



Kent County Veterans Services

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DRAFT minutes 4-4-19

Present: Mel Bauman, Mary Johnson, Harold Mast, Trisha Sexton, Shane Scherer, John Baxter, Randy Tharp

Absent:

Guests: Theresa Robinson, Dan Ophoff, Paul Ryan, Jerry Dennis

1. Meeting called to Order – The meeting was called to order by Veterans Services Committee Chair Mel Bauman at 8:30am
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Committee Vice Chair Mary Johnson led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment –
 - i. Paul Ryan from United Veterans Council invited all in attendance to the first ever Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor Ceremony at the Michigan History Museum in Lansing Michigan on May 17th at 2pm
4. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. Committee Member Harold Mast made a motion to approve the minutes. Committee Member Trish Sexton seconded. UNANIMOUS
5. Introductions-
 - a. Veterans Services Manager Martha Burkett introduced Des Nelson, a Navy Veteran and Project Management Consultant. Des Nelson presented on her Project Management prep course in efforts to help veterans pass the actual Project Management Institutes Certification Exam.
6. Veterans Services Manager Martha Burkett gave brief update on staffing, a Veterans Services Officer has resigned, and Veterans Services Officer Ryan Grams had been Promoted to Supervisor. On April 5th, there will be 2 Veterans Service Officers positions available.
7. Old Business –
 - a. Veterans Services Manager Martha Burkett gave a brief update on the progress with a partnership with Uber. After meeting with the Purchasing Department, it is still in the procurement process. There will be an RFP (Request For Proposal) put out. The Kent County

Health Department has been having similar issues, so the Purchasing Department has been working towards a solution for both.

- b. In regard to the MVA Grant- Veterans Services Manager Martha Burkett shared that everything has been completely approved, it just needs to be executed, and as soon as that happens, the position will be posted.
8. Managers, Monthly Operational Update Reports – Veterans Services Supervisor Ryan Grams went over the Monthly Activity Report
9. New Business-
 - a. Veterans Services Manager Martha Burkett shared they security has been stepped up at Veterans Services office. There are new systems in place to help keep the staff and clients safe.
 - b. Veterans Services Manager Martha Burkett attended the 100th birthday of Army Veteran Wayne Trimpe to present him with a proclamation from Kent County.
 - c. Veterans Services Committee Member Randy Tharp gave a brief update on our IT situation, noting that there is a lot of work to be done manually to prepare for our monthly meetings. He will continue working with the staff at Veterans Services to see if a solution cant be found.
 - d. SSR Applications
 - i. \$6700 in home repair was approved- UNANIMOUS
 - ii. \$2578.05 for a mortgage, motion was made to pay \$1300, UNANIMOUS
10. Survey Responses – 33 for March
11. Around the Table
 - a. Committee Member John Baxter wondering where the county is with marketing efforts, Manager Martha Burkett advised that we are waiting to meet with the Counties communications manager. Will have more information then
12. Public Comment –
 - a. Veterans Treatment Court’s website is getting revamped. It will also be going on to the City of Wyoming Website
 - b. Next graduation will likely be in July, status review on the 12th of April
 - c. Memorial Day Parade will be on May 30th, step off at 7:00pm on the corner of Monroe and Lyon. Ends at Veterans Park on Fulton
 - d.
13. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Member Trish Sexton moved to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Shane Scherer supported. UNANIMOUS. The meeting was dismissed at 10:13am
14. The next Veterans Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20th, at 8:30am in the Veterans Services front conference room.

