

## Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services

James P. Capitan Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (149 E. Corunna Ave.)

### Regular Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2020

3:00pm

#### Roll-Call of Committee Members:

• Chairman	Jim Carrothers	Present
• Member	Michael Nations	Present
• Member	John Pajtas	Present
• Member	Les Schneider	Present
• 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	Present
• Administrative Assistant	Patti Davis	Present
• Transportation Coordinator	Paula Jager	Absent

#### Visitors:

Eric Motz (Fiddler's Green), Matthew Shepard, Cindy Garber, Board of Commissioners, Jeremy Root, Commissioner Chair

#### Call to Order

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

#### Agenda:

It was moved by Mary Jo Moore, to approve the Agenda for today's meeting; seconded by John Pajtas, motion carried by: all members present.

#### Last Meeting's Minutes (September 16, 2020):

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

#### Burial Reports:

There were two (2) burial applications needing approval in the amount of \$700.00. With approval, this would leave a balance of \$3,700 in the burial fund with 75% of the funds having been issued out of the burial budget.

Roll Call for all members present to approve pay the \$700, Gary Duehring motioned to approve the burials, seconded by John Pajtas. Motion carried by all members.

#### Motion to Approve or Deny Assistance Applications:

PA-214 fund and Peacetime Veterans fund consideration:

There were six (8) Applications for Assistance since the meeting of October 21, 2020.

## A. Director / Committee Approved Applications – Eight (8)

### PA-214 Fund

- 20-11-28      *Consumers Energy Shut off/Eviction Notice*      \$241.35/\$3,990.00      *Mike made the motion to approve both Consumers and Eviction notice, seconded by Dan. Roll call for the committee to approve, all members approved.*
- 20-11-30      *(1) Emergency housing for 14 days at \$70 a day for \$980*      *Director approved. Roll call for the committee to approve, all members present approved*
- (2)Permanent housing*      \$1500.00      *John made the motion to approve, seconded by Les. Roll call for the committee to approve the \$1500, all members present approved.*
- 20-11-32      *Emergency housing for 14 days, at \$70 a day for \$980.00.*      *Gary made the motion to approve, seconded by Dan. Roll call for the committee to approve, all members approved.*
- 20-11-34      *Furnace Replacement*      \$1,750.00      *Dan made the motion to approve with the recommendation of financial counseling and veteran to see Mike about potentially getting more benefits from the VA. Seconded by Mike, roll call for the committee to approve, all members approved.*
- 20-11-35      *Furnace Replacement*      \$2,731.00      *Mike made the motion to approve, seconded by Mary Jo. Roll call for the committee to approve, all members approved.*

### PEACETIME FUND

- 20-11-31      *Emergency housing for 14 days, at \$70 a day for \$980.00*      *John made the motion to approve, seconded by Mike. Roll call for the committee to approve, approved by all members.*
- 20-11-33      *Emergency housing for 14 days, at \$70 a day for \$980.00*      *Gary made the motion to approve, seconded by Dan. Roll call for the committee to approve, approved by all members.*

Residency for homeless veterans to qualify for assistance with Shiawassee County. Director Reeve; policy 103, item 5 residency shall be established for 6 months. Director looked into other counties requirements and has that no other counties have a residency requirement. Mary Jo and Mike Nations voiced concern on veterans from all over the state and out of state being brought in to house at Fiddler's Green. Eric Motz (Fiddler's Green) spoke on behalf of the company and stated that they have only taken in homeless veterans from here in Shiawassee County, and the company looks into other sources before asking the county to house the veterans. Committee agreed for now that each case be considered on a case by case basis until a homeless residency clause is established.

DD-214's were brought up as one of the homeless veterans could not supply one and Fiddler's Green provided report from "Squares". This should not replace a DD-214, but may be considered, on a case-by-case basis.

### Director's Update and Board Discussions

- Director Reeve went over the Monthly Reports and Directors report
  - Budget
  - Active Claims – Marc 252 (+8), Mike 97 (+1)
  - Homeless Veterans YTD – 6
  - Transportation – 9 drivers currently – 1 out due to wife's health, 1 out due to husband's health, 1 out pending physician release, 1 out due to being quarantined due to COVID

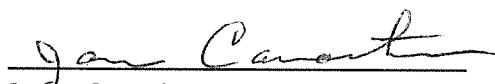
Director Reeve went over MOU to cover Fiddler's Green and residency policy change, committee tabled until next month.

Director Reeve read grievance letters written by committee member Les Schneider and visitor Matthew Stewart, followed by his report with his findings. Commissioner Jeremy Root responded that he is upset that Mr. Schneider continues to go about his grievances the wrong way that he should be going to the VA chair with any discrepancies before getting the commissioners involved. Heated discussion took place; Matthew Shepard stood up and started yelling at the committee as he walked out of the meeting. Discussion continued, Commissioner Jeremy Root suggested that Mr. Schneider meet with him, Chairman Carrothers, and Director Reeve for follow-up.

**Public Comment:** None

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services Relief Fund Committee minutes for November 18, 2020.



James Carrothers  
Chairman  
Shiawassee County  
Veterans Affairs and Services



Mike Reeve  
Director  
Shiawassee County  
Veterans Affairs and Services