



# **Carroll County Veterans Assistance Commission**

**301 North Main Street – Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053**

**CCVAC Quarterly Meeting  
Wednesday, March 27, 2019 @ 7:00 pm  
Minutes**

Meeting called to order By Lee Gibbs at 7:00 PM in the Carroll County Courthouse conference room with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by invocation by Ellis Boughton, and Roll Call.

## **Roll Call**

Present were William Hanna, Wayne Leonard, Shannon Grove, Lee Gibbs, Paul Mayer, Ellis Boughton, Joe Drozd, Michael Raleigh, Terry Lattin, Steve Behrens, Lamoille Poffenberger, Lyle Musselman, Marion Zemke, and Joe Kramer

## **Posts Present**

Milledgeville American Legion, Savanna VFW, Savanna American Legion, Lanark VFW, Thomson American Legion, Mt. Carroll American Legion, Lanark American Legion

## **Minutes Approval (Prior)**

Motion to approve December 2018 meeting minutes was made by Joe Drozd, seconded by Mike Raleigh, motion carried.

## **Agenda Approval**

Bill Hanna had two amendments to the agenda (noted in appropriate sections of minutes). The motion to approve the agenda with the amendments was made by Ellis Boughton, seconded by Joe Drozd, motion carried.

## **Old Business**

### **➤ Lawsuit Update**

- Final bill and payment explanation.

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- After using the remaining portion of the retainer, an additional \$776.40 was owed
- Ellis paid the amount out of VAC funds, which was replaced by monies donated for the lawsuit from the Legion account.
- Tentative distribution plan of remaining funds back to local Posts
  - \$2289.81 remaining in the Legion account
  - \$86.27 of billed amount is still owed by the Shannon post (did not pay into initial lawsuit fund)
  - \$297.02 amount that will be returned to each post (excluding Shannon) when accounts are settled.
  - Milledgeville paid Chadwick's portion of the lawsuit fund so they will receive the Chadwick portion back.
  - Paul Mayer paid personally for the Savanna VFW and will receive the disbursement instead of the post.
  - Verbal decision to not disburse funds for the time being due to other potential upcoming issues. (Addressed further in minutes)
- New Senior Center (Harold Andreasen) Update
  - Future site visit
    - Mike Doty has asked to be invited to the walkthrough when it happens.
    - Board has opted to not to invite him because that is the Senior Centers responsibility.
    - Lee Gibbs and Ellis Boughton would both like to attend the walkthrough.
    - Mike Raleigh asked if there was a building dedication date yet.
    - Building completion is anticipated as "Sometime in the Summer".
  - Phone and internet options.
    - Ideally would like 3 phone lines (2 for phone, 1 for fax) and internet. Minimum 2 phone lines (1 phone, 1 fax) and internet.
    - All Mediacom and CenturyLink would both have one-time installation fees involved.
    - Mediacom Business:
      - \$39.95 for first line
      - \$29.95 each additional line
      - \$129.95 internet (60mbs download)
    - CenturyLink Business
      - \$20.00 per line

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- \$64.99 internet (up to 40mbs download)
- Offers both traditional lines and VoIP
  - US Cellular Business
- \$55.00 Line 1
- \$40.00 Line 2
- \$35.00 Line 3
- \$100.00 unlimited data internet mobile hotspot.
- This appears to be all cellular and not sure we can fax without a Landline (traditional or cable)
  - Recommendations were made to put out information about any phone/fax number changes as soon as possible, including adding it to the voicemail message and any mailings or notices the VAC sends out.
- Veterans Memorial
  - A couple of designs had been submitted between board meetings and were passed around for the board and delegates to look at.
  - Lamoille Poffenberger provided multiple additional ideas with pricing options,
  - A motion was made for Lamoille Poffenberger to oversee creating a design for the memorial with based upon input and prepare for presentation when ready.
- Post Delegate and Alternate renewal for 2019
  - AMENDEDMENT – Thomson American legion has submitted theirs
  - Chadwick American Legion is in the process of disbanding.

