

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
May 22, 2024

The meeting called to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors meeting room. Members present were:

Robin Housley
Mike Male
Shelly Howsare
Greg Bell
Bill VanWaes

Minutes of the April 24, 2024 meeting were read. Commissioner Housley made the motion to accept, Commissioner VanWaes. Approved by all present.

May reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: The Administrator updated the Commission on legislative bills. The bill for national training was signed. This bill will allot each county \$3,000 for national training expenses. This will help with the requirement of how we are to receive our training starting July 1, 2024.

The Administrator discussed national training. There were many great speakers and information shared. The Administrator along with Jim Jones from Plymouth County, nominated our past president, Michael Mortensen for a national award. He was chosen and received the "Ann Knowles Advocacy Award". This was a huge honor for him and the State of Iowa.

New business: Commissioner Bell will not be able to renew his commissioner appointment that is up June 30, 2024. The Administrator asked the Commission what preferred requirements they would like on the Commission. Since Commissioner Bell is National Guard, they would prefer to stay with that branch. Iowa has a huge deployment coming up next year and it would be good to have representation from that branch.

Commissioner Housley had someone in mind. The Administrator will go through records to see if one of the Veterans who are familiar with the claims process would be interested. The Administrator has 1 person that might be interested. The Commission would like to see a minimum of 3 applicants.

The Administrator shared the April report of running awards from the regional office. Cedar County is up to \$511,202 per month in benefits. That is up \$7156 a month from March. This report doesn't include all of the things that the GDX annual report has, but it gives us the monthly compensation, live pension, survivor pension and DIC benefit totals.

News Releases were shared with the Commission regarding the memorial day ceremony at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery.

Next Commissioner meeting will be held on June 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Motion made by Commissioner VanWaes, seconded by Commissioner Housley. Motion carried to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Hamann", written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Hamann, Administrator