



Kent County Veterans Services

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DRAFT minutes 12-09-21

Committee Present: Mary Johnson, Melvin Bauman, Jill Wolfe, Michael Blundell, Trish Torres, John Baxter

Committee Absent:

Staff Present: Martha Burkett, Andrew Lapres, Jacob Calvert

Guests: No Guests

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 Chair Mary Johnson led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Month
 - a. Committee Chair Mary Johnson motioned to accept the previous meeting's minutes. John Baxter Voted to approve. Melvin Bauman seconded. All present voted in favor.
4. Success Stories
 - a. Committee Chair Mary Johnson shared that she and KCVS Manager Martha Burkett were on the news, and she approached afterwards by a waitress that recognized her from the broadcast. Mary put her in touch with resources, including Arbor Circle.
 - b. KCVS Manager Martha Burkett shared that she received a call from one of the clients of KCVS VSO Theresa Ergang. The client stated that Theresa was extremely helpful, and that the claim was approved and that her mother even received VA back-pay and her quality of life has improved drastically.
 - c. Committee Member John Baxter shared that he interacted with a local business, Clean Air Heating and Cooling, and made a connection with KCVS to put out word that they are hiring veterans.
5. Manager's Report
 - a. KCVS VSO Andrew Lapres shared the monthly impact report. Fully developed claims: 21. County IDs 2. Face-to-face contact: 64. Claims in development 120. Claims awarded: 18. SSR: 5. Burials: 4. Phone Contacts: 2922. Meijer Food Vouchers: \$1550.
 - b. KCVS Manager Martha Burkett shared that KCVS is under budget so far for 2021.

- c. KCVS Manager shared that KCVS staff Nelson Soto is seeing an increase in calls, and an increase in “repeat customers,” calling for help with new issues.
6. Old Business
 - a. Committee Chair Mary Johnson brought up that she has not been contacted about re-appointments.
7. New Business
 - a. Committee Chair Mary Johnson shared that she is looking to set up a millage sub-committee in January to get the millage ready in time for the vote in August. Committee Member Jill Wolfe volunteered to Chair the sub-committee. Committee member Melvin Bauman volunteered to Co-Chair.
8. New Activities
 - a. KCVS Manager Martha Burkett shared that KCVS Staff Rachel Wustman has been doing a large amount of outreach with senior centers in Kent County, including the Senior Sing-a-Long.
9. Public Comment
 - a. No public comments.
10. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Chair Mary Johnson moved adjourned the meeting at 9:38 am.