



Veteran Affairs

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The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1530 hrs. on June 18, 2024

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

Minutes:

Mays' minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Eleven months in to this fiscal year, current expenditures at 83.02%. Budget will come in under target for year end expenditures. Commissioner Marren questioned the total number clients seen in our office for this fiscal year- Pat advised 11,206 clients seen through end of May 2024.

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

VOTE YEA: Marren, Smith, Domina

Exception Report:

Pat discussed 29 exceptions above the allowable guidelines for the month of May 2024.

The exception report is within guideline and ratified.

Moved by Domina, seconded by Marren to approve the exceptions for May 2024.

VOTE YEA: Domina, Marren, Smith

Executive Directors' Report:

- a) DART Ridership; 10,513 riders for the month of May, this is the highest total since December 2023.
- b) Vacant Position; 108 total applicants; ten internal. Pat and Michael will conduct interviews the third week in July. Optimistic position will be filled by mid-August. General Services will begin the renovations for additional office space within our department.
- c) Iowa Code Ch.35; Definition of Veteran – Legislation passed expanding the definition of “Veteran” in the state of Iowa to include those with a service-connected disability who may not have the ninety-days active duty other than training. This will increase our clientele assisting training time only service members with a service-connected disability.

The City of Des Moines has procured the Masonic Cemetery; one wall will be dedicated to Veterans and available at a discounted rate. Our office purchased a large banner with the six branches military logos that will be displayed above the Veterans section within the mausoleum.

Incarcerated Report: No data could be provided for this report within our new case management system; RIVER. Our office continues to work with Polk County Informational Technology.

Julys’ meeting scheduled for July 16, 2024 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment

Marty Smith, Chair
Marty Smith, Chairperson