# **Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting REGULAR MEETING OF May 8th, 2023**

Commissioners		
Merlin Reimer -	President	Present
John McAllister –	Vice President	Present
Christine Santiago-Fo	os - Secretary	Present
Dave Hyatt -	Member	Present
Richard Ray -	Member	Present
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	Excused
Wm. Piwtorak	Social Services	Present
Scott Leonard	Deputy Director	Present
Guest(s)		

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: President Reimer at 1731.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Reading and approval of minutes:

1736 hrs.

**MOTION – 23-0508-01** to approve the minutes from April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with minor changes.

1<sup>st</sup> McAllister

2<sup>nd</sup> Hyatt

5-0 Vote PASSED

**MOTION – 23-0508-02** to go into executive session

1740 hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> Hyatt

2<sup>nd</sup> Santiago-Foos

5-0 Vote PASSED

Discussed one veteran's request

**MOTION – 23-0508-03** to exit executive and return to public session

1753 hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> Ray

2<sup>nd</sup> McAllister

5-0 vote **PASSED** 

MOTION- 23-0508-04 to approve up to \$5,250.00 for the installing of a disability ramp for veteran REDACTED home.

1<sup>st</sup> Santiago-Foos 2<sup>nd</sup> McAllister

5-0 vote

**PASSED** 

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Funeral Honors – VSO has received a few requests since last meeting. Intake and notifications are going well.

Stockhands – Motion 23-0313-08 commission passed \$25,000 for an ADA approved bathroom. Legal has returned a contract that is with the director. When he returns from leave, he will address with Stockhands to finalize.

May 5<sup>th</sup> – Willard Humphrey (Delaware County) was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor. Scott, Karen, and Rey will be attending this fantastic opportunity. The event was well attended. Standing room only!

Bill and Lisa attended spring CVSO school May 3, 4, 5<sup>th</sup>. Good information presented.

Delaware City Art fest will be May 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> 2023. Rey Cordero is coordinating the event personnel and National Museum.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Next Meeting is May 22<sup>nd</sup>. If additional conversation need to take place, a special meeting can be scheduled.

Delaware County Vet of the year. Discussion- does the Delaware County vet of the year be submitted for the Ohio Veteran of the year?

Dr. Moore as a potential candidate for the DELCO vet of the year?

The nomination needs to be in by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **DIRECTOR REPORT**

Lisa completed National Certification course, online.

Discussion continued with a confirmation that the 2 VSC members expects all VA claims to be filed regardless of what county vet resides in. Director Galligher to follow up on this.

May 5<sup>th</sup> Valor Award program went well

Salary discussion – back a few months ago, a salary plan was presented whereas a final is supposed to be submitted by 1 May 2023.

Vet shoot 2023! – Between Labor Day and the Delaware County Fair. Tuesday Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 since the range is closed and we can have exclusive use potentially. POC – Scott Leonard

5k walk/ run planned for October 2023 @ Mingo Park. POC - Rey Cordero

NEXT MEETING: May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 – begins at 1730 hrs. – At 91 N. Sandusky (Veterans Services)

## MOTION 23-0508-05 ADJOURN MEETING AT 1831 hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> McAllister 2<sup>nd</sup> Santiago-Foos 5-0 vote PASSED

## **Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting REGULAR MEETING OF May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

Commissioners		
Merlin Reimer -	President	Present
John McAllister –	Vice President	Present
Christine Santiago-Fo	oos - Secretary	Present
Dave Hyatt -	Member	Present
Richard Ray -	Member	Present
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	Present
Wm. Piwtorak	Social Services	Present
Guest(s)		

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY:** President Reimer at 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Reading and approval of minutes:

1735 hrs.

**MOTION – 23-0522-01** to approve the minutes from May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> McAllister

Ray

5-0 Vote

PASSED

**MOTION – 23-0522-02** to go into executive session

1741 hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> McAllister

2<sup>nd</sup> Santiago-Foos

5-0 Vote

**PASSED** 

Discussed one veteran's request

Employee matter

**MOTION – 23-0522-03** to exit executive and return to public session

1808 hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> Santiago-Foos

2<sup>nd</sup> McAllister

5-0 vote

**PASSED** 

MOTION- 23-0522-04 to approve 1 month's mortgage and 1 months' worth of all authorized utilities to not exceed \$2,693.01 for Veteran REDACTED.

