



Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025 – 10:00 am
Winnebago Co Health Department Board Room

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge

Present: Commissioners Steve Bosma, Dave Peterson, Troy Thompson and Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Mary Lou Kleveland

2. Review and Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes

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

3. Veteran Services Officer Report

- a. Monthly VA numbers: VSO shared the statistics for January 2025 for Winnebago County and the state of Iowa.
- b. County Outreach Efforts – VSO along with Melissa Michaelis from Winn-Worth Betco attended the Rake City Council Meeting to present the HBI program for possible adoption by Rake. VSO shared how the program benefits the county, the city of Rake and the veteran.
- c. Review Monthly Expenditure Report for Approval - The Commissioners and VSO reviewed the expenditures for January 2025. Thompson expressed concern that there may not be enough budget to cover the VSO salary until the end of FY 24-25. The Commissioners advised VSO to talk to Auditor's office for more information. Thompson motioned and Bosma seconded to approve the January expenditures. All in favor. The January expenditure report was approved and the Commissioners signed off on the report.

4. Old Business

- a. FY 2025-2026 Budget for Veterans Affairs – VSO advised that the BOS had made budget cuts on the proposed new county department budgets, but this office did not have any cuts to their upcoming budget.
- b. Review of policies – Commissioners & VSO reviewed a new retention policy for paperwork & adopted the policy in January 2025.
- c. KIOW Ads – VSO advised that the ads will run until March 31st. VSO also advised that the VA has not shared any definitive information regarding the hearing loss/tinnitus changes that are pending. VSO advised that she had been getting calls and walk in visits regarding veterans hearing the ads and wanting to determine if they needed to file a claim. Thompson advised VSO to track the phone calls and contacts that developed due to the KIOW ads. VSO will do so and provide a report at the April Commissioners meeting after the ads have run for the full 3 months.
- d. Financial Assistance Requests – The requests were discussed and reviewed and then appropriate action was taken for the requests.

5. New Business

- a. Commissioner & VSO Training - VSO advised about the new Semi Annual Commissioners Virtual Training which will occur for the first time on Tuesday, March 18th from 6:30- 8:00 pm. VSO

provided the information on the event and how to access the training through Zoom. VSO also advised that each of them should have gotten an email regarding this training as well. VSO explained that she is required to have 16 CEUs each calendar year to stay accredited. The CEUs for 2025 can be obtained at National Training in July – either in person or virtual attendance. VSO advised she had never attended the training in person and thought doing so would be advantageous. There was discussion about the funds for this training. VSO advised she could use the \$3,000 Training Grant from the FY 25-26 for the expenses with the training – airfare, hotel, etc. The National Training for 2026 will be in Reno, Nevada, and VSO stated she could attend this training virtually to obtain the needed CEUs for calendar year 2026. The training cost is \$400 for virtual attendance. The Commissioners agreed that VSO should attend July National Training in person. VSO did advise that there was limited space for the training due to the size of the venue and she may not get a spot but would try when the registration for the training is available.

- b. New cell phone & Camera– VSO advised that she had gotten a new business cell phone. The outside lighting is pending installation.
- c. Next Meeting Date: March 24, 2025 at 10:00 am at the Winnebago County Courthouse

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

veterans@winnebagoountyiowa.gov

641.585.5736 office

641.585.5737 fax