

MINUTES
VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE/COMMISSION
September 8, 2010

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman, Lester Jantzen at 3:00 PM in the First Floor Conference Room of the Grant County Administration building, Lancaster, WI on this date.

Those attending were:

Committee Members

Lester Jantsen, Chairman

Tom Taber, Secretary/CVSO

Commission Members

John DuCharme, Vice Chairman

Gary Erickson

Commission member Louis Kaiser is hospitalized and unable to attend.

Also attending were: Tim Murphy, incoming CVSO; Nancy Scott, Grant County Finance Director

Meeting Notice: Motion by DuCharme, second by Erickson that the meeting was properly publicized and in compliance with the open meeting requirements. Carried.

Minutes of the joint meeting of January 18, 2010 and the special meeting of July 14, 201008 were approved on a motion by Erickson, second by DuCharme.

Taber suggested a change in the agenda to allow discussion of the budget as our first item. Approved by all attending.

New Business: Taber introduced Nancy Scott and explained that some changes had been made to the draft budget previously sent to the members. He stated that his "Sick Leave Buy-out" and Social Security on those funds had been added. These expenses will be covered by the CVSO Grant Funds. There is an overall increase in the budget of 35% over last year because of those additions. DuCharme questioned the phone and postage account amounts. MS Scott felt they were within reason. Motion by DuCharme, second by Erickson that the proposed budget be sent to the Board with a recommendation of approval. Carried.

Old Business: At a recent CVSO meeting, WDVA Secretary Ken Black indicated there were still problems with funding his department. However, we were assured that CVSO Grant funds will still be available in 2011. The Veterans Trust Fund is expected to be out of funds by 2012, so WDVA is looking for alternate funding.

Tim Murphy started in the office on August 30, 2010 and will be sharing duties with Taber through December.

It was noted that VA Accrediting courses will not be offered at the Fall Conference. However, they may be available in Milwaukee in November

New Business: Taber went over the mid-year office report. He noted that more service-connected disability claims were filed than in previous years. Changes in the GI Bill educational benefits have been causing problems for student veterans and schools. The VA hopes to get the computer system straightened out in the near future. Veterans programs brought in excess of \$2,000,000 to Grant County veterans so far this year. This is up by a million dollars over 2009.

Although we had more requests for veterans' relief this year grants issued were about the same as 2009.

Other Business: Taber suggested that the Commission look at updating its guidelines. Several other counties have established life-time dollar limits. We may also want to look at changing our application format.

The office will be looking into a new data base/record storage system. It is an off-site program and would cost about the same as our current system. This could lead to a "paperless" office.

It was noted that both Taber and Murphy had attended the "All the Way Home" information day in Dubuque and participated in a "Rapid Response" seminar at SW Tech this past spring.

There being no further business to conduct, Motion by Erickson, second by DuCharme to adjourn the meeting. Carried. The meeting ended at 4:15 pm.

The next scheduled meeting will be in January 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Taber, Service Officer/Secretary