### **New Business**

- Carroll County Transit (CCT) contract renewal.
  - Contract was effective February 01, 2019.
  - New contract to include annual pay increase for drivers.
    - Medicaid may pay for the cost of the trips for some users. The CCT is reviewing current participants to see if they are receiving Medicaid benefits. They will also screen all future participants for Medicaid eligibility. This would lower what the VAC is paying for the trips to Madison VA.
- Possible future CCT and Iowa City VA Hospital transportation discussion
  - CCT is willing to take veterans to Iowa City VA at their current rate.
    - Transportation would be with CCT's vehicles.

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- Absorbing current Iowa City Transportation is being discussed because of the possible lose of the DAV van program.
- The consensus was to monitor the situation currently and table until the next meeting.
- Homeless prevention emergency assistance update from between meetings.
  - We had a Veteran lose his home due to fire.
    - Veteran did not qualify for Financial Assistance
    - One night stay at Savanna Inn (\$55) was paid from restricted homeless fund to cover Veteran until his homeowner's insurance kicked in.
- Financial Assistance Policy recommendation (Phones)
  - Current Financial Assistance only allows for covering the expense of a phone if the phone is deemed medically necessary.
    - In case of any emergency a phone should be available to call 911
    - Recommended to allow paying for a single phone line up to a cap of \$80
      - Phone must be in Veteran's name
      - Would allow for either a cellular or landline to be paid (Veteran's choice)
      - Vet would need to apply for Universal Lifeline program (low cost landline/cellular phone service).
    - Motion to amend the need for medical necessity of the phone line and to add the cap of \$80 dollars made by Joe Drozd, seconded by Ellis Boughton.
- CCVAC Executive Board Member Election
  - Vote carried out by Ballot, with Ernie Johnson voting by proxy.
    - New Executive Board:
    - President – Lee Gibbs
    - Vice President – Steve Behrens
    - Treasurer – Ellis Boughton
    - Secretary – Shannon Grove (Ex-Officio)
    - Judge Advocate – Ernie Johnson
    - Sergeant-At-Arms – Joe Drozd

## Report from Superintendent

- Quarterly Report (1st Quarter 2019) and Transportation of Carroll County Veterans to Madison VA trip information.
  - The Quarterly Report with office stats and Madison Van trip information for the 1st quarter of 2019 was presented to the Board.

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- Wayne Leonard's NACVSO, OGC, and PIV Card certificate update
  - The VA has not added Wayne to the accreditation list yet. We must wait a minimum of 120 days before following up.
  - Can follow-up after April 7, 2019
- Disposition of unused office equipment
  - If the item was purchased with money from the General Fund, then it needs to be offered back to the County.
  - Currently in the process of obtaining records from Boss Office Supply to determine which office items were purchased with funds from the general fund and what items that may have been donated to the VAC.
  - Boss has purchase history back to 2014
- AMENDMENT – Employee Operations and Management Committee
  - Effective immediately William Hanna is resigning from the position of Superintendent.
    - Will work as a volunteer VSO
      - Motion to accept resignation made by Ellis Boughton, seconded by Joe Drozd, motion carried.
    - Will take over as Delegate for the Savanna VFW from Mike Raleigh
    - Proposed Wayne Leonard be promoted to Superintendent.
      - Motion to accept proposal made by Ellis Boughton, seconded by Steve Behrens, motion carried.
    - Proposed the formation of a committee that William Hanna would chair and would consist of the himself, the VAC Board President, Vice President, and Treasurer to oversee the operations of the VAC office.
      - Motion to accept proposal made by Joe Drozd, seconded by Paul Mayer, motion carried.
      - A memorandum for record was signed by the VAC Board President creating and defining the role of the Operations and Employee Management Committee.

### **Report from Treasurer:**

- Quarterly financial report was prepared and presented by Ellis Boughton
  - The County incorrectly distributed money to the VAC (released all levy money instead of the plan to distribute funds to operate from July – December 2018 and then the remainder of the funds to operate from December 2018 – July 2019.

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- The County has not formally presented any plan for correcting this issue at this time but expect one to be forthcoming.

## **Discussion: Q & A**

N/A

## **Public Comments**

- The floor was open to public comments.
  - Paul Mayer informed the board that the Savanna Veterans Memorial was almost ready to break ground.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Drozd, seconded by Paul Mayer, motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:10 pm