

County of Kent Department of Veterans' Affairs



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VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 6, 2014 – 8:00 a.m.

82 Ionia NW, STE 380

MINUTES

Paul Potter, Chair
Fred Chambers
Mary Johnson
Harold Mast
Mel Bauman

Present: Mary Johnson, Fred Chambers, Harold Mast, Mel Bauman, Paul Potter, Wayman Britt, Carrie Roy

Guests: None

Absent:

1. Call to Order – Paul Potter called the meeting to order and lead the in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda/Minutes Fred Chambers moved to approve, Mel Bauman seconded. Minutes approved.

3. Staff Report:

A. Financial Status as of 02/01/2014: Ms. Roy reviewed the AFF with the committee. She pointed out the year to date activity for the rent expense is negative \$1,677 because the donation from Amway was posted to that Line item. She noted that expenses are on track and that there are no issues or concerns.

B. Emergency Needs and Burials: Ms. Roy reviewed the emergency relief and burial expenses. She noted that \$1,588 was expended on food vouchers in January, \$2,322 for rent, \$283.83 on utilities and \$2,780 for burials.

C. Michigan Veterans Trust Fund: Ms. Roy shared a report with the committee showing that the trust fund expended \$9,141.78 in the month of January.

5. Reports:

“Kent County . . . where diversity and inclusion matter”

A. **Claims and Recoveries:** Ms. Roy referred to the next report regarding claims and recoveries. The Department filed 24 claims in January. She pointed out that \$697,606 is being brought in per month and total annual recoveries are a little over 8.3 million dollars. Ms. Roy stated that she hopes to have more administrative support in 2014 so that she is able to do more outreach which will help the department file more claims.

6. **Around the Table:** Ms. Roy Shared with the committee That Amway made a \$4,000 donation to the department. Ms. Roy stated that she sent a thank you letter to Amway. There was discussion regarding a letter signed by the Board Chair as well as The Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee. The committee agreed that that was appropriate. Ms. Roy agreed to draft the letter. There was some discussion regarding the need for additional Michigan Veterans Trust Fund members. Mr. Mast suggested that a letter should be sent to the local service organization posts.

There was discussion on the millage. Wayman mentioned that Ms. Roy and himself met with Commissioner Shana Shroll and Elena Bridges. He mentioned that Elena would help with the millage in any way that she could, however because of her position with Altarum, she could not participate in any type of lobbying activity. There was discussion regarding the United Veterans Council as the lead organization to promote the millage. The committee agreed that the council would be an appropriate organization to bring a millage proposal to the board of commissioners.

7. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

8. **Next Meeting:** March 6, 2014.