

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services

Surbeck Building • 201 N. Shiawassee St., Corunna, MI 48817

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2019

3:00pm

Roll-Call of Committee Members:

• Chairman	Michael Nations	Present
• Member	Jim Carrothers	Present
• Member	Irene Hosking	Present
• Member	Doug Huyck	Present
• Member	Les Schneider	Present
• Member	Chris Bagwell	Absent
• Member	Dan Smith	Absent

Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services Staff:

• Director	Mike Reeve	Present
• VSO	Marc LeConte	Absent
• Administrative Assistant	Cindy Flury	Absent
• Transportation Coordinator	Paula Jager	Present

Visitors:

Commissioner Cindy Garber, Matthew Shepard, Peggy Shepard, Jill Haas from Warrior Path Home, Patrick Vallely from the Census Bureau and Mary Jo Moore

Call to Order

The meeting called to order by Chairman Nations at 3:02 pm, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

It was moved by Jim Carrothers, seconded by Les Schneider, to approve agenda, motion carried.

All approved and in favor of, by:

Doug Huyck—"Aye"	Michael Nations—"Aye"
Irene Hosking—"Aye"	Dan Smith - Absent
Les Schneider—"Aye"	Chris Bagwell— Absent
Jim Carrothers—"Aye"	

Last Month's Minutes:

It was moved by Les Schneider, seconded by Irene Hosking, to approve November minutes, motion carried.

All approved and in favor of, by:

Irene Hosking—"Aye"	Michael Nations—"Aye"
Jim Carrothers—"Aye"	Chris Bagwell—Absent
Les Schneider—"Aye"	Dan Smith—Absent
Doug Huyck—"Aye"	

Motion to Approve or Deny Assistance Applications:

PA-214 funds and Peacetime Veterans funds consideration:

There were 7 Applications for Assistance in December 2019.

A. Director / Committee Approved (7)

1.	19-40-01	Moving	\$312.50	(Peacetime)	Director approved
2.	19-41-01	Housing	\$428.40	(Homeless)	Director approved
3.	19-42-01	Housing	\$714.00	(Homeless)	Director approved
4.	19-43-01	Food/Gas	\$240.00/\$25.00		Director approved
5.	19-39-01	Propane	\$457.18	(2 nd help request)	Committee approved
6.	19-36-01	Septic	\$150.00	Est. 2/permit	Committee approved
7.	19-37-02	Car Repairs	\$907.00	Est.	Committee approved

19-40-01, 19-41-01, 19-42-01, and 19-43-01, (Director approved) all approved and in favor of/by:

Irene Hosking—"Aye"	Michael Nations—"Aye"
Jim Carrothers—"Aye"	Chris Bagwell—Absent
Les Schneider—"Aye"	Dan Smith—Absent
Doug Huyck—"Aye"	

19-39-01 and 19-36-01, approved and in favor of/by:

Irene Hosking—"Aye"	Michael Nations—"Aye"
Jim Carrothers—"Aye"	Chris Bagwell—Absent
Les Schneider—"Aye"	Dan Smith—Absent
Doug Huyck—"Aye"	

19-37-02 – approved and in favor of/by:

Irene Hosking—"Aye"	Jim Carrothers—"Nay"
Les Schneider—"Aye"	Chris Bagwell—Absent
Doug Huyck—"Aye"	Dan Smith—Absent
Michael Nations—"Aye"	

Burials (November/December 2019):

Director Reeve reported there was one burial request for December, for a total of 29 burial requests for 2019 for a total of \$11,600, leaving \$3,400.00 in the fund for this year.

Director's Update and Board Discussions

Director Reeve went over the monthly reports with no questions or comment from the Board. This was followed up with Power Point Presentation, "Director's Monthly Report."

Agenda covered: Mike R. spoke about:

Accounting problem of \$400.00 has been sorted out and there will be an audit of the PA-214 funds beginning January 3, 2020. The \$400.00 had been taken out of PA-214 funds in error and this has now been taken care of by taking those funds from the appropriate account and putting the \$400.00 back into PA-214 account. This error was missed by three (3) people and brought to the Director's attention recently at which time action was taken to correct the error.

