

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services

Commissioner's Chambers (201 N. Shiawassee St, 1st Floor)

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2021

3:00pm

Roll-Call of Committee Members:

• Chairman	Jim Carrothers	Present
• Member	Michael Nations	Present
• Member	John Pajtas	Present
• Member	Les Schneider	Absent
• Member	Dan Smith	Present
• Member	Mary Jo Moore	Present
• Member	Gary Duehring	Present

Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services Staff:

• Director	Mike Reeve	Present
• VSO	Marc LeConte	Absent
• Administrative Assistant	Patti Davis	Present
• Transportation Coordinator	Paula Jager	Absent

Visitors:

Kelly Schneider, Commissioner Cindy Garber

Call to Order

Chairman Carrothers called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

Chairman Carrothers requested that the dates and times for meetings be reviewed and voted on for approval, and that Fiddler's Green be moved up on the agenda. Mike Nations voted to approve the changes suggested, seconded by John Pajtas. Motion carried by all members present.

Last Meeting's Minutes (December 16, 2020):

Motion was made by John Pajtas to accept the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Gary Duehring. Motion carried by: all members present.

Election of Officers

Chairman Jim Carrothers nominated Mike Nations as Chairman.

Mike Nations nominated Mary Jo Moore as Secretary.

Voting took place in favor of Mike Nations as Chairperson, all members present voted to approve.

Voting took place in favor of Mary Jo Moore as Secretary, all members present voted to approve.

Burial Reports:

There were two (2) burial applications this month. Continuing a balance of \$14,400 in the burial fund with 96% of the funds having been issued out of the burial budget. Gary Duehring made the motion to approve the burials in the amount of \$600, seconded by John Pajtas, motion carried by all members present.

Chairman Mike Nations thanked the committee for voting him as Chairman, followed by his request to shorten meetings and not being drawn off topic when discussing. John Pajtas suggested that all of the members read the material that is sent out via email prior to the meetings, as this holds up the meetings.

Motion to Approve or Deny Assistance Applications:

PA-214 fund and Peacetime Veterans fund consideration:

There were three (3) Applications for Assistance since the meeting of December 16, 2020.

A. Director / Committee Approved Applications – Three (3)

PA-214 Fund

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 21-01-01 | <i>Property Taxes 2018/2019</i> | \$2673.72 | <i>John Pajtas made the motion to approve \$1577.49 for the 2018 taxes, declined the 2019 property taxes as they are not in emergency status with the stipulation of the veteran seeking financial coaching. Gary Duehring seconded the motion, roll call for the committee to approve, Mike Nations voted to disapprove, all other members present approved.</i> |
| 21-01-02 | <i>Vehicle Purchase</i> | <i>up to... \$2500.00</i> | <i>Chairman Nations pointed out that the emergent need is there for approval, and moved this to a roll call for approval. Jim Carrothers voted to disapprove; all other members present approved the motion to approve up to \$2500.00</i> |

PEACETIME FUND

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------|--|
| 20-12-42 | <i>Food Assistance/Gas Card</i> | \$525.00 | <i>Director approved, roll call for the committee to approve, Jim Carrothers voted to disapproved, all other members present approved.</i> |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------|--|

Director's Update and Board Discussions

- Director Reeve went over the Monthly Reports and Directors report
 - Budget – Burials – Gary Duehring asked if the \$3,700 left in the burials budget from 2020 rolls over to the 2021 budget and Director Mike said that it will.
 - Active Claims – Marc 263 (+5), Mike 106 (+3)
 - Homeless Veterans YTD – 6
 - Transportation – 9 drivers currently – 1 out due to wife's health, 1 out due to husband's health, 1 out due to eye surgery, 1 out due to due to COVID concerns

Peacetime Fund – It was voted on last year to have \$50,000 allocated to the peacetime fund, every January this needs to be voted on by the committee to be approved. Jim Carrothers made the motion to take the peacetime fund back to \$50,000 for the 2021 year, Chairman Nations seconded the motion. Roll call to approve, approved by all members present.

Committee Updates:

- *Expense Line Item for volunteer drivers appreciation.*

Director Mike would like to have \$500 added as an expense line in the budget of operational funds to be used for appreciation for our volunteer drivers. Gary Duehring made the motion to approve \$500 yearly for this line item, Chairman Nations seconded the motion, motion carried by all members present.

- *Fiddler's Green.*

The Shiawassee County VA is on hold with all dealing with Fiddler's Green as an investigation has ensued regarding fraudulent documents created by Eric Motz, former director. Gary Duehring made the motion to prosecute for any criminal activities, fraud, and misrepresentation that is found. John Pajtas seconded the motion, motion carried by all members present. The committee has also excluded the "squares" program from being used as a DD-214. The only acceptable discharge paper we are to accept moving forward is a DD-214.

- *Meeting Schedule*

Director Reeve passed out the 2021 meeting schedule at the December meeting changing the meeting dates to the last week of the month to better report the monthly reports and availability of the commissioner’s chambers. This change needs to be voted on by the committee for approval. Chairman Nations asked for a show of hands to keep the meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, Dan Smith, Jim Carrothers, Mike Nations showed support for the 3rd week. Show of hands for the last Wednesday, no support was made to support the change. The monthly meetings will continue on the 3rd week of the month,

Public Comment: Mrs. Schneider asked if the veterans applying for emergency assistance to pay their property taxes are filling out the “form” for un-employability for exemption of payment. Mary Jo Moore explained that this would be a process to apply for 100% permanent and total disability for the VA to approve, it can take years for a rating and would not be helpful in emergencies.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Shiawassee County Veterans’ Affairs and Services Relief Fund Committee minutes for January 27, 2021.

Mike Nations
Chairman
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services

Mike Reeve
Director
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services