

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
November 9, 2022

The meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. in the small meeting room. Members present were:

Bill VanWaes
Robin Housley
Stephen Wheeler
Mike Male
Greg Bell

Minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting were read. Commissioner VanWaes made the motion to accept, Commissioner Housley seconded. Approved by all present.

November reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: Allocation expenditures were discussed. The Administrator showed the Commission some different options for outreach supplies. The first option is pens. The Administrator asked for a sample that another county suggested. The Commission wanted better quality pens than the last ones we ordered. If the pen is equal quality to the one shown to the Commission they would like them to be purchased in a quantity of 500.

The other options were flashlights, license plate covers and med planners. Commissioner Housley like the idea of the med planners. Commissioner Wheeler felt that the med planners would be his first option, second would be the license plate covers and last the flashlight. Commissioner Housley made a motion for the med planners to be purchased, Commissioner VanWaes seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Further discussion was held about the license plate cover that they cannot cover up the county on the license plate, if the Administrator can get a sample to ensure compliance with state law, those might be something we purchase towards the end of the fiscal year.

The Administrator did reach out to Quick Books and they didn't even know of the changes to benefits with the enactment of the PACT Act. They stated that those updated books probably won't be available until summer next year.

New business: The Administrator handed out the news release regarding the newly appointed Commandant/IDVA Director Todd Jacobus. Commissioner Bell commented that he knows Colonel Jacobus. He will be a nice fit in that position.

The Administrator informed the Commission about the delegate meeting in Washington, DC to be held February 5 – 9, 2023. As of right now the Administrator has offered it to the 2nd Vice President since the Administrator went last year, however she needs to go through the approval process with her Commission next week. If she is unable to go, the Administrator asked if the Commission would allow her to attend again.

Commissioner Male thought it was a good opportunity to network and learn more. Last year we were able to get some changes done regarding issues Veterans are having with their contracted exams for compensation. Right now there are several speakers on the agenda such as the Under Secretary for the VA, the new BVA head Law Judge and NACO leadership.

The Commission stated that they felt it would be worthwhile. The Administrator did inform the Commission that she may be attending National training virtually this year as she may be on vacation the week prior to that training. This will allow Veteran visits and the ability to catch up while attending training during the breaks. This will also mean that allocation funds won't be needed for that training as year's prior.

Next Commissioner meeting will be held on December 14, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
Motion made by Commissioner VanWaes, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler.
Motion carried to adjourn at 5:05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Hamann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia Hamann, Administrator