



## Kent County Veterans Services

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DRAFT minutes 3-11-2021

Committee Present: Mary Johnson, John Baxter, Mel Bauman, Shane Scherer, Trish Torres, Jill Wolfe, Michael Blundell

Committee Absent:

Staff Present: Martha Burkett, Jacob Calvert, Andrew Lapres

Guests: Harold Mast, Gerald Dennis, Dan Ophoff, Eric Nelson

1. Meeting called to Order/Introductions –
  - a. The meeting was called to order by Veterans Services Committee Chair Mary Johnson at 8:30am
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Committee Member Trish Torres led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Monthly Impact Reports
  - a. Veterans Services Officer Andrew Lapres provided an update, calls are up, from 1,893 to 3,000. Retro payments went from 1,271 for January to 116,535 in February. Monthly awarded dollars went from 3,051 to 51,987.
4. Manager's Report
  - a. Veterans Services Manager Martha Burkett detailed the **budget report**.
  - b. Martha Burkett stated that the **budget for Sailors and Soldiers Relief had to be reduced by \$200,000**. That number is not yet reflected in the budget.
  - c. Martha Burkett stated it that there appears to **be \$230,000 in outstanding encumbrances**, but that number is from **the Degage contract and Dental contract**, which is not supposed to be coming out of Sailors and Soldiers Relief. Martha states she will set up a **meeting with Chris Wilson** to go through the budget line by line **to straighten it all out**.
  - d. **All programs** are on track and progressing as planned, **except ID card services**.
  - e. Martha Burkett that **at least one staff is going into the office every day with Nelson Soto** to get him up to speed and support him.
  - f. **Nelson and Pamela Alderman were on TV and he received 4 calls immediately after the segment**.
  - g. Martha stated that the **billboards have started going up**.



- d. **Dan Ophoff** wanted to know if the SSR policy is posted to a public website, and stated that if it isn't, it should be.
  - e. **Eric Nelson** shared the number for the Disability Advocates Ride service.
9. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Chair Mary Johnson moved adjourned the meeting at 9:05 am.