



Veteran Affairs

Polk County River Place 2309
Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
Ph. 515.286.3670
Fax 515.286.2106
www.polkcountyia.gov

The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1524 hrs. on December 17, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marty Smith, Vikki Domina
Commissioner Marren present via teleconference
Assistant County Attorney Mark Taylor Present
Executive Director Pat Sweeney Present
Deputy Director Michael Mortensen Absent

Minutes:

Novembers' minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Currently 1.18% over budget. Pat discussed the comparison of expenditures from previous years. Moved by Domina, seconded by Marren to approve the previous months claims.
VOTE YEA: Smith, Domina, Marren

Exception Report:

Pat discussed 15 exceptions above the allowable guidelines for the month of November 2024. Large decrease in exceptions from October 2024 to current. The exception report is within guideline and ratified. Moved by Marren, seconded by Smith to approve the exceptions for November 2024.
VOTE YEA: Domina, Smith, Marren

Executive Directors' Report:

Dart ridership continues increasing ridership totals for November are 11,219 rides. November 2023 ridership totaled 8097. Dart will continue to provide services in the Des Moines area, smaller suburbs may have some cutbacks due to their own funding.

Polk County IT developed a case management program for our office. RIVER is utilized for our appointment scheduling, financial assistance tracking, reporting and case management of client files. Our office is currently working to finalize necessary reporting within RIVER and discussions have started on the second phase of RIVER to allow clientele to schedule appointments themselves online.

Pat discussed several statistics to include the GDX report. Polk County brought in \$16,230,101.00 in November for federal benefits awarded. Michael and Pat discuss frequently the importance of obtaining these federal benefits to allow self-sufficiency, alleviating the necessity for financial assistance.

Pat thanked the commission for their continued support.

Nominations for Chair and Secretary for 2025:

Commissioner Domina nominates current Chair Mary Smith to remain Chair for 2025. Seconded by Marren.

VOTE YEA: Marren, Domina, Smith

Commissioner Smith nominates Commissioner Marren as Secretary for 2025, Seconded by Domina.

VOTE YEA: Smith, Marren, Domina

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

Pat reported the KITE system continues to be our main form of communication with inmates while incarcerated in Polk County.

Januarys' meeting scheduled for January 21, 2025 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment

Marty Smith, Chair
Marty Smith, Chairperson