

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
 COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
 VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
 Monday October 16, 2023 @ 3:00 PM
 MPR Room Pottawattamie County Veterans Service Office

AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance Meeting called to order @ 3:00 PM by Commission Chairwoman, Holly Collins all in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: Holly Collins, Chairwoman; David Hazlewood, Secretary; Mick Gutttau Member (media attend); Dr. Dan Kinney, Member; Jim Murray, Member; Andrew Dewey, Ex-Officio Member and Lynn Grobe, Ex-Officio Member; Office Personnel Peggy Becker, Administrator; Paul Rosenberg, Caseworker II; Sam Pettit, Caseworker II and Rebekah Adair Administrative Assistant.
- Additions: None
- BOS Updates: BOS Liaisons Brian Shea and Jeff Jorgensen were in Attendance no updates provided.
- Commissioner Updates: None

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the minutes for Regular Monthly Meeting September 11, 2023: Motion to approve made by David Hazlewood, Secretary second by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member All in Favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries.
- Approval of assistance given for September 2023:
- Budget FY24: Should be at 25% we are at 21%.
- Federal County Assistance Report for September 2023

	September	Previous Month August
Walk Ins:	206	246
Calls:	358	485
Total Contacts:	564	731

County		State		Federal	
New Clients /Calls	13	Driver License Application	0	Total Fed Forms 176 of these were	
Pantry/Clothing	6	License Plate Application	4	Benefit Application	43
Grave Marker	3	Hunting/Fishing License	0	Intent to File	12
E/Mail I/O	241	MTE/DMTE	3	Headstone Application	3
Appointments	53			Home Loan Certificate	0
				SF-180	4

FACILITIES UPDATE:

- **MPR Usage:** Routine usage by VFW, other County Departments and Community Agencies
- **Lobby Graphic/Foyer Graphic:** The Commission was presented with two mocks ups of the graphic Black and White County Emblem White County Emblem with orange/yellow flame both options surrounded with full color Service Branch Emblems; the Commission was also presented with the two best quotes for the project. Motion by David Hazlewood, Secretary to go with the Black and White County Emblem and using the company out of Carson for the Install second by Jim Murray, Member All in Favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion Carries

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Fall School of Instruction: Commissioner Day Monday October 9th:** Commissioners Holly Collins, David Hazlewood, Jim Murray, and Andrew Dewey all attended. Holly comment that it was as it has always been, Jim commented his surprise that when roll call of counties was taken there were 14 that were not present at all.
- **Iowa Review Board and Commission Consolidation Update:** The latest documented news updates were forwarded in the meeting packet. It appears all the selections have been made and that there doesn't seem to be a concern for the state commission being reduced or consolidated with another.
- **Relocation Allocation Application Review/Decision:** Office Administrator verified that all appropriate documents have been received, Motion to Approve made by Mick Gutttau, Member second by Dr. Dan Kinney All in Favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries.

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NEW BUSINESS

- **Veteran Treatment Court Program/County Attorney Matt Wilbur:** County Attorney Matt Wilbur provided an update about the Veteran's Treatment Court. He reported that there are currently 6 enrolled and one pending he is hoping more Veterans can be assisted with this program as time moves forward. He stated that there have been some changes in participants due to some retiring or advancing to another position, and that the biggest hurdle now is getting mentors. He stated that he is willing to present to groups or individuals that are interested but hesitant about what being a mentor entails and review the application process. Being a Veteran is not required to becoming a mentor but under these circumstances it is probably better if they are so they can relate a bit better. They are also looking for a court coordinator in a voluntary capacity at least for now.
- **Veterans Day Newspaper Ad/Lee Enterprises Zoom Presentation:** The ½ page ad that we have always put in the special addition Veterans Day paper is now over \$3000 dollars, so it has been condensed to a 5in by 2 in ad for \$995.00 Jennifer Johnson of Lee Enterprises gave a Zoom presentation about a more prominent and consistent advertising campaign. Peggy Becker, Administrator suggested a 3-month trial for \$1,250.00 per month to determine the effectiveness of the campaign. After discussion and other advertising alternatives being suggested it was determined that at this point in time, additional research needs to be done especially in regard to contacting the smaller communities in the area about how they communicate with their citizens.
- **Public Comment (3-minute limit)** Dick Ryba, VFW 11355 Commander suggested that the Administrator meet with all the post Commanders to keep the posts informed and up to date, then the posts can spread the word. Brian Shea, BOS Liaison suggested that someone from our office attend the Town Hall Meeting in Oakland on 11/9 starting at 6:30 pm

Motion to adjourn Open Session made by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member second by Jim Murray, Member All in Favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries.

5-minute respite before entering closed session

***CLOSED SESSION AS ALLOWED PER CODE OF IOWA CHAPTER 21.5; 1(A) October ASSISTANCE REQUESTS
1 Request for Assistance***

Motion to go into closed session @ 4:20 pm made by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member second by Mick Guttau, Member

Motion to go back into open session @ 4:28 pm made by David Hazlewood, Secretary second by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member

OPEN SESSION

Motion to approve assistance as discussed in closed session made by Jim Murry, Member second by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member All in favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries.

NEXT MEETING: Monday November 13th @ 3:00 PM