

County of Kent Department of Veterans' Affairs



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VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

July 11, 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, Carrie Roy

Guests: None

Absent: Mary Johnson

1. Call to Order – Chair Potter called the meeting to order and lead the in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Welcome –

3. Approval of Agenda/Minutes – Motion by Fred Chambers, second by Harold Mast. Minutes approved

4. Staff Report:

A. Financial Status as of 07/01/2013: Ms. Roy reviewed the AFF with the committee. She noted that there is approximately 48% of the budget remaining for the year and that we should be okay, unless there are any unusual circumstances that arise.

B. Emergency Needs and Burials: Ms. Roy reviewed the emergency relief and burial expenses. She noted that emergency relief expenditures were a little higher than average. She stated that there were quite a few rental and utility assists. She also noted that burials were a lot less than the month prior. Harold Mast asked about the \$300 burial allowance and who was eligible and what the criteria is. Ms. Roy explained the criteria and that not everyone is

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

eligible for the burial allowance. Mr. Potter asked if everyone was eligible for the VA Marker. Ms. Roy stated yes and that the County reimburses \$80 toward the setting if we have awarded the \$300 burial allowance. Ms. Roy stated that there were 43 WWII veterans, 34 Vietnam, 19 Korean and 3 Gulf War veteran applicants since January 2013.

C. MVTF: Ms. Roy reviewed the expenditures for the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund with the committee. She noted that \$19,747 in grants were approved in June. Mr. Mast asked if there was a limit on the amount of funding through the Trust Fund. Ms. Roy explained that there is no limit, however we did run into an issue with the amount of funding that was appropriated for the year. She explained that the grants approved were higher than the funds appropriated and that she is working with Marvin VanNortwick to request an additional appropriation to cover the rest of fiscal year 2013.

5. Reports:

- A. Claims and Recoveries:** Ms. Roy referred to the next report regarding claims and recoveries. She noted that 37 claims were filed in June. She noted that we are tracking a little slower than in 2012. She indicated that claim recoveries and process time for claims continues to improve. She noted that we are getting turn around on Pension and Death Pension claims in as little as 2 to 3 months. She went over the recoveries reported and noted that 6.9 million in annual recoveries are coming into Kent County.
- B. Grant From State:** Ms. Roy noted that the 15,000 grant from the State was approved and that she will be able to increase the part time staff hours from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week for the remainder of the year.
- C. Report and Recommendation:** Ms. Roy noted that Commissioner Shroll submitted the report and recommendation to the Board of Commissioner and that there was a positive response to the report. Mr. Chambers agreed that there was a positive response from Commissioners as well.

6. Around the Table: Ms. Roy shared an article with the committee regarding one of the veterans who was helped through the office. The article was written in The Bridge Magazine.

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

8. **Next Meeting:** August 1, 2013.