

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING
600 Gunder Road NE, Suite 6 Elkader, Iowa 52043
October 11, 2022

Veterans Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. on October 11, 2022, Clayton County Office Building, Public Meeting Room.

Roll Call: Eilers, Clark, Torkelson, and Jordan.

Motion was made by Eilers and seconded by Clark to approve the minutes from July 5, 2022; motion carried.

The current budget for Fiscal: 2022-2023 Period Ending: 8-31-2022 was presented by Jordan. \$13400.92 has been spent with \$70526.08 remaining. 84.03% is remaining in budget. Motion was made by Eilers and seconded by Clark to approve the budget; motion carried.

Public Comments: Jordan reported that he had attended several Legion Meetings and Service Organization Meetings in Clayton County introducing himself and addressing any concerns that they may have as it relates to the Veterans' Affairs Office.

Old Business:

Eilers shared a copy of the previous VSO Monthly Activity Report. Torkelson made the motion to continue the monthly activity report previously established which will be discussed at each Commissioners' Meeting. Clark seconded the motion; motion carried.

Eilers reminded the Commission that the County Van is available to Outreach Programs in Dubuque, Decorah and Iowa City.

Torkelson would contact County Commander for list of different Posts' addresses and contact information.

Jordan reported that the gross of flags had been received and are ready for distribution upon request.

Jordan met with Frank Phippen regarding veteran grave sites in Clayton County. Jordan will consult with Frank Phippen and Jennifer Garms, County Auditor regarding the person to collect data and the timeframe required for this project.

Greg Clark was officially welcomed as a new County Commissioner. The Commission requested that Jordan check on terms and conditions of current Commissioners.

Jordan said that he would be leaving right after the meeting to attend the IAACCVSO Fall School in Des Moines. He will report back to the Commission at the next meeting regarding the Fall School presentations.

Marketing of the Office. Jordan shared his activity in contacting different media outlets in the county. Torkelson shared a previous ad that had been placed in local newspapers pertaining to the Commission and their activities to assist veterans. Jordan will report back to the Commission pertaining to his findings.

Jordan reported that the State Grant of \$10,000 had been received and has been applied to this year's budget.

Operation Green Light was discussed. It is a new program to help raise awareness about the unique challenges veterans and their families may face. While studies show the vast majority of Americans support our veterans, too often that support is not seen or felt by service men and women and their families. To help bring attention to this study, green lights will be displayed in the entryways of the County buildings from November 7 through 13, 2022.

collaborative initiative to support military v

Veteran Engagement Program was addressed. Jordan reported that he is working with the Veterans Administration in providing information on suicide prevention. Awareness needs to be made for mental health and well being. It's a way of reaching out to the community. This Program will be on November 16 at the Legacy Center from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Jordan presented his Veterans Affairs Commission and Office Quarterly Report – Q1 Fiscal Year 2023. Eilers made the motion to approve the Quarterly Report and forward it to the Board of Supervisors for their review. Clark seconded the motion; motion carried.

Clark reported that there were problems with the phone system for the office. Jordan said that this issue was being addressed with Alpine Communications.

Clark also noted that previous VSO had a part-time person assisting the office. He inquired if that was a possibility for the current VSO? Jordan noted that his position was 35 hours per week Monday through Friday.

Clark noted that other counties had more than 3 Commissioners and was wondering if additional members could be added to the Clayton County Veterans' Commission.

Approval of Claims. Jordan indicated that there were no claims to be approved. It was brought to his attention that Commissioner's were to be paid \$25.00 for attending each meeting. Jordan said that he would talk with Jennifer Garms regarding this matter.

Eilers made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Clark seconded the motion; motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Next meeting will be November 15, 2022 at 7:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Geralyn Torkelson