1<sup>st</sup> Rav

2<sup>nd</sup> Santiago - Foos 5-0 vote

PASSED

**MOTION – 23-0522-05** to terminate employee REDACTED immediately.

1<sup>st</sup> Ray

2<sup>nd</sup> Santiago-Foos

5-0 vote

Passed

**MOTION – 23-0522-06** to post and hire a permanent part time position and a part time intermittent position as soon as feasible.

1<sup>st</sup> Ray

2<sup>nd</sup> McAllister

5-0 Vote

**Passed** 

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Stockhands for Healing -In a previous meeting the commission authorized by Motion to provide Stockhands for Healing \$25,000 to bring a bathroom up to ADA guidelines. Based upon Auditor request and county prosecutor's input, a contract was drawn up where the parties involved have agreed in the verbiage contained within.

**Motion 23-0522-07** to approve the contract developed by county prosecutor's office and where by all parties have reviewed and agreed to its content and expectations.

1<sup>ST</sup> Rav

2<sup>nd</sup> McAllister

5-0 Vote

Passed

Assisting out of county Veterans - Director Galligher explained what Franklin County and the adjacent counties to Franklin have discussed and agree to follow.

If a veteran from another county contacts Delaware, the first option is to direct the Veteran to the county of residence. If the veteran has tried to connect, without success Delaware will take the opportunity to reach out for the veteran and coordinate with the Director of that county to determine any underlying issues. If the issue is with the veteran, Delaware County will discuss the issue with the veteran and try to work out a solution. If no underlying issues exists, the veteran has contacted the other county, no claim is in process, and the other county has "dropped the ball", Delaware County will the assist the veteran. The office will ensure that any correspondence with the veteran will end with that if the veteran has issues with the county they live to let us know and we will work with the veteran to find a solution.

After clarifying with a good discussion, the consensus was understood confirming every Veteran will be given the opportunity to be assisted to the extent allowed by law.

Statistics -Speaking about servicing out of county veterans brought up the topic of capturing data that will assist Veterans Services to provide services that are needed. A healthy conversation ensued whereas data can be created, but if created should be used to improve the service. Further how do you capture how some services are provided with no way of capturing in a data format.

Vetraspec (software for CVSO) was brought up expressing how the program is great for form development/ actual CVSO work but not so good with statistical data showing where improvement is needed and other areas are above reproach. Christine Santiago-Foos was going to reach out to the State for feedback on other software programs that captures useful data.

Connections – Veteran Services has begun a peer to peer visitation program. Seeing the multiple ways it is positive for the most vulnerable populations of veterans, Veteran Services reached out to Connections to see if they would provide a budget to oversee the program. The oversight to the program came in way to high and the commission has asked to continue to work toward providing this needed program but find ways that it can be manage in house.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The 2024 budget was presented and reviewed by the commission. After reviewing the amounts and object codes and asking some good insightful question the board moved to approve the budget as written.

Motion 23-0522-08 to approved the 2024 budget as presented at this meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> Hyatt

2<sup>nd</sup> Ray

5-0 Vote

Passed

Delaware County Veterans Association approach Director Galligher by asking if Veterans Services would authorize the purchase of a portable generator to run speaker/ microphone systems during events.

Motion 23-0522-09 to approve the purchase of a portable Honda generator for use

1<sup>st</sup> Hyatt

2<sup>nd</sup> Santiago-Foos

5-0 Vote

Passed

Financial Assistance – next meeting there is a request to tweak the policy to address specific rules governing veterans seeking out a hotel. Review and add any other aspect that need improved upon to cover the county veteran population fairly.

### Upcoming events:

Memorial weekend 2023 is upon us. Numerous events going on throughout the county. If anyone is free, there is a 10 am event at Oakgrove Cemetery. There are other events throughout the county where people will gather a never forget the sacrifices our fallen have made. Check your local listings.

NEXT MEETING: June 12th 2023 – begins at 1730 hrs. – At 91 N. Sandusky (Veterans Services)

Motion - 23-0522-10 Motion to adjourn the meeting

1940hrs

1<sup>st</sup> McAllister

2<sup>nd</sup>

Santiago-Foos

5-0 vote

**PASSED**