

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 19, 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	Chris Bagwell	Absent
• Member	Dan Smith	Present
• Vacant		

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:

Cindy Garber, Board of Commissioners; Jim Crain, CACS, Inc.; Matthew Shepard; Laura Albring; Ed Urban

Call to Order

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

Agenda:

It was moved by John Pajtas, to approve the Agenda for today's meeting; seconded by Michael Nations and approved by:

John Pajtas—"Aye"	Michael Nations—"Aye"
Dan Smith—"Aye"	Jim Carrothers—"Aye"
Les Schneider—"Aye"	

Last Month's Minutes:

Motion was made by John Pajtas to accept the January meeting minutes except to change/amend them to reflect his name instead of Doug Huyck's name; this was seconded by Michael Nations. Motion carried.

All approved and in favor of, by:

Michael Nations—"Aye"	Les Schneider—"Aye"
Dan Smith—"Aye"	Jim Carrothers—"Aye"
John Pajtas—"Aye"	

Committee Discussion:

Mike Nations made a motion that based on the egregious behavior of Mr. Schneider that the committee have a vote of no confidence; this was supported by John Pajtas.

Discussion followed: Mr. Carrothers made comment about how Mr. Schneider's comments to the Board of Commissioners made "us" as a committee/office look bad. Further comments were made by Cindy Garber of the Board of Commissioners, Mike Nations and John Pajtas regarding Mr. Schneider's comments to the Board of Commissioners made February 12, 2020 at their meeting. Mr. Pajtas commented that the statements made by Mr. Schneider about the

previous Chairperson for the Board were untrue. Mr. Schneider made comment that he did talk to the County Commissioners.

The Motion for a Vote of No Confidence was carried as:

All approved and in favor of by:
Michael Nations – “Aye” Daniel Smith – “Aye”
John Pajtas – “Aye” Jim Carrothers – “Aye”

Michael Nations made Motion to vote on requesting of the County Commissioners that Mr. Schneider be removed from the Veteran’s Affairs Board; seconded by Daniel Smith.

All approved and in favor of by:
Michael Nations – “Aye” Daniel Smith – “Aye”
John Pajtas – “Aye” Jim Carrothers – “Aye”

Burial Reports:

There were six (6) burial applications needing approval in the amount of \$2,000.00. With approval this would leave a balance of \$10,600.00 in the burial fund with 29.33% of the funds having been issued out of the burial budget.

Michael Nations made a motion to approve the burial fund expenditures in the amount of \$2,000 for the month; this was seconded by Daniel Smith.

All approved and in favor of by:
Michael Nations – “Aye” Daniel Smith – “Aye”
John Pajtas – “Aye” Jim Carrothers – “Aye”
Les Schneider – “Aye”

Motion to Approve or Deny Assistance Applications:

PA-214 funds and Peacetime Veterans funds consideration:

There were 6 Applications for Assistance since the meeting in January 15, 2020.

A. Director / Committee Approved (6)

1.	19-36-01	Septic	\$7,265.00	(PA-214)
2.	20-02-04	Taxes	\$2,536.61	(PA-214)
3.	20-01-05	Furnace/Water	\$2,850/\$152.95	(PA-214)
4.	20-02-07	Tires	\$730.00	(PA-214)
5.	20-02-08	Taxes/Assessment	\$1,829.15/\$428.84	(PA-214)
6.	20-01-03	Food	\$300.00	(PA-214) Director Approved

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

Michael Nations—“Aye” Dan Smith—“Aye”
Les Schneider—“Aye” Jim Carrothers—“Aye”
John Pajtas—“Aye”

20-02-04: Request for help with property taxes. \$2,536.61, for 2016 and 2017.

John Pajtas made a motion to deny, Michael Nations seconded. Veteran and his wife are currently working with Jim Crain of CACS for 2018 and 2019 taxes and are paying towards those. Jim Carrothers requested input from others and Mr. Crain explained what they do at CACS regarding tax foreclosures and other types of assistance such as food help, utility assistance, etc., through a network with other non-profits, regular lenders, etc. Mr. Crain stated they have lots of tools to help people get back on track. Mr. Crain further stated that this veteran and his spouse are working with him towards a more secure financial situation but that they are currently in tax foreclosure due to the 2016 and 2017 taxes. After discussion Daniel Smith made a motion to approve paying the 2016 and 2017 property taxes, Les Schneider seconded.

Motion to deny made by Mr. Pajtas and seconded by Michael Nations:

Turned down by a vote of:

Daniel Smith “Nay: Michael Nations—“Aye”
Les Schneider—“Nay” John Pajtas—“Aye”
Jim Carrothers – “Nay”

Motion made by Daniel Smith to pay the 2016 and 2017 property taxes after discussion and input from others, seconded by Les Schneider.

Approved by:

Daniel Smith – “Aye” Michael Nations – “Nay”
Les Schneider – “Aye” John Pajtas – “Nay”
Jim Carrothers – “Aye”

20-01-05 - Request for help with a new furnace and a past due/shut-off notice for water/sewer from City of Owosso. Discussion was held and Daniel Smith suggested that in the future all things such as furnaces or water heaters, etc., have the two estimates that will include the reason the item needs to be replaced as opposed to repaired. All were in agreement. Les Schneider made a motion that the Board help this veteran with these items, Michael Nations seconded the motion.

All approved and in favor of by:

Les Schneider—“Aye” John Pajtas—“Aye”
Dan Smith—“Aye” Jim Carrothers – “Aye”
Michael Nations—“Aye”

20-02-07 – Request for new tires. This request was turned down as “no emergent need” is demonstrated.

20-02-08 – Request for help to pay 2018 property taxes and a Special Assessment. After discussion and a recommendation by Director Reeve that this veteran be referred to Jim Crain of CACS for coaching in getting his 2018 taxes paid it was decided to table this request as the property is not in foreclosure at this time.

Burials (January 2020/February 2020):

Director Reeve reported there were six (6) burial requests for February, for a total of 12 burial requests for 2020 for a total of \$4,400.00, leaving \$10,600.00 in the fund for the remainder of year.

Director’s Update and Board Discussions

Director Reeve went over the monthly reports. Veteran Contacts and MVTF - no questions or comment from the Board.

PA-214 and Peacetime – no questions or comment from the Board.

Non-VA, Transportation and Financials – no questions or comments from the Board.

Director Reeve went over the PowerPoint report, explained that the volunteer driver count is down and that a “hiring event” is being planned.

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

Director Reeve also gave an update on working with the jail regarding veteran treatment court and what this entails.

Chairman Carrothers again stated that a new place for the VA offices needs to be found since the current office space is inadequate and not suitable for confidentiality concerns when veterans are being interviewed regarding benefits and such.

Matthew Shepard requested permission to speak and once acknowledged by the Chairman, stated he wanted to bring it to the attention of the Committee that no PA-214 funds could be used toward VA office space.

Chairman Carrothers stated that the County Commission and General Counsel has approved this and he verified that PA-214 funds would not be used for this.

Public Comment: Jim Crain from CACS requested that he be contacted if veterans give the authority to share their name and phone number so he can help with coaching them with their needs, whether it be taxes or other needs.

Ed Urban made a statement regarding his property and the troubles he has been having over that. Chairman Carrothers stated that while they are sympathetic there is nothing that the Board can do to help.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on March 18, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Shiawassee County Veterans' Affairs and Services Relief Fund Committee minutes for February 19, 2020.

James Carrothers
Chairman
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services

Mike Reeve
Director
Shiawassee County
Veterans Affairs and Services