

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
May 17, 2023

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

Robin Housley
Mike Male
Greg Bell
Stephen Wheeler
Bill VanWaes

Minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting were read. Commissioner Male made the motion to accept, Commissioner Wheeler seconded. Approved by all present.

May reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: The Administrator updated the Commission on legislation. The legislation passed a bill to raise the military property tax exemption to \$4,000 per year from the \$1,852 it has been since WWI. This takes effect for property taxes 2024.

New business: The Administrator asked the Commission if they had anyone in mind to replace Commissioner Wheeler when his term ends June 30th. The Administrator has a female, Navy Veteran that is interested. She applied for the last opening, however at that time she didn't meet the advertised criteria. Commissioner Bell asked that the Administrator reach out and schedule her for an interview during our June meeting.

The Administrator let the Commission know that at the next meeting they would also need to confirm Commissioner VanWaes willingness to continue to serve and notify the Board of Supervisors. A letter of recommendation for the new Commissioner if appropriate will also need to be done. Commissioner Wheeler will be moving out of state in the near future.

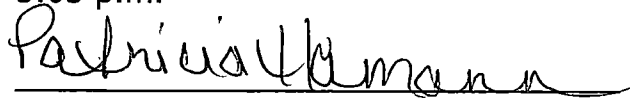
The Administrator presented the Commission with the current spending of the allocation. Right now there is \$444.11 left in the fund. The memberships for the Commission will use \$200 of that. The Administrator asked if it was ok to purchase some office supplies with the remaining funds. The Commission agreed.

The Administrator shared the current GDY report. Commissioner VanWaes asked about the number of Veterans it shows. The Administrator reminded the Commission that the only ones that show on this report are those that are utilizing Federal benefits. If they are not, they don't show up. That doesn't

mean they are all accounted for. There are many out there that haven't applied for benefits before and we are seeing more of those due to the PACT Act. There are also widows that haven't applied for benefits as they don't qualify yet.

The most significant thing to look at is not counties of similar size, as not every Veteran is the same, but how are we doing compared to ourselves. Did we increase the amount of federal funds coming to Veterans? Yes, we did by \$2,937,000 with a loss of 131 Veterans from 2021 to 2022. That is a large increase with a Veteran loss of so much.

Next Commissioner meeting will be held on June 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The change is due to Commissioner Bell's work hours and he is also at ADT for 2 weeks during our normal meeting date. Motion made by Commissioner VanWaes, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler. Motion carried to adjourn at 5:05 p.m.



Patricia Hamann, Administrator