

**Shiawassee County Veterans’ Affairs and Services**

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**July 15, 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 Chris Bagwell Absent

**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, Bob Shurwood, Jim Crane (CACs), Duane Sumner

**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 Mike Nations, to approve the Agenda for today’s meeting; seconded by John Pajtas, motion carried by:

- John Pajtas – “Aye”                      Michael Nations – “Aye”
- Dan Smith – “Aye”                      Jim Carrothers – “Aye”
- Mary Jo Moore – “Aye”                Les Schneider – “Aye”

**Last Meeting’s Minutes (May 20, 2020):**

Motion was made by John Pajtas to accept the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Michael Nations. Motion carried.

All approved and in favor of, by:

- Michael Nations – “Aye”                Mary Jo Moore—“Aye”
- Dan Smith – “Aye”                      Jim Carrothers – “Aye”
- John Pajtas – “Aye”                      Les Schneider – “Aye”

**Burial Reports:**

There were five (5) burial applications needing approval in the amount of \$1,700.00. With approval, this would leave a balance of \$6,200.00 in the burial fund with 58.60% 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 \$1,700 for the month of June; this was seconded by Michael Nations.

All approved and in favor of by:

Michael Nations – “Aye”	Daniel Smith – “Aye”
John Pajtas – “Aye”	Jim Carrothers – “Aye”
Mary Jo Moore – “Aye”	Les Schneider – “Aye”

**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 in June 17, 2020.

A. Director / Committee Approved Applications – one (1)

1.	20-06-12	Water Heater	\$1539.00	(PA-214)	Committee Phone Approval
2.	20-07-13	Auto Repair	\$Unknown	(PA-214)	Pending Further Estimates
3.	20-07-14	Taxes	\$3642.25	(PA-214)	Contact Senator Tom Barret
4.	20-07-15	Taxes	\$3436.44	(PA-214)	Referral to MVTF

**20-06-12** Water Heater (Committee Phone Approval on June 24, 2020)

Mike Nations – “Aye”	Mary Jo Moore – “Aye” with financial counseling suggested
John Pajtas – “Aye”	Jim Carrothers – “Aye” with majority vote
Les Schneider – “Aye”	

**20-07-14:** Request for help with 2018 home property taxes. Director Reeve explained that the home has qualified for tax exemption in previous years as well as years since. The city claims that they never received the exemption form for the year in question, however the client has a signed copy from the city. The veteran was 100% disabled and just passed away February 2020. Director Reeve has spoke with the county and the city, and they say that their hands are tied. The committee as well as Commissioner Cindy Garber, suggested that we dig more into this case with the city and State Senator Tom Barrett to get them to take care of this issue.

Committee voted to table this claim

Mike Nations – “Aye”	Mary Jo Moore – “Aye”
John Pajtas – “Aye”	Daniel Smith – “Aye”
Les Schneider – “Aye”	Jim Carrothers – “Aye”

**20-07-13:** Request for an unknown automobile repair for a 1999 Cadillac Sedan Ville with 230,000 miles and a KBB value between \$1,863-\$3,526. Client did submit estimates for a clutch and pulley system as well as an oxygen sensor in the amount of \$840.08 on top of the unknown amount. Director Reeve explained; that even if the committee decides to table this case, the vehicle still needs to have the engine removed to do the estimate, which is a job that is several hours of labor that the client does not have the money to pay for.

John Pajtas made the motion to vote that we pay the full amount.

No 2<sup>nd</sup> motion was made, No vote

Les Schneider made the motion to table this claim pending 2 firm estimates are provided, Daniel Smith seconded the motion.

Mike Nations – “Aye”	Mary Jo Moore – “Aye”
John Pajtas – “Nay”	Daniel Smith – “Aye”
Les Schneider – “Aye”	Jim Carrothers – “Aye”

The motion is carried pending 2 firm estimates within 1 month.

**20-17-15:** Request for help with 2018 and 2019 home property taxes. Jim Crane is working with this client and has been counseling her for almost a year now for credit and taxes. Client did receive a tax adjustment, and has been making payments for the 2019 taxes. Michael Nations suggested that we submit this case to the Michigan Veteran Trust Fund Agent. Director Reeve went over our policies and procedures regarding taxes and by our policies; this tax foreclosure does not qualify due to it being within the 6 month period that it has to be before we can pay due to this policy.

Les Schneider motioned to advance this case to the Michigan Veteran Trust Fund. Daniel Smith seconded this motion. This client can apply for emergent status if the MVTF declines.

Mike Nations – “Aye”

Mary Jo Moore – “Aye”

John Pajtas – “Aye”

Daniel Smith – “Aye”

Les Schneider – “Aye”

Jim Carrothers – “Aye”

### **Director’s Update and Board Discussions**

Director Reeve went over the monthly reports.

Went over the PowerPoint report regarding transportation and volunteer drivers and that we have three pending new drivers. Awaiting to hear from Saginaw VA on where they are at in their vetting process.

Went over the VSO Matrix, Meetings, Agenda, and Community Outreach all with no questions from the Board.

Darcy has moved out of our area and has moved to the northwestern side of the state.

Congratulated Marc LaConte on getting a Veteran \$360,000 in back pay, so congratulate Marc next time you see him, he worked very hard to get these results for this veteran.

We have hired a new Admin Assistant – Patti Davis

We have posted for a Transportation Coordinator and Paula will stay until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August for training purposes.

- Discussed marketing pricing for Radio commercials and billboard advertisements. Radio advertising starts at \$525 weekly for a 30-second commercial through 103.9. Radio ads do not run for only a week. They run 13 weeks, 26 weeks, and 52 weeks. The billboard starts at \$22,162 yearly for 8x22 foot billboard through Wolverine billboard advertisement, plus the cost of the signage. Director Reeves did not have the marketing budget information on hand.

### **Public Comment:**

Bob Shurwood commented that the website has not had minutes posted since February.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on August 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at the James P. Capitan Center, due to conflict in meeting in the commissioner’s room.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Shiawassee County Veterans’ Affairs and Services Relief Fund Committee minutes for July 15, 2020.

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James Carrothers  
Chairman  
Shiawassee County  
Veterans Affairs and Services

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Mike Reeve  
Director  
Shiawassee County  
Veterans Affairs and Services