

COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes of

The Regular Meeting of June 3, 2016

Meeting called to order at 8:38 am.

Attendance was taken and those present were: Norm Bednarek, Chair; Keith Miller, Commissioner; John Van Wie, Commissioner; Rich 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 Bednarek. Motion carried.

The minutes from the last regular meeting on May 5, 2016 were reviewed. The minutes were approved on motion by Van Wie, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

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

Miller motioned to go into closed session (IAW WI Statute 19.85(1)(f)) to discuss a veteran's claim for financial assistance. Motion was seconded by Van Wie and approved at 8:40 am.

Miller motioned to return to open session, Motion was seconded by Bednarek and approved at 9:06 am.

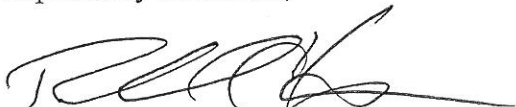
Hasse mentioned that there was a serious gaffe made recently by the Secretary of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Bob McDonald. When discussing the issue of VA Healthcare appointment wait times, he stated that since Disney does not track the wait times at their resorts, there should be no reason to track VA Healthcare wait times. McDonald further stated that the valuable tracked information should be the "customer experience," not the length of time a veterans waits for appointments. Much discussion by the Commissioners focused criticizing the Secretary for his unfortunate words, and on the fact that even Disney is deeply conscious of the period of time customers wait; so much so that they also ensure there are interactive and distracting activities for those waiting in line to participate in resort activities (essentially making the waiting period a Disney-tracked activity in itself).

Hasse presented the Commissioners with copies of two CVSO resolutions that were recently approved by the Columbia County Board. The first resolution calls for moving the duties and responsibilities of the WI CVSOs from WI Statute 45 (the WDVA chapter) to WI Statute 59 (the counties chapter). The second resolution calls for returning the WDVA CVSO Grant to a block grant from the recent legislative change to a reimbursement grant. Hasse also presented the Commissioners with copies of two additional CVSO resolutions which will be on the future agendas of the Executive Committee and, hopefully, the Board. These resolutions call for changes in the WI GI Bill to eliminate the current penalties imposed on veterans who transfer their Federal Post-9/11 GI Bill to their dependents, or who want to personally use their WI GI Bill at a Wisconsin school without touching their Federal Post-9/11 GI Bill. Current WI Statutes prevent the veteran from accessing his/her WI GI Bill until either their dependents have fully expired their transferred Federal Post-9/11 GI Bill, or they personally have utilized their own Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Commissioners all strongly supported all of the presented resolutions.

On motion by Miller, the next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, July 8, 2016 at 8:30 am. Seconded by Bednarek. Motion carried.

There being no other business before the commission at this time, Bednarek motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,



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