

**POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY**  
**COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING Rescheduled to**

Thursday May 9, 2024 @ 2:00 pm

MPR Room Pottawattamie County Veteran Service Office

TEAMS MEETING Connect ID 277 020 283 246 Passcode: 7dTrCy

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

**AGENDA**

- Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Chairwoman Holly Collins. All in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call - Holly Collins, Chairwoman; David Hazlewood, Secretary; Mick Guttau, Member; Jim Murray, Member; Andrew Dewey, Ex-Officio Member; Lynn Grobbe, Ex-Officio Member. Office Personnel: Peggy Becker, Administrator; Paul Rosenberg, Caseworker II; Sam Pettit, Caseworker II; Rebekah Adair, Administrative Assistant. Dr. Dan Kinney, Member, attended via phone.
- Additions/Corrections - Peggy Becker, Administrator - There is a second relocation allocation to approve.
- BOS Updates - Brian Shea - County has been dealing with the aftermath of the tornado and the roads. The power company has been working to reinstate power. We've had lots of donations in the community to assist. Jeff Jorgenson reported that school children have come down to assist with the clean up.
- Commissioner Updates - Andrew Dewey and Paul Rosenberg recently attended Spring School. Andrew Dewey reported that it was very informative as many changes have been recently made by the VA. The VA is looking to expand services beyond honorable discharges.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Approval of minutes Regular Monthly Meeting April 8, 2024: (Chairwoman Holly Collins and Board) Motion to approve was made by Mick Guttau, Member, and seconded by David Hazlewood, Secretary. All in favor. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carries.
- Approval of Assistance given for April 8, 2024: (Chairwoman Holly Collins and Board) Motion to approve was made by Jim Murray, Member, and seconded by Mick Guttau, Member. All in favor. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carries.
- **Routine Office Reports** (Chairwoman Holly Collins/Board Review/Peggy)
  - Budget 2023-2024: Should be 75% Currently @ 72% - Peggy Becker, Administrator, reports that the office is on track.
    - ❖ Retro Benefit Received: Retro 70% back to Oct 2020 approximately \$66k.
  - Community Foundation Update(Letter from Foundation Provided): The letters and notes from the foundation have been compiled into a file and uploaded to teams for review by the commission.
  - Facilities Update (Peggy)
    - ❖ MPR Room: Routine Usage by VFW, County Departments and Community Agencies
    - ❖ MPR Room Furniture Update: Andrew Dewey reports that the capacity count for the room is based on IBC count instead of the fire code. We have some flexibility since the room layout dictates capacity. Since we are still well within limits for normal use, Peggy Becker will move forward with the furniture purchase in the next fiscal year.
    - ❖ Parcel Delivery Box: Peggy Becker - Deliveries have been coming in from the VFW and they sit for weeks before being picked up. The VSO has purchased a parcel box that will be bolted to the floor. The Commission believes that the VFW should purchase the box since it will be used for their organization.
    - ❖ New After-Hours Building Usage Applications put in the mailboxes for return by May 31 (Copy of Letter sent out to Routine users): The new 3 year caveat for routine usage groups will incentivise resigning with us. The letters went out in the mail on April 1.
  - Website Usage: (Rebekah) We saw an increase in all metrics from March to April. County/State Services continue to be the most used navigation button. Navigation buttons have been created for "events", "National Guard/Reservists", and most recently for "Emergency Relief". The new website should go live this summer, so we are keeping an eye on the type of information we will want to spotlight.
  - Outreach: (Paul) Paul attended the VA hospital this past month for Patient Experience Week. They had lots of traffic from local vets. He also attended Rivers Edge Park to speak with real estate agents about tax exemptions. They donated \$200 to our pantry. There was also a recent visit to College View Elementary to speak with fourth and fifth graders. Paul has contacted Iowa Western Community College to discuss attending another event hosted on campus.

- o Relocation Allocation Application VS#16717 Approval: (Chairwoman Holly Collins and Board) Peggy Becker, Administrator: Both applications meet criteria. After these two approvals, there will be \$2,500 left.
- o Office Production Report: See Attachment (Chairwoman Holly Collins & Board Review) Nothing notable. Caseworker numbers went up about ten contacts. Submissions are slightly down. We still have a lot pending. Announcement of the Pact Act has reawakened Vietnam vets to check into benefits.

- Federal County Assistance report for April 2024

	April 2024	Previous Month March
Walk Ins:	205	206
Calls:	449	366
Total:	654	572
Client Contacts:	574	519

County		State		Federal	
New Clients	14	Driver License Application	1	Total Fed Forms	172
Pantry/Clothing	7	License Plate Application	5	Benefit Application	41
Grave Marker	2	Hunting/Fishing License	3	Intent to File	14
E/Mail I/O	261 Client 156	MTE/DMTE	2	Home Loan Certificate	0
Appointments	64			SF-180	4

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Spring School Update (Paul Rosenberg & Andrew Dewey) Paul Rosenberg, Caseworker: Gov Reynolds approved updates to Chapter 35 so that it more closely aligns with federal veteran status requirements. This allows for service connected national guardsmen to attain veterans status.
- CPR/First Aid Training: Building and Grounds joined us for the class. Sam and Rebekah are CPR & First Aid/AED Certified this class also included Narcan Training.
- National Training Denver Co Monday May 13 to Friday May 17, 2024: Paul and Sam attending in person, Peggy attending virtually. If anyone can come hangout over the lunch hours (11:30 to 1:30) to help the ladies out that would be fantastic.
- Relocation Allocation Document Update: (Peggy) Copy of new application cover page has been given to the Commission for approval. Rebekah has updated the front page of the application and organized the required documents list for easier reference. Motion to approve was made by David Hazlewood, Secretary, and seconded by Mick Guttau, Member. All in favor. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carries.
- Governor Signs HS 259 aligning the State Definition of a Veteran to the Federal Definition additional funding for CEU Training - Peggy Becker, Administrator, reports that the letter and documents were emailed to the commission for review. She would like a poster for the office comparing Iowa Code 35 with US Code 38.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Disaster Assistance - There is assistance offered by the DAV, but every other resource must be exhausted before making an application. One veteran has already been assisted by our office with the application process.
- Eagle Head Monument Vandalism - The Marine Corp emblem was stolen and the monument heavily damaged. Part of our community foundation funds deal with the monument. The city of Council Bluffs is responsible for upkeep on the monument. The commission feels the city should be responsible for repairing it and making a police report.

**Public Comment (3 min limit)**

**ADJOURN OPEN SESSION**

**CLOSED SESSION AS ALLOWED PER CODE OF IOWA CHAPTER 21.5, 1(A) ASSISTANCE REQUESTS**

*0 Requests for Assistance*

**ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION**

**ADJOURN MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING:** June 10, 2024