

Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs (OCDVA)
Relief and Business Meetings
Meeting Minutes September 9, 2022

Business Meeting

The Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs Business Meeting was called to order at 11:33 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, Gina Mead, Paul Dees Jr., Tracy Blamer

Members Absent:

Guest Present: Tim Beggs- County Commissioner

Public Comments:

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by TB

Motion 2nd by GM

Voice vote, Yes 5 No 0

Motion approved

Motion to approve last meeting minutes GM

Motion 2nd by PD

Voice Vote Yes 5, No 0

Motion approved

Correspondence: A thank you card was mailed the VSO office.

Sub-Committee Reports

VSO (Veterans Support Officer) Report

The VSO has received all of the ordered lanyards, hats and travel bags.

All shirts have been given out and the food pantry has been receiving donations.

The VSO went a meeting for a PTSD group, there were three appointments scheduled from this event.

The Higgins lake training went well. The PACT-ACT was discussed.

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The VSO and assistant attended the Oceana County fair from August 24th to the 27th. Over 40 veterans and their families were either scheduled for appointments or other assistance.

There will be a Veteran parade at Ruby Creek. This event happens on the third Saturday in September.

Legends Ranch has also reached out the VSO for possible outreach in the future.

Budget and Finance Committee

A letter was received for the supplemental grant, it was extended until March 31, 2023.

TB will email the payables to PD to be attached to the minutes.

Community Relations

No report.

Personnel Committee

DV will be sitting down with Rob Splane for a meet and greet.

The county administrator will attend the October meeting.

Strategic plans will be started for 12 months, 3 years and 5 years.

The new county liaison will be meeting with the committee in the future, the timeline is unclear at this time.

Policy and Procedures

No report.

County Commissioners Veterans Liaison

Commissioner Beggs spoke about the new year will have five commissions vs the current seven. This may present some issues as the commissioners have a myriad of liaison positions.

He also noted that the signs around the county are well done.

Old Business

Strategic planning opened.

A new office space will be needed in the future and the current set up is too small.

TB would like to have a list of veteran owned business as well as veteran friendly business in the county.

Assist the VFW in placing flags around the county. The current volunteers are aging and this would be a great activity for the committee.

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The VSO would like to be able to speak at schools in the county to explain military education benefits.

Vehicles have been discussed, currently DV is working to obtain a used van from another veteran organization. The VSO identified that she knows of veterans that would be willing to drive a vehicle in the future.

Creating an annual calendar of events and having this published in January.

Working with homeless veterans. Providing food as well as winter supplies.

TB would like to see the committee do more tri-county work, being focused on relationships with other rural counties.

Increasing the county budget for burials as well as other veteran benefits. The VSO and the AA also need to have higher benefits provided from the county.

New Business

Open discussion on the Veterans Day parade.

TB was approached by the United Way. They are looking to create county committees for parades. The committee discussed the different villages in the county that could hold a parade.

Open discussion on the People's Fund Grant. The application is due Oct. 15th. TB has put in to use these funds for the purchase of a vehicle.

GM working with West Michigan Sail, they are having a female veteran weekend event. This will become an annual event.

TB would like to hold a 5k event on November 12 this year.

RELIEF MEETING

The Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs Business Meeting was called to order at 12:40 P.M. in the Oceana County Annex Room by Chairman Derik Van Baale.

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

Members Absent: None

Guest Present: None

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Claims for Review and Considerations

Claim # 41-22- Veteran is seeking assistance with several bills. These include a car payment of \$394.65, as well as an energy bill in the amount of \$229.98 for a total of \$624.63.

After discussion there was no motion to pay the presented bills.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 by DV

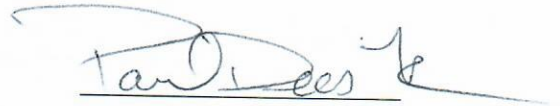
The next general meeting will be held on October 7th, 2022, in the County Annex Conference Room.

11:30 AM Veterans Affairs Business Meeting

12:30 PM Veterans Affairs Relief Meeting



Derik Van Baale Chairman



Paul Dees Jr Secretary