

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2020

3:00pm

Roll-Call of Committee Members:

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

Cindy Garber, Board of Commissioners

Call to Order

Chairman Carrothers called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

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

Last Meeting's Minutes (August 19, 2020):

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

John Pajtas suggested that future meeting minutes be shortened by motioned carried by all members, and just listing those that oppose.

Burial Reports:

There were two (2) burial applications needing approval in the amount of \$600.00. With approval, this would leave a balance of \$5,000.00 in the burial fund with 66.66% of the funds having been issued out of the burial budget.

John Pajtas made a motion to approve the burial fund expenditures in the amount of \$600 for the month of July; this was seconded by Dan Smith. Motion carried by: all members present.

Director Reeve discussed that he raised the burial budget for 2021 to \$20,000 up from the \$15,000 this year as we are already so close to hitting the budgeted amount.

Director Reeve – Other

Chris Bagwell has sent in his official letter of resignation.

Mike has been in contact with Ann Bentley from Oak Hill Cemetery regarding 20 bronze plaques that were found in a garage. Mike would like to work with Ann on getting those plaques placed on each veteran’s headstone. This will have a cost to it and Mike would like approval to approve those fees without holding a special meeting for each one as the cost per each is unknown at this time. John suggested that this be looked into a little more to have a better idea of cost and re-visit this again next month.

Motion to Approve or Deny Assistance Applications:

PA-214 fund and Peacetime Veterans fund consideration:

There were four (4) Applications for Assistance since the meeting of September 16, 2020.

A. Director / Committee Approved Applications – Four (4)

- 20-08-19 *68 year old, peacetime Army veteran who served from December 1976 – February 1980. Requesting food assistance as he had heard of the \$300 Meijer food vouchers. Director Reeve approved \$100 in food assistance.*
- 20-08-20 *71 year old, Vietnam era Army veteran that served from April 1969 – August 1974 Requesting food assistance as he had heard of the \$300 Meijer food voucher. Director Reeve approved \$200 in food assistance.*
- 20-08-21 *53 year old, peacetime Army veteran that served from February 1985-January 1988. Requesting food assistance as he had heard of the \$300 Meijer food vouchers. Director Reeve approved \$100 in food assistance and \$25 gas card.*
- 20-09-22 *42 year old, Persian golf era Army veteran that served from November 2002 – April 2003 and again from June 2010 - July 2011. Requesting food assistance. Director Reeve approved \$300 in food assistance and \$25 gas card.*

Roll call by the committee to approve the assistance funds. All members present approved all of the applications.

Director’s Update and Board Discussions

- o Director Reeve went over the Directors report
 - o Director Reeve mentioned that Paula has been approved to be a driver and that will cut down on some of the Transportation solutions rides.
 - o We still have 1 case to be referred to MVTF, waiting for a meeting to be set up.

Mary Jo asked about Fiddler’s Green opening and what that will do for Shiawassee County, as they will be bringing veterans from other counties in.

She asked what constitutes residency. Director Reeve said that veterans must be a resident of Shiawassee County for 6 months with proof of residency before being able to qualify for county Relief Fund assistance.

Homeless veterans in Shiawassee county were then brought up and committee discussed community partners that are there to help, however being a government agency we cannot refer 1 business over another unless approved by the County commissioners.

Director Reeve proposed raising the food assistance, Policy 107. The proposed amendment would raise the food assistance limits to \$300 for a single veteran, \$400 for a veteran and their spouse, \$50 additional for each dependent for a max family limit of \$500. This will still be a once a year assist, VA income threshold, and based on emergent need.

John Pajtas motioned to raise the limit, seconded by Dan Smith. Motion turned down by Jim Carrothers, however motion was carried by all other members present.

Director Reeve went over other VA counties and their emergent need applications turned in. Shiawassee County is doing very well when it comes to getting help to those in need. Jim asked what other counties utilized PA214 funds and if they had different funding for their Peacetime Veterans.

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services Relief Fund Committee minutes for September 16, 2020.

James Carrothers
Chairman
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services

Mike Reeve
Director
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services