

Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs (OCDVA)
Relief and Business Meetings
Meeting Minutes January 14, 2022

Business Meeting

The Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs Business Meeting was called to order at 11:30 A.M. in the Oceana County Annex Room meeting room by Chairman Derik Van Baale.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Derik Van Baale, Terry Dykema, Patricia Frazier, Paul Dees Jr.

Members Absent: Gina Mead

Guest Present: Allen Blohm

Public Comments: Mr. Blohm's father began a VA claim in 2004 in the Newaygo county office. In 2014 the claim was moved to Oceana county. He has visited the committee on multiple occasions in order to have the claim pushed through the system. He recently found out that due to negligence on the part of the VSO the claim that his father began was not submitted and due to a complete lack of work done by the VSO the claim has now been dismissed and can no longer be pursued by the family. Mr. Blohm has made it clear to the OCDVA that he is very unhappy with the performance of the VSO that was in the office at the time of the claim moving from Newaygo to Oceana county.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by PD

Motion 2nd by DV

Voice vote, Yes 4 No 0

Correspondence: None

Sub-Committee Reports

VSO (Veterans Support Officer) Report

VSO is working on claims and corrections to claims that have been submitted. The appointments are taking quite a bit of time to ensure that the work is being submitted correctly.

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She continues to work on organization of the office and has plans to streamline how the records are kept, which will speed up search's etc.

VSO expects to have her all of her training and PIV card completed in a timely manner with no expectations of issues.

Christmas food boxes have been delivered to veterans in the county.

There were two food vouchers provided in December for \$200.00 each.

Budget and Finance Committee

Currently have over \$800 in the non-conflict line that will roll over.

The training budget also has a positive remainder.

TD asked if there has been a reconciliation from the Great Lakes Peoples fund.

Community Relations

No report

Personnel Committee

Welcome aboard to the new VSO. DV will be doing a 90 day review.

Policy and Procedures

No report.

County Commissioners Veterans Liaison

Not present.

Old Business

DV- in the 2020 annual report the prior VSO has a number of personal comments printed out on the report. Looking for an electronic version of the report that can be corrected by removing these comments.

New Business

DV presented the proposed meeting schedule for the 2022 cy year.

TB makes a motion to accept the proposed schedule.

Motion 2nd by DV

Voice Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

Committee elections

PD makes a motion to retain DV as the chairman.

Motion 2nd by TB

Voice Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved

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DV makes a motion the retain PD as the Vice Chairman

Motion 2nd by TB

Voice Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved

DV makes a motion to retain PD as Secretary

Motion 2nd by TB

Voice Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved

DV makes a motion to retain TB as Budget

Motion 2nd by PD

Voice Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved

DV makes a motion to retain GM as Community Relations

Motion 2nd by TD

Voice Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved

TB makes a motion to elect DV as Personnel Chair

Motion 2nd by PD

Voice Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved

TB makes a motion to elect herself as the PP chair.

Motion 2nd by DV

Voice Vote 3 Yes 1 no

Motion approved

TD makes a motion the elect himself as the PP chair

1 Yes 3 No

Motion failed

DV makes a motion to hold a strategic planning meeting needs to be held. January 28th, from 0900-1200

Motion 2nd by PD

4 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved.

PD informs the committee that he will be out of state on Feb 4th, which is the next planned meeting.

12:27 Meeting adjourned.

RELIEF MEETING

The Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs Business Meeting was called to order at 12:34 A.M. in the Oceana County Annex Room by Chairman Derik Van Baale.

Roll Call: Derik Van Baale (DV), Paul Dees Jr. (PD) Terry Dykema (TD), Tracy Blamer (TB)

Members Absent: Gina Mead

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Guest Present: None

Claims for Review and Considerations

01-22. Veteran is seeking assistance with vehicle repairs as well as furnace repairs.

DV makes a motion to pay Dad's Automotive \$724.08 for the repairs to the vehicle.

Motion 2nd by PD

Voice Vote 5 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved.

02-22. Veteran is seeking assistance with vehicle repairs. Has recently moved to the area and is currently homeless, living in a hotel.

PD makes a motion to pay Dad's Automotive \$2587.08 to make the emergent required repairs to the vehicle.

Motion 2nd by TD

Voice Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved.

Claim 03-22. Veteran is seeking assistance with catching up on outstanding bills as well as vehicle repairs.

TB makes a motion to pay \$772.38 to Crystal Flash for a propane fill as well as \$693.11 to Great Lakes Energy which will get the household current.

Any further request for assistance from this family will be contingent on the service members working with the VSO. They will be required to show progress improvement with social and occupational functioning.

Motion 2nd by PD

Voice Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

Motion approved.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:12 by DV

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The next general meeting will be held on February 4th, 2022, in the County Annex Conference Room.

11:30 AM Veterans Affairs Business Meeting

12:30 AM Veterans Affairs Relief Meeting



Derik Van Baale, Ph.D.
Chairman



Paul Dees Jr
Secretary