



Veteran Affairs

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The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1532 hrs on February 21, 2023

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

OATH OF OFFICE: Marty Smith

Minutes:

Decembers' minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Pat discussed the previous two months' claims, stating federal claims continue to increase allowing Veterans and their families to become self-sufficient. Appointment scheduling going well, would like to see a software program implemented to allow self-scheduling with auto reminders.

Moved by Marren, seconded by Smith to approve the claims of December 2022 and January 2023

VOTE YEA: Palmer, Marren, Smith

Exception Report:

Pat discussed assisting 27 Veterans above the allowable guidelines for the month of December 2022 and 24 Veterans for January 2023. The exception report is within guideline and ratified.

Moved by Marren, seconded by Smith to approve the exceptions for December 2022 and January 2023.

VOTE YEA: Marren, Palmer, Smith

Executive Directors' Report:

DART ridership totals continue to increase; an additional 208 riders compared to the same period the previous year.

Second quarter report was submitted and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Federal claims filed increased by 323 from the first quarter.

Pat discussed our annual guideline review; legislation is working on redefining the definition of a Veteran in the state of Iowa. Guideline modifications to be further discussed at the March meeting.

Pat has been working with our County Attorney and Board members to obtain a facility dog; trained facility dog would allow us to utilize another tool in the office. Several Veterans have expressed the necessity when discussing military experiences.

Pat has been invited to serve on the City of Des Moines cemetery advisory board. Pat will

be attending monthly meetings to better serve and understand our perpetual care to the Veterans sections at city cemeteries.

Pat and Michael completed the annual budget presentation on January 11, 2023.

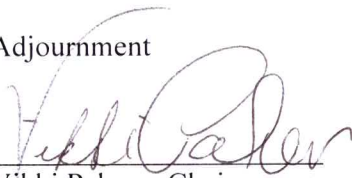
The Veterans Mobile Food Pantry is maintaining steady distributing 300 packages monthly. Office is obtaining more volunteers for the monthly distribution. Polk County Human Resources will be attending the March food pantry.

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

Pat reported the Polk County Sheriff's office is still sending an incarcerated report each morning and the KITES system is still effective for referrals to VJO and mental health services through the VA.

March's meeting scheduled for March 21, 2023 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment



Vikki Palmer, Chairperson