



Ottawa County  
Department of Veteran Affairs

**Veterans' Affairs Committee**  
**Monday, February 26th, 2024**  
**9:00 A.M. – Fillmore Adm. Building, Room F**

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call (Jason, Patrick (PJ) Muir, Robert Wayne Linderman, Eric Johnson, Randal Cope, Nicholas Knebl, Steven Barnes, Hadley Kelly, Brad Dorland, Paul Ryan)
3. Public Comment
  - Paul Ryan introduction: representative of the West MI Vet Coalition
    - o Education, employment, quality of life etc.
    - o 700 community connections were established.
  - ROTC- Wayne Linderman
    - o Schools are at risk of losing ROTC, recruiting risk.
    - o Junior ROTC program In Grand Rapids, can we encourage in Holland?
      - Not this time
  - Brad Dorland
    - o Veteran Stand Down Day:
      - Civic center in Holland reserved.
      - Planning continues.
4. Approval of Agenda: Approved
5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: Approved
6. Ottawa County Department of Veterans Affairs Vision- (Jason)
  - Mission was updated to reflect the vision of OCDVA.
  - Needs Assessment
    - o Started internally to determine resources and collaboration.
    - o Marketing/ Website updates
    - o External: Kent Count VS, Muskegon County VA, Allegan, Vet Services at Grand Valley, etc.
    - o GDY Assessment: Fed report of funding data for State/ County
      - Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent
        - Population is going down, Comp & Pen going up.
        - Vietnam Vets are requesting more medical assistance.
        - Muskegon is spending more federal funds than Ottawa County
          - o Funding pools are different (Millage, General Fund etc.)
      - SWOT Analysis

- Strengths: Longevity of Contracted Staff, paper records, marketing/advertising, Fiscal Responsibilities
    - Weakness: Minimal outreach outside the Holland, location/Space
    - VSO's Cross accredited goal
      - Overall Assessment: We are a Reactive Department
  - Location of OCVA: Mobile throughout Ottawa County, we will be dispersed throughout the county.
  - Initial Strategic Plan
    - Accreditation Department that can process claims at all levels.
    - Staffing to reach Vet populations.
    - Facilities: Create a space that is inviting, engaging, prideful
    - Building the Pillars
    - Maintain relationships with VSOs.
    - Spouse and Family support.
  - DVA Vision (Holistic) Four Pillars
    - Employment\*
    - Education\*
    - Health: Community Mental Health Ottawa County Partnership
      - Holistic way to look at Mental health.
        - Equine Therapy
        - Yoga: Grand Haven
    - Quality of Life
      - Inside Out, Hero's for Horses
- Staffing will affect FY 2025 budget.
  - Part-time Clerk interviews ongoing
  - Administrative assistant
  - Vet Service Office (North & South)
  - Summer Vet Intern
- Facilities:
  - Looked into the DHS Building Holland: Lower-Level availability.
    - Would need to build.
  - Fillmore location
    - Ability to be mobile,

7. Review the January Monthly Report - (Jason)

- a. Veterans Committee fund: \$1,500
- b. Vet Trust Fund: One case processed since October.
- c. Burials: one request for Burials
- d. VSO Appointments: 77 scheduled appointments
- e. Transportation: 28 vets, 81 rides, 33 rides this month
  - i. Contract with Hope network out of Grand Rapids (Wheelchair needs)
  - ii. Pilot our transportation services outside of just medical needs and expand the services.

8. Review Administrative Policy #001, Ottawa County Veterans Affairs Committee Fund.

- a. Review E
  - i. Coming out of the general fund
  - ii. Vote Approved for current policy updates.

9. Follow Up - County Burial Allowance Policy #002 – County Board Request to Review Policy to Allow for Increase.

- a. Legal review determined we could not make changes to this policy according to State Statue.

10. Discussion on the Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

- a. Tabled to next meeting.

11. Review of New/Previously Approved Applications for Financial Assistance- (Jason) (Closed Session if we have a case to review)

- a. No new applications from January.

12. VAC Meeting Per Diem – Mileage (Jason & Sandra)

13. Other Business

14. Adjournment

15. Next Meeting: March 25, 2024 (Monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday)