



Veteran Affairs

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

The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1500 hrs. on September 19, 2023

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

Minutes:

Augusts' minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Pat discussed the previous months' claims. Two months into the fiscal year and currently 2% over the allotted expenditures for the time frame due to the. grave maintenance perpetual care of designated Veterans sections to the City of Des Moines.

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

VOTE YEA: Domina, Smith, Marren

Exception Report:

Pat discussed 41 exceptions above the allowable guidelines for the month of August 2023. Exception breakdown are as follows 22 Shelter, 6 food and 13 utilities.

The exception report is within guideline and ratified.

Moved by Marren, seconded by Smith to approve the exceptions for August 2023

VOTE YEA: Domina, Smith, Marren

Executive Directors' Report:

Pat discussed the increase in clients seen comparing August 2022 to August 2023 with an increase of 123 Veterans and an additional 56 new clients. Pat reported on the GDX, Polk County has brought in \$13,755,785 for August 2023. Our office completes the majority of federal claims for Veterans and families in Polk County. The GDX report reflects the amount of funding these Veterans receive to allow them to be self-sufficient thus not utilizing our financial assistance.

Pat is on the cemetery board with the City of Des Moines and received information from them stating the perpetual care funds we provide to assist 11,213 Veterans graves across three city cemeteries.

DART ridership continues to increase with an additional 1760 riders compared to August 2022. Pat and Michael have been working to have an additional bus stop created to assist the businesses in the Market St. area. Meetings with local area businesses such as Titan, Kemin and Shupan have shown a significant need for the DART route to retain employees during colder seasons.

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

Michael reported 44 incarcerated Veterans for August 2023. The electronic KITE system still a great resource for assisting Veterans while in incarcerated in Polk County. Pat and Michael met with Chief Williams regarding our current reporting system and what is needed to maintain assistance post incarceration. Further discussion will be taking place later this month for a possible Veterans Court opportunity.

Octobers' meeting scheduled for October 17, 2023 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment

Marty Smith, Chair
Marty Smith, Chairperson