



Veteran Affairs

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The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1535 hrs on March 15, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vikki Palmer, Kolleen Dahl, James Marren
Assistant County Attorney Mark Taylor Absent
Executive Director Pat Sweeney Present
Assistant Director Michael Mortensen Present

Minutes:

February's minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Pat discussed the previous months' claims. Current expenditures at 61.50% for this fiscal year.
Moved by Marren, seconded by Dahl to approve the claims of February 2022.
VOTE YEA: Palmer, Dahl, Marren

Exception Report:

The exception report is within guideline and ratified.
Moved by Marren, seconded by Dahl to approve the exceptions for February 2022
VOTE YEA: Dahl, Palmer, Marren

Guideline Amendments:

Reviewed guideline modifications as discussed at February meeting.
Moved by Marren, seconded by Dahl to approve the guideline modifications.
VOTE YEA: Palmer, Dahl, Marren

Executive Directors' Report:

a) DART program still showing a decrease in ridership

Pat has been featured in the Greater Des Moines Community Annual Report for the partnership and support of City cemeteries. Jeromy Geiken has completed his NACVSO accreditation and will begin assisting Veterans with filing for federal benefits. Employees are continuing their hybrid schedule; we will discuss face to face meetings with clients at a later date. Megan Stradley, Administrative Assistant has been working on maintaining electronic formats of all grave registrations. MDS Records Management has been hired to transition over eight thousand records dating back to Civil War. Records will be kept in a searchable software; maintaining current records electronically.

Pat discussed with the Commission policies for assisting Veterans and their families with funeral and burial expenses. Currently indigent Veterans and their families receive two thousand dollars to assist with burial costs. General Assistance only assists with cremations; we will look into adjustments of our expenditures for cremations versus burials. Angel Kifer, CVSO will arrange meetings with funeral directors to discuss cost analysis.

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

Assistant Director Michael Mortensen reported a decrease of Veterans incarcerated in February with 49 total for the month.

Aprils' meeting will be held on April 19, 2022 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment

Vikki Palmer, Chair
Vikki Palmer, Chairperson