

BAY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, September 17, 2019

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Vaughn Begick at 3:00 PM, followed by roll call.

Present at meeting: Vaughn Begick, County Commissioner; Marilyn Lazarz, Mike Pergande, Troy Stewart, Jon VanTol, Craig Goulet, Director of Administrative Services and Jim Barcia, County Executive

Minutes: **2019-21** Motion made by Jon to approve 8-26-2019 minutes; support by Troy; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS

Citizens Input: No citizens input.

Petitions and Communications: a) Remodel Update: Craig commented finishing touches are being completed (painting and trim). Office furniture ordered and the office will be operational quickly. Spoke about having an Open House. b) Thomas Duncan Yuill: Thomas is a World War II veteran who passed away during active duty and born in Bay City. Vaughn has a request to place his name on the Bay County Memorial Wall. His name is already listed on the Memorial Wall in Gross Point. **2019-22** Motion made by Jon to verify where Thomas Duncan Yuill enlisted in the service and to obtain a full service record on him for \$70.00; supported by Mike; 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS. c) Keith Markstrom – Building Update: Mike Jamrog, Treasurer of the Bay County Veterans Foundation, gave a report on the nonprofit Foundation. The Foundation represents active duty, including Army Reserves, Army National Guard, and Coast Guard. The Foundation would like to apply for a grant to address female veterans. They have received many letters of support from local organizations. \$15,000 worth of items has been contributed to the VA Hospital along with upkeep of Battery Park. The building will be a workshop and activity center. Veterans here can reconnect with the public, fellow veterans and have a sense of belonging. PTSD veterans will have support. Keith spoke about Phase I which will include a work shop, storage area, kitchenette, meeting room, computers, and a counseling station. He also commented on an office area for Veteran Representatives. Phase III would include a metal shop. It will cost \$2100/month for expenses, staffing will be volunteer until able to pay staffing and fund raising will be an ongoing process. Currently the Foundation's website is under construction. This is a Pilot Project for Bay County.

Women Veterans are a target group for the Foundation and have been meeting to work on the River Cruise scheduled for September 21. Keith stated the center will serve 20 to 30 people per day and the demand for usage time is still to be determined. If needed, Keith will provide a business plan to the Committee. Jim Barcia asked about liability insurance and the development of a safety program. Keith stated anyone working in the building now is insured. Mike stated that the usage for the center will be below the estimated level. Jon and Troy commended Keith on the project. **2019-23** Motion made by Troy to receive the report; supported by Marilyn; 4 YEAS; 0 NAYS.

REPORTS/RESOLUTIONS: No reports/resolutions.

OLD BUSINESS: Mike brought up the request from Fred Zippler for cell phones for the transportation drivers. The cell phones will be discussed at the October Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike spoke about an independent homeless shelter for Veterans called the Fiddlers Green in Bad Axe, MI and the shelter would like to expand to Bay City. Pamphlet handed out.

MISCELLANEOUS: Keith Markstrom commented that the Bay County Veterans Foundation never applied for funds from the Michigan Trust Fund. Keith will address the Committee for money for Veterans courses in the future for the Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:50 PM.