

Carroll County
Veterans Assistance
Commission

17612 E. Benton St., P.O. Box 126
Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053

Carroll County Veterans Assistance Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 28 2023 @ 7:00 pm

Senior Citizens Center Meeting Room

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m. by Danielle Eberle

Invocation: Led by Ellis Boughton

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all

Roll Call: Wayne Leonard, Doug Bergren, Danielle Eberle, Waldon Lee Gibbs, Ernie Johnson, Ellis Boughton, Joe Drozd, Terry Lattin, Lamoille Poffenberger, James Yenney, Darlene Sisler, Nelson Preston, Susan Jacobs

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motioned by Joe Drozd; Seconded by Ellis Boughton; Passed

Amended Agenda: Added to New Business: Need to discuss Dental Program.

Agenda Approval: Motioned to approve by Nelson Preston; Seconded by Joe Drozd; Passed

Treasurer's Report:

- The balance as of May 31, 2023, was \$53,161.47.
- We have \$4594.00 in the dental fund at this time.
- The County Board is not going to adjust the levee.

- We are halfway through the year and we are also halfway through the years expenses.
- The County Board said that their auditor will probably do the VAC's audit and we should make sure we have a \$3000.00 line item to cover that.
- The raffle money has been expended.
- Motion to approve by Joe Drozd; Seconded by Nelson Preston; Passed

Old Business:

- Switched from Media Com to Sand Prairie.
- Have a form to do Wayne's evaluation. It was discussed as to who would do the evaluation. The consensus was for Danielle to do this.
- Motion to approve by Joe Drozd; Ellis Boughton seconded it; Passed.

New Business:

- Because of the rising cost of transporting vets with the Carroll County Transit, it was presented to the board that we could inquire with local businesses to see if they would be interested in holding a fund raiser to help offset that expense. Businesses recommended were Poopies, Gerry Gendrue, Reed Law, and the Copper Cow. Other suggestions were also the Crooked Roof and the Candlelight.
- Motion to approve by Lee Gibbs; Joe Drozd seconded it; Passed
- The difficulties of getting Vets through the Dental School system in Iowa City has become insurmountable. The school serves Medicaid clients for the whole of Eastern Iowa and beyond and getting an appointment is nearly impossible. Several follow up appointments are also needed to actually get the work done. This is exacerbated by the fact that the school closes during the summer months. The vets that have started this process get very discouraged by this. Our clients are in pain and shouldn't have to wait a year or more to get the dental help they need. It was discussed by the board that if the vets need work done they should get it done, even if it costs more to do it locally.
- Motion to approve by Nelson Preston; Ellis Boughton seconded it; passed

Superintendent's Report:

- The VAC office has assisted veterans who have come to this office in getting \$259,793.25 in compensation so far this year. We have had many new clients come in for assistance.
- Wayne read the statistics of the number of soldiers who are injured or killed in non-combat situations and those numbers are higher than from those being in combat. This demonstrates that veterans deserve to be compensated whether they were in combat or not.

Report from the Board President: None**Discussion:**

- The Pact Act has opened up possible assistance for many new vets and the system is overloaded because of a shortage of new clinics.
- An inquiry was made as to whether we could save transportation costs by more than one veteran being scheduled on the same day at the same clinic. There were many questions raised, such as, would it be logistically possible to do that? Would veterans have to go through our office to make Doctor appointments? Would somebody in our office have to coordinate with multiple doctors for available appointments? Would these times be agreeable to the Veterans? Would old and sick veterans have to sit all day in a clinic while waiting for other veterans to get done with their appointments? While there were many questions, there were no easy answers.

Public Comments: None**Executive Session: None**

Adjournment: Joe Drozd motioned to adjourn; Nelson Preston seconded; Passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.