



Kent County Veterans Services

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DRAFT minutes 8-1-19

Present: Mary Johnson, Harold Mast, Trish Sexton

Absent: Mel Bauman, John Baxter, Randy Tharp, Shane Scherer

Guests: Dan Ophoff, Tony Torres

1. Meeting called to Order – The meeting was called to order by Veterans Services Committee Vice Chair Mary Johnson at 8:30am
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Committee Member Harold Mast led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. Committee Member John Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes. Committee Vice Chair Mary Johnson seconded. UNANIMOUS
4. Introductions-

No introductions needed
5. Managers, Monthly Operational Update Reports – Veterans Services Supervisor Ryan Grams went over the Monthly Activity Report
 - a. Supervisor Grams went over a rough draft of his proposed changes on reports. He then went over the reports as normal.
6. Old Business –
 - a. In regard to the hiring initiative, Veterans Services Manager Martha Burkett shared that she made an offer and was accepted by Theresa Ergang. She will start on the 12th of August.
 - b. Martha has also concluded first round interviews for the Clerk II position. Martha and Ryan will begin second round interviews with two candidates this coming week.
 - c. Martha is still trying to work with MVAA, for the Grant. She was able to speak to someone at MVAA and unfortunately there is a lot of red tape, but Martha does not want to hire someone, and not have enough money from the Grant to pay a salary for more than one year. Martha will continue to speak with Matthew and Wayman regarding the matter.
7. New Business-
 - a. Veterans Services has been meeting with MSU Extension Office on a couple of programs that there could be collaboration
 - b. Ryan will be going over the appeals process in next months committee meeting.

8. Survey Responses –

9. Around the Table

- a. Harold shared that he received an email blast and he found it interesting that Michigan is the number 1 state with the highest amount of oldest people.
- b. Ryan shared that in regard to the Blue Water Navy issues, the VA is not doing anything currently. It could be possibly active next year.
- c. Trish wanted to remind everyone that August 24 is the Post 154 Golf Outing.
- d. Harold also shared that the ESGR Bosslift in Grand Haven was very successful. There were lots of employers and attendees present.

10. Public Comment –

- a. Tony Torres with the Friend of Court for Veterans Treatment Court shared that they had a very successful graduation.

11. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Vice Chair Mary Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:13am

12. The next Veterans Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5th, at 8:30am in the Veterans Services front conference room.