

BAY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, July 16, 2019

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

Present at meeting: Vaughn Begick, County Commissioner; Jonathan VanTol, Troy Stewart, Mike Pergande, Craig Goulet, Director of Administrative Services, absent Marilyn Lazarz.

Minutes: Minutes not available for 6-18-2019 and will refer to next month's meeting.

Citizens Input: Fred Zippler commented The Bay County Veteran's Council is taxed exempt and is a 501C3. The Council was created in 1988. It would cost the Council a \$1000 to file the 1023 form (according the Council's CPA) and the Council does not make any money. This is why the Council is not on a government website. The Council is still a valid organization. Mike questioned the monies that are donated from the public to the Council. The donated money cannot be claimed on the person taxes and the public should be informed of this. Van stated a legal person, maybe Amber, should look into this issue. The money from the Bay Area Community Foundation is strictly for Veteran's Park only. The Bay Area Foundation reports to Fred Zippler. The Monument Committee is a separate committee from the Council and does not know if there is a separate fund for the Monument Committee. Mike questioned why is the Council a non-profit organization? Van commented of getting legal advice or a tax person for more detail into this situation so there are no issues with the IRS. Mike questioned we should know what organizations are doing what for Veterans in Bay County.

Fred lost a transportation driver because of complaints of reckless driving and asked the Committee if any members would volunteer to be a driver on stand-by/call.

Petitions and Communications: a) Remodel Update: Craig received bids and the project is well within the scope for the grant money to be spent by September 30.

REPORTS/RESOLUTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS: a) Transportation Program: Mike spoke with the VA Hospital Transportation Program and the VA transportation money is only qualified to VA Veterans with a connected service disability. Bay County Transportation Program cannot receive any transportation money from the VA Hospital. Craig stated a Transportation Procedure/Policy is needed for the Bay County Transportation Program and drivers. l) Vehicle use/abuse: Currently there is no policy for drivers or disciplinary action. Fred stated each vehicle has a log for travel. Mike said it would be difficult to discipline a volunteer driver. Liability becomes an issue. There is a transportation program draft policy according to Jon and the Committee should go forward with it. Drivers responsibilities should also be include in the policy.

NEW BUSINESS: Van stated a WWII Veteran who lived in Bay County be placed on the Bay County Memorial and there is no policy for how this is to happen or who pays for the inscription. The County should be responsible for paying for the inscription.

Meeting in Clark County was attended by Van, "Connected the Unconnected" for Veterans. There is an Elizabeth Dole Foundation, which is a Veterans Supplemental Program. The number of homeless Veterans in California has increased. Mid-Michigan Community Action helps with homeless Veterans in Bay County. Van spoke about Veterans coming back from service into the community and reintegrating. Blue Water Navy is going to pass for Veterans who served in Vietnam offshore.

MISCELLANEOUS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The PLAV has a State Convention August 2-3 at Bay Valley and would like Bay County to place an ad in their Convention book. Van will speak with the Bay County Commissioners.

If any Committee member is interested in organizing the bus trip for Veterans Day to take Veterans to Arlington Cemetery and Vietnam Wall contact Van. Van cannot do the Ceremony this year. It is a twelve hour bus ride.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:00 PM.