

## **Meeting - Veteran's Service Committee & Commission Minutes**

Committee: Veteran's Service Committee & Commission

Date: Monday April 23rd, 2018

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, Thornton, Dvorak, Savard, Berg and Chaney.

Others Present: VSO Robert Koplien

### **Approve Agenda**

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

Motion carried

### **Approve Minutes of the October 26th 2017 Meeting**

Motion by Bocek to approve minutes of the October 26th 2017 meeting, seconded by Papapetru, all present voting AYE.

Motion carried

### **Introduction of new Commission Member**

VSO introduced Vern Dvorak of Crandon. VSO explained that Mr. Dvorak has replaced Tim Blank as the representative of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV Chapter 43). VSO explained that Mr. Dvorak is the treasure of the very active local DAV organization.

### **Veteran Town Hall**

VSO reports that Iron Mountain VAMC presented a Town Hall in Goodman on March 14th at the American Legion Post 325 in which 19 veterans attended. VSO explains that this informational presentation about what services are newly offered and primarily a Q&A session so if a veteran has questions or issues this is the time to ask. VSO explains that the leadership from Iron Mountain VAMC were the presenters and listened to comments & concerns. VSO also announces that he requested another Town Hall will be presented in June in Laona. Date & location yet to be determined.

### **Veteran Grave Marker Funds Request for Placement**

VSO report that while attending the Town Hall in Goodman the American Legion Post 325 Commander Terry Flannery questioned the Iron Mountain VAMC & VSO (myself) about a grave marker for a deceased Navy Veteran who's placed in Armstrong Creek Cemetery without military recognition. I talked at length with Mr. Flannery and it was determined that due to no available family to sign the application that was primary reason for it never being done. Commander Flannery stated that deceased veterans husband passed years prior and a son immediately left the state after mother's funeral in 2012. VSO explained that after some extensive searching for a family member and help from Sue Hill at Weber Hill Funeral Home we located a cousin from marriage to sign application as a favor to finalize issue.

VSO requests approval for funding on placement of marker at the Armstrong Creek Cemetery due to the fact that there no direct next of kin available and the unique situation. VSO states that per Forest Granite Works the cost is roughly \$200 for placement.

Thornton made a motion to approve funds for placement of marker at the counties expense. All in attendance voted Aye (7) and (0) Nay. Motion passed.

### **Veteran ID Cards**

VSO explains that in November 2017 veterans can apply for a Veteran Id Card. VSO explains that this Id card can be applied through the general VA website. VSO explains that the VA could charge a fee for this but currently that is not planned. VSO explains that there is no timeline in how long it takes to receive the card. In addition, VSO reports that the Home Depot no longer acknowledges the veteran designation on the Wi Driver's License for discounts on in store items.

### **VA National Cemetery - Union Grove Cemetery in the township of Cassian (Oneida County).**

VSO explains that it will then take about another year to complete the project and for the cemetery to be open for burials.

VSO explains that unlike our state veterans' cemeteries, there is no pre-registration for any national cemeteries; however, you can submit a pre-need application (VA form 40-10007). The purpose is to determine eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. The VA is promoting pre-need eligibility determinations to encourage veterans and their eligible family members to plan in advance to use VA burial benefits that veterans have earned through their military service. Planning in advance for a veteran's or loved one's final resting place can eliminate unnecessary delays and reduce stress on a family at a difficult time.

VSO explains once the pre-need application is submitted, the VA will make an eligibility determination for burial in a VA national cemetery in advance of need. Eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA national cemetery. Burial includes opening/closing of the grave, a government-furnished grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, a VA grave marker, and a burial flag all at no cost to the family.

### **WDVA Grant Update**

VSO Explains that on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2018 he received \$8500 check from the WDVA. VSO explains that is the max amount available.

### **Military / Veterans Family Day – Milwaukee County Zoo**

VSO The Milwaukee County Zoo is hosting Military/Veterans Family Day on Sunday, July 1, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Military service members, veterans and their families can enjoy free admission and parking at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Tickets are required for entry, and are available now until June 30. They can be picked up at your local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO). Tickets are available for immediate family only, and are limited to 10 tickets per family.

### **Gathering of Warriors Pow Wow - Keshena Wi**

VSO explains that the Veterans of Menomonee Nation are having a 29<sup>th</sup> annual Pow Wow in Keshena May 17-20 at the Woodland Bowl. This Pow Wow is to honor the fallen and Vietnam Era Veterans.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Motion by Savard to adjourn, seconded by Berg, all present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.