

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 26, 2024

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Department of Veteran Affairs Committee was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at the Chippewa Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Shogren called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Shogren, Brooks Partridge, Bob Savoie, Dr. Frederick Ludwig

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Melissa Donaghe, John Miller, Cady Bauers

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Robert Savoie, supported by Brooks Partridge, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Comment

Cady Bauers discussed the proposed amendment to the MVAA / CVTF for FY2025. The proposal is an increase in funding and would take effect January 1, 2025 if approved by the County Commission and the State MVAA.

Monthly Report

The office has been open for twenty-nine (29) days from October 29, 2024 – November 26, 2024. There were approximately 60 visits to the office. Our office received and placed approximately 337 phone calls during this period. The office has been assisting Veterans and filing claims since John has received accreditation. The American Legion, Rick Wiles, has been very helpful in assisting with claims. Melissa has not received notification of her accreditation for the VA Office of General Counsel at this time. John currently has cross accreditation with the Marine Corps League, DAV, and the MVAA. On November 12th John traveled to Marquette where he was photographed and fingerprinted for his PIV card. John was informed that it should take 2 to 4 weeks to receive the card after this process. On November 11th, Veterans Day, Melissa and John attended local Veterans Day activities at Sault Area High School and JKL Bahweting Anishnabe School. They also visited 44 Veterans in local assisted living homes. Operation Green Light was a success. Melissa ensured our Facebook page was updated with this year's pictures of the historic courthouse as well as pictures from people displaying their green porchlights. Out reach to local Veterans organizations continued with visits to the AMVET meeting in Raber and the DAV meeting in Sault Ste. Marie. The office had a meeting with the DAV drivers and representatives from the Iron Mountain VA at the Elks Lodge. The MVAA grant for FY 2024 final audit was completed. Our county received \$50,000 in grant money and \$44,143.16 was used. The county will be returning \$5856.84 to the MVAA. We hope to continue to use this money effectively and efficiently for our local Veterans. We would like to thank Melissa Donaghe, Program Director, and Cady Bauers for their oversight of this grant.

Approval of the October 1, 2024 Minutes

The committee received and reviewed the October 29, 2024 committee minutes.

It was moved by Bob Savoie, supported by Brooks Partridge, to approve the October 29, 2024 minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Burials

No burial funds were needed this month.

No action needed.

Grave Markers

No graver marker funds used in October 2024.

No action needed.

Food Assistance

Food assistance for one family totaling \$100; all food assistance was provided by MVAA grant assistance.

No action needed.

The Veterans Board made their recommendation to the County Commission for the current vacancy. The board unanimously selected Robert Savoie as their recommendation.

Discussed the grant amendment to include allocating \$800.00 to cover the cost of two cell phones with hot spots, \$1,300 to cover the cost of a laptop with the ability to read a PIV card both of these will be used for mobile clinics by the VSOs, and \$10,206.48 for and increase in hours and wage for the part-time project director who is now certified and would become the part-time project director/certified veteran service officer. **It was moved by Jim Shogren, supported by Brooks Partridge, to approve the amendment. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

MVAA Grant Distributions in the amount of \$5394.43

- **Advertisement - \$3841 (Billboards)**
- **Transportation - \$0**
- **Food Assistance - \$100**
- **Emergent Relief - \$0**
- **Part-time Compliance Officer/Project Director - \$1453.43**

The committee reviews the MVAA grant distributions in the amount of \$5394.43

It was moved by Dr. Fredrick Ludwig, supported by Brooks Partridge, to approve the MVAA grant distributions in the amount of \$5394.43. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Date of next committee meeting.

The committee discussed the next meeting date. The next meeting will be December 23, 2024.

It was moved by Jim Shogren, supported by Dr. Fredrick Ludwig, to have the next meeting take place on December 23, 2024 at 4:00 pm. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Committee Comments

Melissa informed the Board Members that Robert Savoie holds a position on the CVTF / MVTF representing the AMVETS organization.

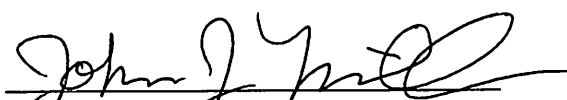
Chairman Comments

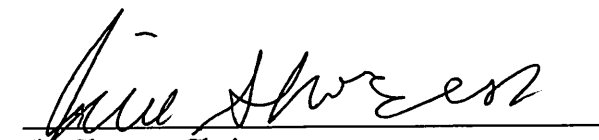
No comments from Chairman Shogren this meeting.

Adjourn

It was moved by Bob Savoie, supported by Brooks Partridge to adjourn. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.


John Miller, Recorder


Jim Shogren, Chairman.