



Kent County Veterans Services

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DRAFT minutes 2-07-19

Present: Mel Bauman, John Baxter, Harold Mast, Shane Scherer, Trish Sexton

Absent: Randy Tharp, Mary Johnson

Guests:

1. Meeting called to Order – The meeting was called to order by Veterans Services Committee Chair Mel Bauman
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Committee Chair Mel Bauman led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment –
 - a. Paul Ryan, Commander of the United Veterans Council wanted to invite all in attendance to the annual Joint Services Ball on February 9th, he is looking for all branches to participate and hoping to increase attendance.
 - i. Tentatively on March 30th, there will be a job fair at the Grand Valley Armory on 44th street. Paul Ryan will pass on more information as he gets it.
 - ii. May 3rd is the Armed Forces Thanksgiving event. Approximately 500-600 in attendance.
4. Approval of Minutes – Committee Member Harold Mast made a motion to approve the January 20th, 2018 Kent County Veterans Services Committee DRAFT minutes, Committee Chair Mel Bauman supported. UNANIMOUS.
5. Introductions- Committee Chair Bauman introduced Trish Sexton, the newest Veterans Services Committee member. The Committee took turns going around the table introducing themselves and giving a little bit of information about their military time. Committee member Sexton then did the same.
6. Old Business –
 - a. Veterans Services staff member Elena Bridges gave a brief update on the outreach efforts she participated in, reminding the committee that she has taken a step back from outreach to focus on claims.

- b. Degage Contract was signed January to December, Veterans Services will be giving them \$30,000, pay out as needed. This past month was just over \$3,000
 - c. Pay Veterans Treatment Court \$100,000, meaning \$25,000 per quarter
7. Managers, Monthly Operational Update Reports – Veterans Services staff member Ryan Grams went over the Monthly Activity Report
8. New Business-
 - a. Did a presentation for Senior Advocates, to approximately 70 veterans, to share what is done at Kent County Veterans Services.
 - b. SSR:
 - i. Surviving Spouse looking for assistance with mortgage UNANIMOUS passed
 - ii. Appeal: Veteran looking for assistance with auto lease UNANIMOUS denied
 - c. MVAA Grant: Veterans Services Manager Martha Burkett gave an update on the MVAA Grant; all documents have been submitted for a new VSO. Martha will meet with County Administrator Wayman Britt on how to designate the remainder of the Grant, as Veterans Services received double of the amount that was initially proposed.
9. Survey Responses – attached
10. Around the Table
 - a. Veterans Services Committee Member Harold Mast attending committee meeting on veterans and seniors, department of Military Veterans Affairs.
 - i. With James Redford gone as Director of Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, the board of managers may not continue, the new home development is up in the air
 - b. Committee Member John Baxter wanted to share the tough time he is having with donating nice, in style suits because they don't the tags on them. He ended up donating them to Good Will.
 - c. Veterans Services Manager Martha has continued to meet new people and soaking in all the information.
 - d. Committee Member Harold Mast brought up burial process and wondered if we had someone that knew the process of burial. Martha thought that would be a great idea to be more informed on
11. Public Comment –
 - a.
12. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Chair Mel Bauman moved to adjourn the meeting.
13. The next Veterans Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7th, at 8:30am in the Veterans Services front conference room.