

# COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

## Approved Meeting Minutes of

### The Regular Meeting of October 5 2016

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am.

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

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

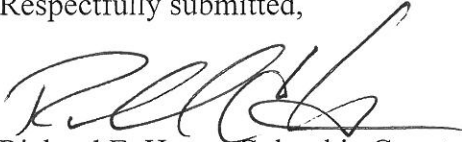
Hasse provided the Commissioners with the October edition of the Columbia County Veterans Service Office newsletter and pointed out several items developing in the Federal veterans benefits. Veterans who are actively enrolled in VA Healthcare can now obtain vaccinations, such as the flu, vaccine at any local Walgreens pharmacy by showing their VA Healthcare Identification Card. Veterans can also now enroll in VA Healthcare by telephone using the new toll-free number: 877-222-8387. Veterans actively enrolled in VA Healthcare can also now schedule their own optometry and audiology appointments without seeking a referral from their VA primary care provider. Military retirees will again be able to use Walgreens to fill their prescriptions beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Hasse led the Commissioners on a discussion about their visit to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King on September 14<sup>th</sup> in order to check on the conditions and satisfaction of treatment for 11 Columbia County residents who are living in the facilities there. Generally, all those visited were in good spirits and satisfied with their care; however, the Commissioners did comment on the very apparent need for refurbishment and updates needed at the resident halls and it was noted that even the newest hall, Ainsworth Hall, which was built in 1993, sees to be showing wear and need for updates. Hasse then provided the Commissioners with copies of a confidential report from a whistleblower at King VH who provided details of an incident that happened approximately two and a half months ago when large amounts of liquid oxygen were spilled by untrained staff in a filling room. This report has been acted upon by Senator Erpenbach's office who is asking officials of the WI Department of Health Services and the U.S. Center on Medicare and Medicaid Services to investigate.

On motion by Miller, the next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:30 am. 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 9:17 am.

Respectfully submitted,



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