

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

Monday August 12, 2024 @ 3:00 pm

Pottawattamie County Veteran Service Office Kitchen Area

TEAMS MEETING Connect ID 282 399 095 949 Passcode: FUrktU

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

AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm. All in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call - David Hazlewood, Secretary; Mick Gutttau, Member; Dan Kinney, Member; Jim Murray, Member, Lynn Grobe, Ex-Officio Member; Peggy Becker, Administrator; Rebekah Adair, Administrative Assistant
- Additions/Corrections - None
- BOS Updates - Brian Shea and Jeff Jorgensen - Brian Shea enjoyed the recent car show and reported that Mark Shoemaker will be retiring. They are redoing the 911 offices. The Roads building by the airport is now open and the Public Health building is ahead of schedule and is coming in under budget.
- Commissioner Updates - None
- Guest Speakers Under Unfinished - Business Veterans Treatment Court Josh Howell Valley Hope & Robert Montag Vet Center

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of minutes Regular Monthly Meeting July 1, 2024: Motion to Approve made by Mick Gutttau, Member second by Dan Kinney, Member. All in favor. 4 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries.
- **Routine Office Reports**
 - Budget July FY2025: Should be 8.33% Currently @ 4.9% (Chairwoman Holly and Board Review)
 - ❖ Billing Coding and Line-Item Changes - Updates include an addition to line-items for shipping and handling.
 - Facilities Update (Peggy)
 - ❖ MPR Room: Routine Usage by VFW, County Departments, and Community Agencies.
 - ❖ FEMA Usage of the Building: August 5 through September 3rd, 2024. This timeline may be subject to change.
 - ❖ VFW Car Show was August 3rd, 2024: There were 64 entries. Low turnout may be attributed to the heat and another local car show happening on the same day.
 - Social Media Update: (Rebekah) - Our office now has an active X/Twitter account as well as an Instagram account. Content interactions on both sites have increased, especially over the last two weeks. Posts with the highest impressions tend to be related to local events and agency services. Per Peggy Becker's request, content has been updated to include pieces on famous veterans and local businesses on the Records Office list that offer discounts in the Honor Rewards Program. Website analytics for the month show site usage comparable with other county departments, though our website has seen a slight increase in users since last month.
 - Office Production Report: See Attachment (Chairwoman Holly and Board Review) Upcoming Modifications (Peggy)
- **Federal County Assistance report for July 2024** (Chairwoman Holly and Board Review)

	July 2024	Previous Month June 2024
Walk Ins:	247	205
Calls:	425	369
Total:	672	574
Client Contacts:	599	533

County		State		Federal	
New Clients	26	Driver License Application	0	Total Fed Forms	206
Pantry/Clothing	3	License Plate Application	8	Benefit Application	60
Grave Marker	4	Hunting/Fishing License	0	Intent to File	22
E/Mail I/O	275	MTE/DMTE	0	Home Loan Certificate	1
Appointments	95			SF-180	3

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Peggy)

- Fall School hosted by Iowa Department of Veteran Affairs is Monday October 14 through Thursday October 17, 2024, Commissioner Day of Training Monday October 14, 2024; VSO Training Tues October 15 through Thursday October 17, 2024. Location to be announced at a later date. Not CEU Training. County representatives and Commissioners are welcome to attend. David Hazlewood, Secretary, is planning to attend. The October commission meeting will need to be rescheduled to accommodate.
- Spring School hosted by the Iowa Association of County Veteran Service Officers is Monday April 14th through Thursday April 17, 2025 @ Stoney Creek Johnston, IA. CEU Training. Staff is required to attend.
- Veterans Treatment Court: Josh Howell reports that there will be three veterans graduating from treatment court on Wednesday at 10:30 am. Valley Hope has moved to a new location in Omaha at 118th and M. Valley Hope is offering new outpatient programs. They have seen a 300% increase in veterans served and up to 40% of referrals have come from Offutt Air Force Base and other nearby bases. A letter was sent to the Secretary of Veteran Affairs on June 25, 2024 and included signatures of support from twenty United States Senators, including both Iowa Senators.
- Eagle Monument Vandalism: Items have been stolen from the monument again including the Eagle of Honor plaque. There have been discussions with Paul Rolfe about who will pay for it, but since there are no security measures in place, a final decision should be delayed. Commissioners questioned if cameras could be set up and feed into the current 911 setup.
- Nursing Home Outreach/Contacts Code Requirements: A question has been raised out whether or not the office is satisfying the obligation of contacting nursing home/assisted living/independent living facility residents and their families. We are now sending letters out to the contacts of each veteran/veteran's spouse that is added to a facility. The letters include an offer of assistance in pursuing any benefits to which they may be entitled. This satisfies the required criteria.

NEW BUSINESS (Peggy)

- Wex Card: We have applied for a Wex card which will allow us to get gas for the county vehicle.
- BOS Town Hall Meeting Oakland Community Center August 14 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm: Andrew Dewey, Ex-Officio Member, will present for our office.
- Staffing Changes: Paul Rosenberg, Caseworker, has resigned. His last day is August 15, 2024. A farewell party will be held at 8:00 am that morning.

Public Comment (3 min limit)

ADJOURN OPEN SESSION

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

0 Requests for Assistance

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

OPEN SESSION

ADJOURN MEETING:

NEXT MEETING: Monday September 9, 2024