

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

RICHLAND COUNTY

181 WEST SEMINARY ST

RICHLAND CENTER, WISCONSIN 53581

CVSO Karen Knock

MINUTES

VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

The meeting of the Veterans Service Commission was held on Thursday, January 21st, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Richland County Courthouse, located at 181 West Seminary St, Richland Center, WI 53581, for the following purposes:

<https://richlandcounty.my.webex.com/richlandcounty.my/j.php?MTID=m97fd270b2a67ea6dcb9063b601fb2e3f>

Thursday, Jan 21, 2021 10:00 am | 3 hours | (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 126 404 6422

Password: Karen

Join by phone +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 126 404 6422

Commission Members: Chairman Lee D. Van Landuyt, Jim Deitelhoff, Sherry Hillesheim, Van Nelson, and Don Seep.

AGENDA

1. This meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
3. Roll Call of Commission Members showed all to be present. There was a quorum.
4. The Agenda and its Posting were approved by the Chairman with no objection.
5. The December 18th Meeting Minutes were approved as read with no objections by the Chairman.
6. Public input was moved to the end of this meeting at the request of attendee Marge Freeman.
7. Members welcomed our newly appointed Commission member, Sherry Hillesheim. Each member introduced themselves in turn for everyone's benefit.
8. The CVSO passed out the three page agenda that was given to all participants for the 5 day CVSOA of WI - Fall Conference held – Oct. 5-9, 2020 in Siren, WI. Karen had been asked to provide a brief written statement of her experiences at this event. She submitted a sheet with the following: "Maintained social distancing, Hotel was reimbursed, I did not attend the banquet to save money, Free parking, No mileage reimbursement, and Pre purchased groceries." Sherry's requested that Karen take written notes at these events and share them with us so we might benefit from them following any future meetings. All Commissioners agreed with this request to keep us up to date and help us to provide better services for our veterans.
9. The CVSO passed out a five page outline of budget figures for the coming year and a review of current available funds and expenses by category for the Veterans Office. The first two pages dealt with the General Fund and the Veterans Service Grant that was applied for and received at the end of last calendar year. The third page covered recent transactions within the Soldiers and Sailors Fund. The rest covered figures concerning office and personnel accounting. All were shown as line item funds. Commission

members asked for clarification to better understand this financial statement. When finished, Commission members agreed that there was much more to learn.

The Teddy Rue Fund was addressed next. Jim was the only Commission member with some limited knowledge of this fund. Between Jim, Karen and a former Richland County CVSO, Sandy Kramer, we discovered that Teddy, a WWII veteran, had set aside some funds to be used for area veterans in need. The money is reportedly in an account held at the Richland County Bank; but, how much was there and how to access it was uncertain. Don made the motion that: **“The CVSO be authorized to confer with Corporation Counsel, Ben Southwick, to get a determination of the status of the fund, the balance of the account, and an opinion as to how it can be possibly transferred to the County and in some way be accredited to a Veterans fund for the specific purpose of helping needy veterans.”** Don continued, send this in written form since a paper trail is always a good thing. Van seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued posing other questions and possible problems with such a transfer. The primary concern was that if this fund were to be transferred to a county fund it might be zeroed out for the following calendar year. More information from Council is needed before we take any action.

The question was raised as to how we might get the message out to area veterans that there is help to be had if they were to contact or visit our area Veteran’s office. Karen was asked to look into **public service announcements** on local media such as the Richland Observer and WRCO. This service might be a lifesaving message to some needy veterans.

Commission members also discussed the **Soldiers and Sailors fund** as it relates to services we might provide to veterans in need especially during this bitterly cold time of the year. Sherry asked that a further explanation of what funds are available through our veteran’s office are available. Along these same lines, Lee asked that Karen have a more detailed budget outline so we are able to better understand our financial standing. Karen agreed to provide a “tutorial” for our next meeting to further inform every one of our current financial status.

10. The numbers on the **Monthly Visitors Log** were discussed. The second form, “the VA Forms Filed Log,” that had been introduced at a previous meeting was also discussed. No report on this form was given. After a brief discussion of the importance of each form, Lee moved that **“Both the Monthly Visitors Log and the VA Forms Filed Log be completed by the CVSO so this commission can better understand what the primary needs of veterans who are seeking help.** Sherry seconded and the motion passed.
11. **DAV van update**: Karen indicated that there was nothing to report and nothing has changed. Discussion followed as to the importance of leaving this item on the Agenda since its use and status is totally out of our hands. The commission members expressed an interest in learning more of this issue since a similar program is provided by the local ADRC. This topic will be addressed in more depth at a later time.
12. Public input: Marge Freeman asked about the new commission member process and how much influence this commission had in the final choice to fill the vacant seat, who was the final approving authority and did the commission have anything to do in the hiring process. Van spoke to this issue and said that the names that were submitted went to the Rules Committee and from there went to the Committee on Committees for their consideration. The final decision was made at the February County Board meeting.
13. It was determined that we should next meet on February 18, 2021 at 10 a.m. in the Co. Board Room.
14. At 11:38 a.m. Van made the **motioned to adjourn**. Jim seconded. Motion passed