



Veteran Affairs

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The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1530 hrs. on November 19, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marty Smith, Vikki Domina
Commissioner Marren absent due to illness
Assistant County Attorney Mark Taylor Absent
Executive Director Pat Sweeney Present
Deputy Director Michael Mortensen Absent

Minutes:

Octobers' minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Currently 3.89% over budget due to replenishing our stock of flags and markers. Pat discussed the comparison of expenditures from previous years.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Domina to approve the previous months claims.

VOTE YEA: Smith, Domina

Exception Report:

Pat discussed 48 exceptions above the allowable guidelines for the month of October 2024. Pat explained the conversations had with clientele determine the necessity of an exception.

The exception report is within guideline and ratified.

Moved by Domina, seconded by Smith to approve the exceptions for October 2024.

VOTE YEA: Domina, Smith

Executive Directors' Report:

Pat reviewed statistics comparing several data points to last fiscal year, including and increase in total clients seen from October 23 to October 24 of 159 clients.

Dart ridership decreased this past month with 10,227 riders. Commissioner Domina inquired on whether the cutbacks will affect our partnership with DART.

Guideline Modifications:

- Sec. I. d.#7 definition of Veteran; in accordance with Iowa Code Ch.35.1
- Sec. II. #6 modifying language to reflect current titles
- Sec. III. #3 modifying language to reflect current titles
- Sec. V.#1,2,3,5,8 modifying language; adjusting titles
- Sec V. #4. adding subsection to reflect dependent assistance (4.a.)
- Sec. V. 9. adding subsection to reflect Payee/Fiduciary assistance
- Sec. VI. #2,4b,5,10 modifying language to reflect current titles

Moved by Smith, seconded by Domina to approve the guideline modifications.

VOTE YEA: Smith, Domina

Our annual Coat giveaway was a success, distributing over 500 coats and winter weather gear to our community. The coats purchased were of much better quality this year, purchased through a non-profit that assists communities in need. The Warming Project has provided millions of students with backpacks, school supplies, hygiene products, blankets and coats.

Novembers' mobile food pantry was incorrectly announced numerous times. Local news channels reported outdated and incorrect information. This brought a large increase of those in need to our parking lot, in which distribution had to be adjusted to fulfill the needs of all those in line. Pat thanked the volunteers for their assistance with our distribution.

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

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

Decembers 'meeting scheduled for December 17, 2024 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment

Marty Smith, Chair
Marty Smith, Chairperson