

BAY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Vaughn Begick at 3:00 PM, followed by roll call.

Present at meeting: Vaughn Begick, County Commissioner; Marilyn Lazarz, Mike Pergande, Jon VanTol, Craig Goulet, Director of Administrative Services/Veterans Affairs, Jim Barcia, County Executive and Amber Johnson, Corporation Council. Excused Troy Stewart.

Minutes: **2019-26** Motion made by Jon to approve 10-15-2019 minutes as presented and supported by Mike; 3 YEAS, 0 NAYS.

Citizens Input: Gary Drzewicki, Commander of Bay County Veterans Honor Guard, received a plaque for the Bay County Veterans Council from the Department of Defense for their dedicated service and good standing. The plaque will be displayed in the Bay County Veterans office first floor of the County Building. The plaque was presented to Jim Barcia and Vaughn Begick. Jim Barcia thanked the color guard for their service and Gary mentioned there were 158 to date military funerals this year. Gary spoke about the Veteran of the Year Award and the deadline for accepting applications is January 21, 2020. The dinner will be February 16, 2020 at AMVETS Post 22. Currently he received two Veteran applications. He would like the county to assist in placing an article in the Bay City Times and Mlive.

Cindy Starkweather mentioned Helping Hands Food Pantry will be opened this Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm and still looking for funding. Also on December 06 at AMVETS Post 22, there is a Soup Supper fundraiser for the food pantry from 4-7 pm. Vaughn encouraged Veteran groups to donate.

Mark Smith asked the Marine Corp to help out with the food pantry. He did state that no funding is needed.

Petitions and Communications: a) Open House: The Veterans Affairs Office open house was last Friday. Craig estimated that over 80 people came being a combination of public and county employees. The hours of operation are Monday thru Thursday from 8:00 am thru 3:00 pm. The open house was well attended. Jim stated that Krystal Latimer helped a Vietnam Veteran in getting a fuel efficient boiler for his home at a cost of \$2500 from the Bay County Veteran millage fund and labor was donated.

Reports/Resolutions: Vaughn commented that the funding for the food pantry was acquired.

Old Business: a) Mark Kaczmarek received Mr. Yuill records. He was born and home of record is Bay City. **2019-27** Motion made by Jon to add Mr. Yuill's name to the Bay County Memorial Wall and supported by Marilyn; 3 YEAS, 0 NAYS. Mark and/or Vaughn will email the family to let them know. His name to be engraved on the wall will have to go out to bids and to hire someone locally if we can. Tawas has a person that engraves and Bay Monument.

New Business: Mike stated the Veterans Committee needs to establish a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of how we are going to function and a Mission Statement. Mike volunteered to develop a SOP

with the approval of the Committee. He has an example of a SOP from Roscommon. The SOP will need approval from Corporate Council. **2019-28** Motion made by Jon for Mike to develop Standard Operating Procedures on how the Committee will operate and supported by Marilyn; 3 YEAS, 0 NAYS. Mike stated we need to have a budget and know what the normal expenditures are. Craig knows the budget. Guidelines are needed for how much and what we have to spend. Craig is working on the revenue and expenditures of the budget but the budget is still not approved. Mike recommends the Committee needs to know what part of the pieces are for the Committee to approve and the Board of Commissioners would have to approve the budget. Amber stated the Committee would make a recommendation on the Veterans millage fund and guidelines designated on certain funds.

Jon spoke about the military burial reimbursements for the funerals. **2019-29** Motion made by Jon to allow Krystal and Mark to sign the burial form for the funeral homes and supported by Mike; 3 YEAS, 0 NAYS. The military burial reimbursement is only for wartime Veterans and/or a Veteran that has assets under \$40,000. A better checklist is needed for the funeral homes. Jon volunteered to work on a new questioner for the funeral home in regards to military burial reimbursement. Every Veteran receives a marker regardless of wartime or assets.

Miscellaneous: None

Announcements: None

Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:35 PM.