

Department of Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Date: October 20, 2020

Subject: Regular Monthly Meeting

Meeting called to order by the President of the Board, Vaughn Begick.

Commissioners present were Mike Pergande, Marilyn Lazarz, and Jonathan VanTol

Troy Stewart-excused

CITIZENS INPUT

Mark Smith- Requested \$15,000 grant for his 501 (c) 3 Veteran food pantry. Stated only goes to assist Veterans. He has a non-profit status and is incorporated in the state of Michigan. Stated any money or equipment purchased with this grant would be returned to the county for Veteran's needs.

He is funding this with some of his own money because the organizations that have previously assisted have less funds because of the china virus.

VanTol added that the state corporation would protect his board of Directors from being personally liable to any lawsuits.

Suggested that he have their 501 (c) 3 IRS determination letter, current state corporate filling and bylaws ready to submit if the committee is able to assist.

Pat Downey- Representative of the Valley Garden club spoke of their club's initiative of developing a Blue Star Garden Honoring Veteran family. It will be located at the entrance to Veterans Memorial Park on Henry St. Previously the City of Bay City had a garden there that needed sprucing up. They have about half the cost to develop and request a grant of approximately 44,500 to finish it. It will be maintained by volunteers from their garden club.

Pergande suggested they ask the various county Veterans organizations for assistance. The addresses of the American Legion, Vietnam Vets of America, Marine Corps League, Polish Legion of American Veterans and AmVets (American Veterans) were provided.

Fred Zipler-requested that the per diem for the volunteer divers for the Veteran transportation be raised from \$3 per passenger to \$10. Also requested that the scheduler receive \$25 per day.

VanTol requested the Director Craig Goulet to report later on the ramifications of raising the per diem on the county Veterans funds.

Pergande requested the number of Veterans using the transportation program and Mark Kaczmarek stated he would provide last year's numbers because the program has had limited use this year because of the china virus.

Mark Kaczmarek- Spoke on adding a Veteran's name to the memorial and is having a difficult time finding a company to add it. Getting late in the year and may have to wait until next spring.

DIRECTOR GOULET

Covered the status of state grants. They were approved and vehicles were purchased for the transportation program. The current contract positions will be converted into county union employee positions with some of the grant money going to pay the employees. The Bay County Board of Commissioners approved the hiring and job descriptions are be developed and then hiring can begin.

OLD BUSINESS

Vaughan- Corporate council looking to see how the state grant and county millage money can be used.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion held on tabling all grant applications until the County Council responds with an opinion.

MOTION 2020- 9

VanTol - Made a motion to table all grant applications until after the County Council determination on use of funds. Seconded by Pergande. **Passed** by role vote by all present.

ANOUNCEMENTS

Motion to adjourn by Lazarz, seconded by Pergande and it was voted to adjourn.