

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
OCTOBER 10, 2017**

The following are the open minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Green Lake County Veterans Service Commission held in the Veterans Service Office at the Government Center, Green Lake, WI, at 10:30 A.M. on October 10, 2017.

Members present: Victor Shrock, Robert Burdick, Tony Soda, and Jon Vandeyacht, Secretary.

Certification of Open Meeting Law: The requirements of the Open Meeting Law have been met.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Chairman Shrock.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Approval of Agenda: After discussion, Soda made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Burdick. All ayes. Motion carried.

Action on Minutes: After discussion, Burdick made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 meeting. Second by Soda. All ayes. Motion carried.

Appearances & Correspondence: None

Old Business: a. Shrock reported that Robert Burdick, Vandeyacht and himself; attended the Service Commissioners meeting at King on September 12. The new Commission association president was introduced. There are many good changes happening at the Wisconsin Veterans Homes. There was discussion about possibly changing the meeting to a Saturday instead of a Friday. Next meeting will be September 2018.

b. Vandeyacht reported that the Budget was submitted for 2018 and will have the same for Service Commission funds as this year; the budgeted amount has been nearly fully used for the past 4 years and decided to leave the total the same again, as in years past. The new county administrator changed up the process a little, but found it a much better process for building the budgets. Final budget will be approved at the November 2017 County Board meeting.

c. Vandeyacht reported that the 2017 Fall CVSO conference was held in Oshkosh this year. There were many CVSO's and Staff in attendance. Many important items were trained on as well. It's been nice having conferences locally, it saves the county budget money by not having as many hotel night stays. Spring 2018 will be in Fond Du Lac and Fall 2018 will be in Minocqua.

New Business: a. It was noted that the term of appointment of Shrock to the Service Commission expires in December. Shrock expressed his interest in being reappointed.

Vandeyacht will write a memo to the County Board Chairman recommending that Shrock be reappointed.

Vandeyacht confirmed that Soda will be stepping down from the Commission. He had served for a long enough time and it was not time to concentrate on his health. He will be missed, and Vandeyacht will talk with County Board Chairman about finding a replacement commissioner for the remaining year.

b. Vandeyacht reported that the WDVA Transportation Grant was submitted on September 30, 2017. The amount to be awarded will be determined and distributed most likely around December. He expects it to be close to the 2016 grant value of close to \$2,000.

c. Vandeyacht reported that the Service Commission Aid/Grant funds didn't have as big of a demand this year in the first quarter as in previous years due to repeat program users having moved out of the county. 2017 saw a more even use of the aid throughout the year. 2017 aid funds will be almost completely expended but they have proven to be enough for the year. This has proven to be a valuable program and the VFW Post 2925 in Berlin helped pick up the need for assistance where the aid/grant wasn't enough for that particular Veteran.

Service Office Report: Vandeyacht reported that for 2017 as compared to 2015 & 2016; contacts were mostly even or slightly up. U.S. mail was down 20% and VA hospital trips are down 2%. The contacts and email were down until about May, when they picked up, and have been steady busy since. This is because Veterans assumption of instability of Federal government leaders. Mail and Faxes were down; The VA is going mostly paperless, claims are not sent thru the mail as much anymore. Trips are down due to the passing of Veterans who used the travel program heavily. New Veteran program users were introduced over 2017. Final percentages will be calculated with the end of year report.

Vandeyacht reported that Robin and himself attended the WICVSOA fall 2017 conference at in Oshkosh. The training was mostly on Federal VA programs and benefits as well as ADA, Service Dogs, State GI Bill and Free Voice to Text Phones & service for the clinically diagnosed – Hard of Hearing. The training is required for both of them to maintain their required various VA accreditations.

Vandeyacht reported that during the Conference, there was discussion about the bill (WDVA CVSO Grant) that was passed last year by Secretary Scocos of WDVA as well as the change back to the Old Grant (now restricted Reimbursement) back to a Block grant for 2018 thanks to the new WDVA Secretary, Daniel Zimmerman. The CVSO office was not able to utilize all of the available WDVA CVSO Grant funds for 2017 due to the restrictive rules in place.

Vandeyacht reported that he is looking at a new vendor for the Veterans Benefits Database system. Currently Vetraspec is used. It has been a great transition from the old

systems that were in place during the legacy days and the change to the new paperless system the VA was trying to implement. Now it is time to move on to a more robust system that will allow the office to keep pace with the new changes in the VA systems and VSO demands. The current system is not as robust as needed. He will continue to investigate new vendors and request a change when the right solution at an affordable cost is found.

Financial Report: After discussion, Burdick made a motion to approve the Financial Report as submitted. Second by Soda. All ayes. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Date: The date for the next meeting will be Monday, January 9, 2018, at 10:30 A.M.

Closed Session per Wis Stats 19.85(1)(c): Not required.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:22 A.M. on a motion by Soda. Second by Burdick. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Vandeyacht', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon D. Vandeyacht
Secretary, Veterans Service Commission