

County of Kent Department of Veterans' Affairs



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VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 6, 2013 – 8:00 a.m.

82 Ionia NW, STE 380

Paul Potter, Chair
Fred Chambers
Mary Johnson
Harold Mast
Edward Perdue

MINUTES

Present: Harold Mast, Fred Chambers, Paul Potter, Mary Johnson, Carrie Roy

Guests: None

Absent:

1. Call to Order – Chair Potter

2. Welcome –

3. Approval of Agenda/Minutes – Motion by Paul Potter, second by Harold Mast.
Minutes approved

4. Staff Report:

A. Financial Status as of 06/01/2013: Ms. Roy reviewed the AFF with the committee and reported that they have approximately sixty percent of funding remaining for the year. Mr. Potter asked what type of unexpected expenses could be incurred. Ms. Roy stated that burials and emergency relief could trend higher than average which may cause a shortage, however at this point we are tracking okay for the remainder of the year.

B. Emergency Needs and Burials: Ms. Roy reviewed the emergency relief and burial expenses. She noted that \$8,180 was expended in burials and that this is the highest burial expense she has seen to date. She noted that there were several WWII veterans who passed away in May. Carrie stated that it is hard to predict burials, but she feels that they may be at the peak of burials for the

“Kent County . . . where diversity and inclusion matter”

year. She noted that utilities were a little higher than average. She stated that there were several applicants who came in with their water already shut off. She also stated that the city is not willing to work with people in terms of setting up payment plans for their water bills. Mr. Potter asked how many people come in who are referred from other agencies. Ms. Roy responded that approximately sixty percent of veterans that come in for assistance are referred from other agencies such as DHS, United Way and Health Care for Homeless Vets.

C. MVTF: Ms. Roy reviewed the expenditures for the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund with the committee. She stated that the committee approved \$10,966 in grants in May. She noted that one of the grants was over 5,000 approved by Lansing committee for dental. She explained that the local committee can approve up to \$2,000 and grants over that amount have to be approved by the Lansing committee. The committee inquired where the money for the trust fund came from and asked about its history. Ms. Roy stated that she will find out more about that and report back to the committee during the next meeting. Ms. Roy also reported that the department was awarded a one time grant of \$15,000 from the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for the purpose of increasing staff hours for the remainder of the year.

5. Reports:

A. Claims and Recoveries: Ms. Roy referred to the next report regarding claims and recoveries. She noted that 40 claims were filed in May. She stated that the department is seeing more service connected claims and they are filing more claims for OEF and OIF veterans. She also noted that she anticipates that they will surpass the number of claims they filed in the first quarter. Ms. Roy stated that she still does not have a reliable report on the amount of recoveries. She stated that she is working with Ann and Tina from Veteraspec on this issue and hopes to have a report on recoveries by the next committee meeting. She noted that if the issue is not resolved soon, she will develop her own data base and provide a report that way.

6. Other Items:

A. Ms. Roy reported that she met with her team to strategize ways of improving the departments outreach efforts. She stated that Sam Haglund will be meeting with all of the local certifying officials. She noted that this will be beneficial as they work with all of the student veterans and this will provide another means of referrals.

B. Ms. Roy provided a copy of the preliminary budget for 2014 to the committee. She noted that the budget had not been submitted yet. Mr. Mast asked where the majority of the additional funding is represented. Ms. Roy responded that most of the increase is in staffing cost. She explained that she is requesting funding to increase the part-time staff to full time, plus adding a full time administrative assistant.

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

8. Next Meeting: June 11, 2013.