

DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2015

Community Outreach Building

Meeting started at 7:00 with Board President Jim Cox presiding and Stephen Walz leading us in the pledge of allegiance.

Board members: President Jim Cox, Vice-President Don Anderson, Secretary Steven Kreitzer and Treasurer John Davis were present.

Employees: Superintendent Tammy Anderson, Steven Kreitzer, Linda Drake, Luz Maria Gilkey, and Jill Peacock were present

Guest: Gary Hansen – County Board President

Meeting Minutes:

Stephen Walz made the motion that the February minutes should be approved and it was seconded by Stefan Skopek. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report:

John Davis stated that the balance was \$4,463.30 and that 7 of the 16 veterans' organizations had paid their dues. Sycamore American Legion has paid their dues now.

Public Comment:

George Murphy asked why the American Flag was not behind the Commission Board and why it was in the back of the room. Jim Cox explained that it would be corrected.

For the Good of the Commission

None

Superintendent's Report:

Tammy Anderson reported that last month, the Commission helped 25 veterans and their families with shelter. There were 18 veterans transported in 13 trips to VA Hospitals. The Commission helped veterans collect \$13,694.71 in monthly benefits and \$247,835.79 in retroactive benefits. Tammy Anderson stated that the retro amounts are quite amazing for only being two months into the year. Don Anderson asked why the office expenses were so high compared to last month. Tammy Anderson stated that the office has yearly expense obligations, but that she would get back with him on the specific reasons why it is high. Motion to accept the Superintendent's Report was made by Frank Beierlotzer and seconded by Stephen Skopek.

Committee Reports:

None

Old Business:

Doll House Funds – there was a lot of discussion on what programs to donate the funds to and how much but nothing was decided. Some of the suggestions that were brought up are listed below.

- DeKalb County Civil War Memorial Repair
- Thanksgiving food baskets
- Put the money into the VAC's budget as it has been cut significantly

Frank Beierlotzer made a motion to donate the money toward the repair of the County Civil War Monument repair and it was seconded by Rich Joslin.

Discussion ensued on the following main topics.

Don Anderson pointed out that the budget was significantly cut by 6% and that is why he would like to see if the money could go to the veterans some way through the office.

John Davis and Gene Ege felt as though the money should not go towards a project rather to the physical veterans as that was the original purpose of the Commission.

Frank Beierlotzer rescinded his motion and the disbursement of funds was tabled

New Business:

Tammy Anderson talked about the Million Veteran Program (MVP). She stated that she was leery that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was collecting hereditary information. There have been too many times where the VA has come out saying that they are doing something good for the Veterans and in reality it is not. It is up to the veteran if they would like to participate in the MVP, but they should know that the VA (has not officially stated what they are going to do with the data collected.) It is a possibility that they are compiling data in order to repeal some of the presumptive ratings to show the cause is more hereditary. Rich Joslin did not agree with this train of thought and didn't see any harm in participating in the program. The VA Healthcare has medical information on all the veterans in their system, but there are many Veterans outside of the VA Healthcare system that will never get to respond. So the research would be inconclusive to repealing the military presumptives. Tammy Anderson then stated she went to VA meeting in Rockford on this program and the only reason they could state about why they were collecting the data was for genetic and hereditary purposes.

Adjourn

Motion by Stephen Walz to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mike Boorsma with no discussion

Meeting closed at 7:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted - Steven Kreitzer - Secretary



**DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2015
STATE OF THE BUDGET**



VA COUNSELING

	Quantity
Office	40
Outstation	13
Phone	51
VA Pension	21
VA Education	3
VA Healthcare	11
VA Compensation	32
VA Other	16

VA AWARDANCE

	Monthly	Retro	Total Amount
This Month	\$13,694.71	\$247,835.79	\$261,530.50
To Date	\$29,714.65	\$298,604.95	\$328,319.60

EXPENDITURES

Direct Assistance to Veteran (Itemized Below)	\$7,978.00
Vehicle Expenses (Itemized Below)	\$930.47
Salaries & Benefits	\$21,037.27
Training & Meetings	\$2,308.10
Office Expenses	\$2,293.25
Public Relations	\$250.50
Total	\$34,797.59

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO VETERAN

	Number Assisted	Amount
Shelter	25	\$7,750.00
Other		
Drivers Per Diem		\$228.00
Total	25	\$7,978.00

VEHICLE EXPENSES

	Quantity	Amount
Trips	13	
Transported	18	
Miles	2366	
Fuel (gallon)	123.7	
Fuel Cost		\$251.56
Maintenance		\$678.91
Total		\$930.47

SUMMARY

	Percentage of Budget	Amount
2015 BUDGET	100%	\$505,300.00
PREVIOUS EXPENDITURES	-8%	-\$40,213.12
EXPEDITURES	-7%	-\$34,797.59
BALANCE	85%	\$430,289.29

Restricted Fund Balance **\$536,274.00**



DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission
Report for the month of February 2015
Veterans Assistance / Transportation



Towns	Shelter		Transportation
	Amount	# of Vets	# of Vets
Cortland			
DeKalb	\$ 4,000.00	13	14
Fairdale			
Genoa			
Hinckley			
Kingston	\$ 350.00	1	1
Kirckland			
Malta			
Sandwich	\$ 350.00	1	
Shabbona	\$ 300.00	1	
Somonauk	\$ 600.00	2	
Sycamore	\$ 2,150.00	7	2
Waterman			1
Total	\$ 7,750.00	25	18



DeKalb County Veterans Organizations

Voting Monday March 9, 2015

		Superintendents Report				
Veterans of Foreign Wars						
Post #1486 Sandwich	D: Stefan Skopek	Y				
	A: Tod Latham					
Post# 2287 DeKalb	D: Travis Petrie					
	A: Michael J. Henning					
Post #5768 Sycamore	D: Stephen Walz	Y				
	A: Steve Kreitzer					
Post #8387 Genoa	D: Don Anderson					
	A:					
DeKalb County VietNow	D: John Davis	Y				
	A:					
American Legion						
Post #66 DeKalb	D:Randy Smith	Y				
	A:Dan Gallagher					
Post #99 Sycamore	D:Tim Timmer					
	A:Gene Ege	Y				
Post #181 Sandwich	D: George Murphy	Y				
	A: Rick Felstead					
Post #337 Genoa	D: Rich Joslin	Y				
	A: Herb Holderman					
Post #598 Hinckley	D:					
	A:					
Post #654 Waterman	D. Robert Bend					
	A: James Cox	Y				
Post # 772 Somonauk	D:Roger Wiley					
	A:					
Post #1010 Kingston	D: Dan Gallagher					
	A:					
40 et 8 Voiture 207	D: Frank Beierlotzer	Y				
	A: Robert Coulter					
Marine Corps League Detachment #847 DeKalb County	D: Donald Jones	Y				
	A: Joe Chavez					
AmVets Post #90 DeKalb	D:Steve Marberry					
	A:Mike Boorsma	Y				