

# COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

## Approved Meeting Minutes of

### The Regular Meeting of September 1, 2017

Meeting called to order at 8:33 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 Bednarek. 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 Miller and seconded by Bednarek. Motions carried.

Hasse provided the Commissioners with a copy of the USDVA data he shares in the CVSO Annual Report to the Executive Committee and the County Board. The data provides a picture of the monetary value of the USDVA services and benefits which are obtained by veterans and their families through the CVSO office. It also provides an understanding of the fiscal impact on the county economy and on the county taxable revenue base when those financial benefits are used in commerce through personal purchases. As well, it illustrates the savings in local taxes when the beneficiaries obtain certain health services through the USDVA instead of through Medicaid or Medical Assistance.

Hasse advised the Commissioners of the recent completion of the second and final portion of the LAB audit of King Veterans Home. He also provided the Commissioners with a copy of the excerpted chapter titled "Employee Opinions and Satisfaction (Pages 73 through 88)". Much discussion took place regarding the data contained therein from the anonymous survey of King VH employees. This discussion centered on the dramatic and disturbing survey results showing employee dissatisfaction with working conditions, noncompetitive wages and retaliation by leadership for raising issues of concern. Commissioners agreed that the stark indication of greater underlying problems should indicate deeper investigation into Human Resource practices and policies at WDVA.

Hasse mentioned that at the last meeting of the American Legion Council of Columbia County, there was a motion passed to purchase new and high quality permanent flags for the hallway display case of the new CVSO office, and to spend approximately \$2,500. Hasse was asked at the meeting to develop an estimate for the cost. Hasse's best estimate came from the American Legion Store at less than \$1,000. Bednarek, the current Commander of the Council advised that they are currently making arrangements for the final purchase using that estimate. The current flags on display, purchased by Hasse with his personal funds, will become a traveling set for the CVSO to utilize at public events and observances at Memorial Day and Veterans Day events.

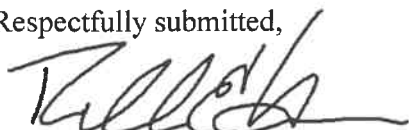
Hasse briefly mentioned a project he is currently working on to possibly provide behavioral treatment and assistance for homeless and substance-addicted veterans in a 7-county region centered on Portage. More to come in later meetings as the concept unfolds and develops further.

Hasse also briefly mentioned another project that Rebekka Cary is working on to possibly replace some of the lost or missing grave flag holders at several or all of Columbia County area cemeteries. More to come in later meetings as the concept unfolds and develops further.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, October 6th, 2017 at 8:30 am. Motioned by Miller, seconded by Bednarek. 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 9:18 am.

Respectfully submitted,



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