

Meeting - Veteran's Service Committee & Commission Minutes

Committee: Veteran's Service Committee & Commission

Date: Tuesday, July 19, 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, Liesch, Matuszewski, Chaney and Laabs. Others Present: VSO Robert Koplien

Approve Agenda

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

Approve Minutes of the March 24th 2016 Meeting

Motion by Liesch to approve minutes of the March 24th 2016 meeting, seconded by Laabs, all present voting AYE.
Motion carried

Discussion and possible approval of Resolutions to be forwarded to County Board

VSO explained Resolution # 1 in regards to the idea of consolidation and regionalization of County Veteran Service Offices. VSO explained Resolution #2 in regards to the criteria and format of the current grant process and the request to return the reimbursement grant back to the original block grant style that originated back in 1973.

Motion by Matuszewski to approve / forward to county board resolutions #1 and resolution #2, seconded by Liesch, all present voting AYE
Motion carried

Information on 2015 Forest County Veteran Numbers

The VSO gave a handout prior meeting that explained Forest County by the Numbers in regards to the total number of veterans and benefits utilized by those veterans.

2016 Veteran Service Numbers

The VSO explains office numbers as a whole dating January 1st through July 19, 2016 ,VSO explains that 515 total forms filled out ,276 office visits ,19 home visits 298 phone calls and 25 emails responded to . VSO reports that the office is heavily utilized and proposed regionalization is a bad idea for veterans. VSO explains that regionalization would limit the benefit delivery system and reduce the amount of federal and state dollars coming into the county.

WDVA Reimbursement Grant Update

The VSO reports that on 7-5-16 he received a reimbursement grant check of \$5059.67 from the WDVA. VSO advises after numerous of emails between him and the WDVA to clarify an issue he received the

additional \$3378.33 to make a total of \$8500 reimbursed. The reimbursement to Forest County is for specific approved office expenses and wage offset.

Iron Mountain VTS -Veteran Transport System Update

The VSO advises on May 9th 2016 he received an email from the Iron Mountain VAMC Public Affairs Officer Brad Nelson stating that the Veteran Transportation System will be discontinued on May 27 2016. VSO advises that all veterans using that system were notified prior to the discontinuation.

Adjournment

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