

COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes of

The Regular Meeting of April 18, 2018

Meeting called to order at 8:35 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 Miller, seconded by Van Wie. Motion carried.

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

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

Hasse mentioned to the Commissioners that an emergency replacement of a veteran's water heater was acted upon utilizing funds donated to the CVSO Office and sitting in a non-lapsing equity fund. Hasse mentioned how the Veterans Relief fund is going to be used as a conduit of those funds in order to transfer them to an expenditure fund for use, on an as-needed basis, for the purpose the funds were donated; to assist veterans in need. This will be external to the veterans' relief provided by the Commission.

Hasse provided the Commissioners with a fact sheet from the US DVA which helps to debunk the story in the media that there is an effort to privatize the VA by the Trump administration. Hasse also mentioned that the nominee for the new Secretary of the VA, Dr. Ronny Jackson, was also in the news today stating he does not support privatization.

Hasse provided the Commissioners a fact sheet on the military support organization Military One Source. He mentioned that this is a great referral agency for all active-duty, Guard/Reserve and former military personnel and their families and offers a wide array of supportive services. Miller concurred and mentioned that Military One Source is a large part of his new duties in the Army Reserve.

Hasse also provided the Commissioners with an announcement that Governor Walker has signed Act 295 into law, a bill that will expand the Veterans Outreach Recovery Program (VORP) from its current 49 counties to 72 counties in 10 regions. This program is meant to increase access to former and current military members who are in need of substance abuse treatment, mental health support, and housing assistance.

Hasse then provided the Commissioners with a flyer on ticket availability for Military/Veterans Family Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo on Sunday, July 1st. The flyer mentions that tickets will be available at all CVSO offices from May 29th to June 29th.

Hasse provided the Commissioners with an update on the Barker Monument feasibility study. He mentioned that Mr Reinke came from his company in Oshkosh and closely examined the monument and will provide an estimate of the work needed to relocate it to a new site.

Lastly, Hasse mentioned to the Commissioners that his office had ordered 700 new aluminum grave flag holders, using donated funds, to replace lost and stolen bronze flag holders in all the cemeteries of Columbia County. These are generic "Veteran" flag holders and will be a one-time replacement to restore dignity to the graves of our veterans.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, June 1st, 2018 at 8:30 am, Motioned by Bednarek, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

There being no other business before the commission at this time, Miller motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Bednarek. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,



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