



Veteran Affairs

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The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1531 hrs on August 15, 2023

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

Minutes:

Julys' minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Pat discussed the previous months' claims. First month of the fiscal year expended 7.34% of the total budget. Grave maintenance perpetual care of designated Veterans sections has been submitted totaling \$68,500 to the City of Des Moines. Commissioner Marren requesting additional information as to how many Veterans' graves are maintained with our funding. Pat will gather the statistics and report findings at next meeting.

Moved by Marren, seconded by Domina to approve the previous months claims.
VOTE YEA: Domina, Smith, Marren

Nominations:

Moved by Domina, seconded by Marren to nominate Marty Smith as Chair for FY 23/24.
VOTE YEA: Domina, Marren, Smith
Moved by Smith, seconded by Marren to nominate Vikki Domina as Secretary for FY 23/24.
VOTE YEA: Smith, Marren Domina

Exception Report:

Pat discussed 22 exceptions above the allowable guidelines for the month of July 2023. Exception breakdown are as follows 12 Shelter, 7 food and 3 utilities.
The exception report is within guideline and ratified.
Moved by Smith, seconded by Marren to approve the exceptions for July 2023
VOTE YEA: Domina, Smith, Marren

Executive Directors' Report:

Pat discussed the increase in clients seen comparing July 2022 to July 2023 with an increase of 143 Veterans and an additional 47 new clients.
July was exceptionally busy finalizing the PACT Act claims; filing deadline was extended to August 14, 2023. Service officers were attending Veterans Day at the Iowa State Fair on August 14, Service Officer Angel Kifer was gracious enough to work in the office instead of attending the fair to assist with all last-minute filings. Pat states this goes to show the flexibility and accommodations staff is willing to make to assist our Veterans.
Deputy Director Michael Mortensen is attending his last district meeting in Le Mars as the association president. Pat will be on vacation August 29 through September 8.

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

Michael and Pat will be meeting with Chief Williams to discuss corrections to our incarcerated reports. Pat stated the KITES are still being utilized and resources are being contacted on behalf of the requests.

Septembers' meeting scheduled for September 19, 2023 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment

Marty Smith
Marty Smith, Chairperson