

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services

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

Regular Meeting Minutes - AMENDED

January 15, 2020

3:00pm

Roll-Call of Committee Members:

• Chairman	Michael Nations	Present
• Member	Jim Carrothers	Present (elected Chairman for 2020)
• Member	Irene Hosking	Present
• Member	John Pajtas	Present
• Member	Les Schneider	Present
• Member	Chris Bagwell	Present
• Member	Dan Smith	Present (elected Secretary for 2020)

Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services Staff:

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

Visitors:

Commissioner Cindy Garber

Call to Order

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

Election of New Officers

Chairman Nations reminded the committee that at the first meeting of the year election of new officers is to take place. This is for one year terms. Call for nominations for new officers was made by Chairman Nations.

John Pajtas nominated Michael Nations; Chairman Nations nominated Jim Carrothers for Chairman. Vote was taken; there appeared to be a tie. After some discussion another vote was taken and Mr. Carrothers was elected Chairman with four (4) ayes and 2 nays, 1 abstention.

Jim Carrothers nominated Dan Smith for Secretary – Mr. Smith was elected Secretary with all ayes.

Agenda:

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

All approved and in favor of, by:

John Pajtas—“Aye”

Irene Hosking—“Aye”

Les Schneider—“Aye”

Jim Carrothers—“Aye”

Michael Nations—“Aye”

Dan Smith – “Aye”

Chris Bagwell— “Aye”

Last Month’s Minutes:

It was moved by Mike Nations, seconded by Les Schneider, to approve December minutes, motion carried.

All approved and in favor of, by:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Irene Hosking—“Aye” | Michael Nations—“Aye” |
| Jim Carrothers—“Aye” | Chris Bagwell—“Aye” |
| Les Schneider—“Aye” | Dan Smith—“Aye” |
| John Pajtas —“Aye” | |

Motion to Approve or Deny Assistance Applications:

PA-214 funds and Peacetime Veterans funds consideration:

There were 3 Applications for Assistance since the meeting in December 2019.

A. Director / Committee Approved (3)

1. 19-44-01	Food	\$240.00	(Peacetime)	Director approved
2. 20-01-01	Taxes	\$2,426/\$2,823.06	(PA-214)	
3. 20-01-02	Automobile	\$4,279/\$4,500	(PA-214)	

19-44-01 (Director approved) all approved and in favor of/by:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Irene Hosking—“Aye” | Michael Nations—“Aye” |
| Jim Carrothers—“Aye” | Chris Bagwell— “Aye” |
| Les Schneider—“Aye” | Dan Smith—“Aye” |
| John Pajtas —“Aye” | |

20-01-01: Request for help with property taxes both home and business (business no longer in operation).

Director Reeve explained he had spoken with the County tax office and suggests we pay the 2017 taxes for the house and link the requestor with Matt at the State level and Jim Crain at CACS (Step Forward) and also require the requestor go to financial counseling. He further stated that in his conversation with the county tax office he found the requestor had until May of this year to pay his 2017 taxes. Les Schneider suggested that would give him enough time to clean out the business and sell that property.

Mike Nations made a motion that 20-01-01, be approved for help with the house taxes only for 2017 (\$1,649.26) with the stipulation he enroll in financial counseling, Chris Bagwell seconded this motion:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Irene Hosking—“Aye” | Michael Nations—“Aye” |
| Jim Carrothers—“Aye” | Chris Bagwell—“Aye” |
| Les Schneider—“Aye” | Dan Smith—“Aye” |
| John Pajtas —“Aye” | |

20-01-02 - Request for purchase of automobile. Discussion was held regarding purchasing an older vehicle that would soon need repairs traveling back and forth to Lansing every day. Question raised as to the requestor’s credit score, would they be able to purchase a newer automobile if the money was used as a down payment? Suggested that credit score be added to the list of items required on the Emergent Need Application. Director Reeve to reach out to a local credit union regarding this.

Mike Nations motioned that pending further discussion by Director Reeve with the veteran, the committee would authorize \$2,000.00 for a downpayment with stipulation the veteran participate in financial counseling; Chris Bagwell seconded. Director Reeve requested that followup be via telephone to the committee after his further investigation.

Irene Hosking—"Aye"
 Les Schneider—"Aye"
 John Pajtas —"Aye"
 Michael Nations—"Aye"

Jim Carrothers—"Nay"
 Chris Bagwell—"Aye"
 Dan Smith—"Aye"

Director Reeve updated the Committee on **99-36-01**, septic system problem which had previously been approved for some expenditures. Perk test has been completed. It was found the drainfield was leaking into his house. Did not pass the Perk test. We have one bid from J. Bartz to replace the septic tank but this does not include landscaping afterwards. Other bids will be coming in but it looks like it will be \$6,000-\$8,000. Mike Nations asked if we had found a hospital chair for the veteran to use temporarily. Director Reeve asked if the Committee wanted a phone call, a special meeting or to vote now for \$7,000 to handle this. Because it will be over \$2,500 there will need to be a special meeting. Once the bids are in, this will be scheduled.

Burials (December 2019/January 2020):

Director Reeve reported there were six (6) burial requests for January, for a total of 6 burial requests for 2020 for a total of \$2,400, leaving \$12,6 00.00 in the fund for the remainder of year.

Director's Update and Board Discussions

Director Reeve went over the monthly reports.

Burials - Chairman Carrothers raised the question regarding the \$400 for each burial stating it used to be \$300 and then an additional \$100 for the plaque to be installed if there was one requested. Irene Hoskings commented she thinks that Hillcrest is not charging for this now. Chairman Carrothers requested this be looked into by Director Reeve.

Veteran Contacts and MVTF brought no questions from the Committee.
 with no questions or comment from the Board.

PA-214 and Peacetime - Director Reeve explained the Peacetime Fund requires the veteran have at least 24 months "time in service". The Committee put \$50,000 in the fund as a starting point in July of 2019 to be reviewed after one full year. Mike Nations added the Committee this will be voted on annually in July. Director Reeve said when the County switched to the BS & A Accounting program it shows the \$50,000 in Peacetime Fund.

Non-VA, Transportation and Financials – No questions.

Director's Monthly Report:

Director Reeve went over the powerpoint report, explained that the volunteer driver count is down and that a "hiring event" is being planned with pizza and information about volunteering. Discussion was held – Director Reeve is to write rules and regulations for the county van.

Marc LeConte asked if there was any way to track the awards monthly, service connected. Director Reeve said this information has not been released as of now.

Director Reeve went over the VSO Matrix, Meetings and Agenda and Community Outreach all with no questions.

Chairman Carrothers asked if a new place for the VA offices had been found yet as the current office space is too small. Director Reeve said we need to hire another VSO but have no place to "house" them. Chairman Carrothers also expressed concern about the office operating without an Admin. Assistant and the Transportation Coordinator handling both positions, believes it is bad for the office and questioned what was happening with that. Mike Nations said in regards to the Admin. Assistant position he thought there was permission to post. Commissioner Cindy Garber said she would check into that.

Les Schneider reminded Director Reeve to send a weekly report for all Director approved requests for assistance expenditures.

Public Comment: None at this time.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on February 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services Relief Fund Committee minutes for January 15, 2020.

James Carrothers
Chairman
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services

Mike Reeve
Director
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services