

COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes of

The Regular Meeting of December 4, 2017

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; 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 Miller. Motion carried.

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

Hasse advised the Commissioners that just this morning the VA has announced that the proposal to add four new presumptive Agent Orange conditions (Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, Parkinson-Like Tremors, and Hypertension) has been delayed by Secretary Shulkin for an undetermined amount of time for additional study. Hasse also advised the Commissioners that the VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) has been refunded until 2021 as a permanent program. New enrollments will commence on November 15th.

Hasse advised the Commissioners that the VA's new Veteran Identification Card application website is operational and provided them a fact sheet with the link to an instructional video on how to apply. He also clarified that it is only for those who do not already have a military identification or a VA Healthcare Identification. Hasse also provided literature on the changes expected in 2018 regarding the TRICARE insurance program for military retirees. Essentially, there are no changes for most of Wisconsin military retirees until 2021 when an annual enrollment fee will be required of them.

Hasse also provided information on two Democratic state legislative initiatives by Sens Hansen and Erpenbach. Senator Hansen's proposal would essentially require the wealthiest Wisconsinites to forgo tax loophole benefits and redirect those savings into the Veterans Trust Fund. Erpenbach's proposal would add an emergency mental health voucher feature to the Aid to Needy Veterans program to alleviate the current 26-day wait time for such care.

Hasse then presented to the Commissioners his proposal to move the Alfred Barker-Donated Columbia County Veterans Memorial monument from its current location at the North tip of Goodyear Park to a position at the front of the new Columbia County Administration Building, behind the flagpoles and in front of the foyer glass windows. He mentioned that the Administration Building sits on the same property that was at one time the Barker Lumber and Fuel Company, owned by Alfred Barker.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Thursday, January 5th, 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 9:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,



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