



Veteran Affairs

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The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1531 hrs on May 16, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vikki Palmer, Marty Smith
Assistant County Attorney Mark Taylor Present
Executive Director Pat Sweeney Present
Deputy Director Michael Mortensen Present
Commissioner James Marren present at 1539hrs

Minutes:

Aprils' minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Pat discussed the previous months' claims. Projected to expend 99.8% for this fiscal year. FY 23/24 may need to be increased due to inflation; Pat will review this again beginning of July. Moved by Smith, seconded by Palmer to approve the claims of April 2023
VOTE YEA: Palmer, Smith

Exception Report:

Pat discussed 24 exceptions above the allowable guidelines for the month of April 2023. The exception report is within guideline and ratified.
Moved by Smith, seconded by Palmer to approve the exceptions for April 2023
VOTE YEA: Palmer, Smith

Executive Directors' Report:

Pat discussed due to the State of Iowa budget cuts to our county the probability of another full-time employee is extremely low. Polk County Veteran Affairs will be collaborating with Home Base Iowa due to in part of the success of our DART program. DART ridership continues to increase. April of 2023 DART had provided 11,944 rides for Veterans, April 2022 reported 9,455 total ridership.

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

Deputy Director Michael Mortensen discussed 45 total incarcerated Veterans in April. 110 repeat offenders have been reported. Thirty-eight clients assisted with federal claims and sixty-eight for financial assistance. County Veteran Service Officer Connie Woodward is maintaining an open line of communication with the Veterans Justice Outreach coordinator utilizing the jails KITE system.

Commission discussed there will be no meeting held in June.

July's meeting scheduled for July 18, 2023 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment

Vikki Palmer, Chair
Vikki Palmer, Chairperson