The “Peacetime Veteran’s Account” with \$50,000.00 was kick started in July. We have had some expenditure from this fund. Les Schneider requested there be an email sent at the end of each week to the Board members as to what was Director approved. Director Reeve agreed.

Director Reeve reported that we have a court contact for the Veteran’s Court and that is Elizabeth Brown. She is the “Veteran Treatment Court Coordinator”. There is one mentor already in place and another waiting in the sidelines for when that is needed. Mike reported he visited and spoke to the people in charge of the Veteran’s Court in Genesee County and he has been working on that. Genesee County is structured differently than Shiawassee.

Fiddler’s Green has purchased the old Pleasant View facility and renovations are underway with a projected opening of February 2020. Director Reeve reported that he was visited by a couple of the marketing staff and they are requesting that the Veteran’s Affairs VSO visit at least once a month to talk about aid and attendance, etc. He questioned if this is appropriate as we, as a County organization, do not want to give the appearance of “endorsing” a private entity. There was discussion among the Board, maybe MOA?, development, Commissioners would need to be involved.

Discussion was held regarding the previous (2013) DAV van. Mike Nations said as far as he was concerned the case was closed. Nothing illegal was done and the van is now being used by another County department. Les Schneider expressed his displeasure that the local DAV Chapter did not get the van. Director Reeve explained the timeline and offered the paperwork showing this.

Public Comment:

Patrick Vallely from the Census Bureau spoke to the need for people to apply to be census takers. These positions may be temporary but they are paying about \$20.00 per hour and they are having trouble getting help. He asked for the assistance of the Veteran’s Affairs office as they will “hire veterans first”. He left cards with information on how to apply with the office. Director Reeve offered that the local Michigan Works office has the third Thursday of the month set aside for veterans seeking employment and will help with resumes, applications, etc.

Mary Jo Moore asked if there had been a feasibility study done on how many homeless veterans there are in Shiawassee County. Director Reeve asked if there was someone to contact for this and stated there is no position for this, someone would need to volunteer to do it. Discussion was held. Director Reeve said there have been several homeless veterans come into the office and so far there has been good success in getting them into permanent housing.

Jill Haas from Warrior Path Home, an equine guided learning/coaching program. They offer both private and group coaching with guided learning in life skills, reducing anger, etc. The goal is to save lives and offer hope to all veterans. There is no age limit. Livingston County has added them to their mental health program. She had a flyer hand out and said she does virtual coaching so for Shiawassee County veterans this would be ok. It helps veterans become more mindful of their actions, motions and emotions. Director Reeve noted that the VA is going to virtual Nurse and Doctor appointments for some cases.

Matthew Shepard had questions on how Board member selection is done. Chairman Nations explained the Board has no control over this selection process; the County Commissioners consider applications and select from those. Director Reeve said concerns had been raised by the Board regarding the selection process but feels it came too late. All State statutes and regulations were followed, there was proper notification, etc.

Matthew Shepard also had questions regarding the old DAV van. Mike Nations again explained and Director Reeve provided paperwork regarding this, including dates and the timeline of the van since it had been turned in in November 2018. The van was signed over to the County Juvenile Court in November 2019.

Chairman Nations addressed the Christmas party issue and said Commissioners had questioned funds being used for the party. He thinks we should have had a party but due to the \$400.00 discrepancy from last year he made the decision to cancel this year. Les Schneider commented that he would have liked to have had it discussed among Board members.

Matthew Shepard also wanted to know about the PA-214 funds. Only a small amount is being used, questions what is happening to the left over dollars. Director Reeve explained that those funds stay in the PA-214 account. Chairman Nations said this will be discussed prior to voting on bond issue. Director Reeve said the next vote will be in 2022; PA-214 has more than \$400,000.

Chairman Nations said next month will be election of officers to the Board, and Irene is thinking of resigning from the Board. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

The next regular scheduled meeting (the Annual meeting) will be held on January 15, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services Relief Fund Committee minutes for December 19, 2019.

Michael Nations
Chairman
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services

Mike Reeve
Director
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services

Respectfully submitted,
Paula D. Jager