



Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting

Monday, November 25, 2024 – 10:00 am
Winnebago Co Health Department Board Room

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge

Present: Steve Bosma, Dave Peterson, Troy Thompson and Mary Lou Kleveland

2. Review and Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes

The October monthly meeting minutes were reviewed. Thompson motioned, seconded by Bosma to approve the October minutes. All in favor. October minutes were approved.

3. Veteran Services Officer Report

- a. Monthly VA numbers: Mary Lou shared the statistics for October 2024. The numbers of veterans served and money coming into Winnebago County due to compensation and pension for veterans and widows continues to consistently increase. The Commissioners advised Mary Lou to make sure the consistent increases are included in the 2024 Annual Report for the VA that Mary Lou will submit to the Board of Supervisors in January 2025.
- b. County Outreach Efforts – Mary Lou met with Dave Anderson, Lake Mills American Legion to discuss outreach to veterans in the county as well as to give him flags and medallions for deceased veterans.
- c. Review Monthly Expenditure Report for Approval – The Commissioners and Mary Lou reviewed the expenditures for October. Mary Lou advised that a correction had been made on the October expenditures. There were previously expenses that were mistakenly placed on the office furniture/equipment line item and should have been charged to line item for office supplies. Peterson motioned and Thompson seconded to approve the October expenditures. All in favor. The October expenditure report was approved and the Commissioners signed off on the report.

4. Old Business

- a. State Grant Allocation & Training Grant Allocation – There was a lot of discussion and information shared regarding this topic. Thompson and Mary Lou met with Karla Weiss to discuss tracking expenses that are paid for by the \$10,000 State Grant Allocation for this office. Also discussed was the new \$3,000 State Training Allocation that can only be used for the expenses associated with any national training for VSO. After discussion, Karla Weiss determined that no budget amendment was needed for the FY 23-25 budget. There will be changes made in the FY 25-26 budget to reflect both state allocations. Karla will talk to Kris Oswald in the Auditor's office regarding development of a tracking sheet for the State Grant Allocation expenses for the current fiscal year. Thompson advised that the new budget should clearly show the county's contribution to the VA budget and then also the budget should also clearly documents the line item expenses that are being used from the \$10,000 State Grant Allocation.
- b. Commissioner & VSO Fall Training – There was no further discussion needed regarding fall training.

- c. Upcoming changes to VA ratings for hearing loss and tinnitus – This topic was discussed at length at the October 2024 meeting. The Commissioners advised Mary Lou to contact Karl Wooldridge from KIOW to discuss the cost of running radio ads during basketball games. Thompson updated everyone that he has finished recording the radio ads which notify the veterans of the upcoming changes to hearing loss and tinnitus ratings in April 2025. The Commissioners would like for the ads to run into February 2025 and would definitely want the ads to play during games with local communities as opponents (i.e. Forest City vs. Lake Mills). Mary Lou will schedule an appointment to meet with Karl. The Commissioners also advised Mary Lou to contact John Monson, Leland VFW and Kelsey Bosma, Buffalo Center VFW regarding these upcoming changes. Mary Lou has already spoken to Dave Anderson, Lake Mills American Legion and Veronica Maas, Forest City American Legion.

5. New Business – VA New and Emerging Information

- a. VA New and Emerging Information – Development of 2025-2026 Budget for Veterans Affairs – Mary Lou and the Commissioners spent considerable time discussing each line item of the FY 2024-2025 Veteran Affairs budget to determine the changes needed for the FY 2025-2026 budget for Winnebago County VA. This is a tentative budget which will be submitted to Karla Weiss, Auditor, in December 2024 and then VSO and one of the Commissioners will submit the VA budget to the Board of Supervisors in January 2025.
- b. Next Meeting Date: December 16, 2024 at 10:00 am at the Winnebago County Courthouse

Adjournment – Bosma motioned; Peterson seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

veterans@winnebagocountyiowa.gov

641.585.5736 office

641.585.5737 fax