction at the WDVA.

Hasse then provided the Commissioners with a copy of the completed historical accounting of all past Columbia County CVSOs going back to inception of the Columbia County CVSO Office on November 23, 1937. Hasse mentioned that he will be making a plaque to list all of the previous CVSOs that will be placed in the front room of the new CVSO Office. Hasse also mentioned that this is the year of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Columbia County CVSO Office and that Rebekka Cary and he are planning a celebration sometime in the fall, during which time the above plaque will be formally dedicated. More to come on this subject as it evolves.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 8:30 am, in conjunction with the American Legion Youth Government Day. 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