

**MINUTES**  
**VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE/COMMISSION**  
**January 18, 2010**

**Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman, Louis Kaiser 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**

Robert Scallon, Chair  
Lester Jantzen  
Tom Taber, Secretary

**Commission Members**

Louis Kaiser, Chair  
Gary Erickson  
John DuCharme

Others attending: Joyce Roling, Grant County Personnel Director.

**Meeting Notice:** Motion by Scallon, second by Jantzen that the meeting was properly publicized and we are in compliance with the open meeting requirements. Carried.

**Minutes** of the joint meeting of August 17, 2009 were approved as published on a motion by DuCharme, second by Erickson.

**Department head evaluation** forms had been sent to all members along with a job description and Taber's self-evaluation. Under direction from Joyce Roling the evaluation was preformed. Committee agreed that Service Officer's job performance was satisfactory and all signed the appropriate paperwork.

**Starting the CVSO hiring process:** MS Roling stated that she had looked into the Civil Service Exam process. There is a base charge to obtain the test and then a charge for each individual taking the test. Her office will administer the test, but it will be graded by the state. It will take about 10 days to get the results.  
She has established a time line for the hiring and the Committee/Commission may have to meet two more times. Advertising will start in May with Testing will be in June and interviews in July.  
The CVSO Job Description was updated and a residency policy was discussed. There is no County residency policy at this time. Mr Erickson suggested we advertise in the state VFW and American Legion papers.

**New Business:** Taber presented the annual reports for the Veteran Service Commission and for the Veteran Service Office. He has changed the format to more of a narrative rather than a listing of benefit applications as in the past. He is still seeing an average of 16 cases a day and value of veterans' benefits in Grant County was \$8,326,402.

Applications for financial assistance from the Veterans' Relief Fund were down substantially in 2009 and no applications had been denied.

Motion by Erickson, second by Jantzen to forward the reports to the County Board was approved

The VA Regional Office in Milwaukee has been overwhelmed with claims from 12 states and problems with the Chapter 33 GI Bill program. Record storage has been moved off the VA grounds. The American Legion Service Office has once again lost staff and is not taking new claims. All the service organizations have been inundated by calls from their counter-parts in the other 11 states. Claims are moving very slowly.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is still in transition following the firing of Secretary John Scocos in October. The entire department is undergoing staffing review and people are being moved from division to division almost daily. The WDVA Claims Office has been losing staff due to retirements and health issues.  
We are still not sure when the Veterans' Trust Fund will run out of funds, but it looks like it will happen during 2012. The CVSO Grant is still available for 2010.

**Election of Commission** Officers took place. There was a nomination by Scallon, second by Jantsen to elect Kaiser as commission chair. Carried.

There was a nomination by Scallon, second by Erickson to elect DuCharme as vice chair. Carried.

**Other Business:** Taber reminded those attending that the cost of the Civil Service Test, wages and benefits for the new service officer were not in the budget because there are sufficient “carry-over funds” available to cover those costs. There should be sufficient funding available to have the new person attend National Training in the Spring of 2011. Taber indicated that he felt he would be available to cover the office in the future while the Service Officer attends training and meetings. Memorial Day flag and holder applications have been sent to the Legion and VFW posts. This expense will come out of grant funds this year.

There being no further business to conduct, Motion by DuCharme, second by Erickson to adjourn the meeting. Carried. The meeting ended at 4:45 pm.

The next scheduled meeting will be for budget consideration in September 2010; however meetings will be called as necessary for review of CVSO job applications and interviewing candidates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Taber, Service Officer  
Recording Secretary