

## Meeting – Veteran’s Service Committee & Commission Minutes

Committee: Veteran’s Service Committee & Commission

Date: Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Place: Forest County Board Room #107

### Call to Order

Chairman Chaney called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and read the agenda.

### Roll Call

Members Present: Bocek, Papapetru, Cundiff, Spaude , Savard, Chaney and Laabs.

Others Present: VSO Robert Koplien

### Approve Agenda

Motion by Savard to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Laabs, all present voting AYE.

Motion carried

### Approve Minutes of the December 9th 2015 Meeting

Motion by Savard to approve minutes of the December 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting, seconded by Laabs, all present voting AYE.

Motion carried

### DAV ACCREDITATION

The VSO is accredited with the Disabled American Veterans national organization. VSO explained that he can submit and track all claims submitted through the DAV organization

### Administrative Assistant

The Forest County Veteran Service Office no longer has an administrative assistant. On January 1<sup>st</sup> Alyson Wagoner took a full time position at the ADRC. VSO explained that all office operations have been running smoothly without a current assistant.

### Computer Software Change

The Veteran Service Office now has VetraSpec Computer Program. The program allows the VSO to do complete claims outside of the office at remote locations or assist elderly, severely disabled veterans.

### Legislative News:

This January & Early February State Sen. Van Wanggaard, R-Racine, and state Rep. Ken Skowronski, R-Franklin proposed a bill that would basically make county veterans services optional for county governments. The proposed bills would basically lead to a possible consortium or hub that would make veterans navigate the VA system through the internet or force them to travel to other counties to seek benefits. “Current law requires each county to elect or appoint a county veterans service officer.”

The bill would also scale back the Board of Veterans Affairs, a nine-citizen committee appointed by the governor, and give those powers to the state Secretary of Veterans Affairs

VSO advises that an email blast is being created to send out information to all Forest County Veterans so that when legislation is trying to be quickly passed before basically general public knows anything about

it. The Forest County Veterans Group email will inform all when news breaking things happen and not have to wait to for newspaper releases.

#### All Other Issues

Laabs suggested that possibly a petition should be started now in preparation of future idea of a consortium. VSO reports talking to neighboring counties in the near future to have veterans sign petition against the possible regionalization of veteran service offices.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, Motion by Savard to adjourn, seconded by Laabs, all present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.