

The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held the regular monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. on July 9, 2008 at 1914 Carpenter Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lipovac, Quijano, O’Kane

Moved by Lipovac, Seconded by Quijano to approve the claims submitted for the month.

VOTE YEA: Lipovac, O’Kane, Quijano

Moved by Lipovac, Seconded by Quijano to approve the minutes of June 12, 2008 meetings are submitted.

VOTE YEA: Lipovac, O’Kane, Quijano

Director’s report was given by David DeBolt, Director. Director is on vacation from July 15-29, 2008. The Health Department is to approve our move back to our building sometime at the end of July.

Our next request for Tony Jefferson, in IT, is to have our files scanned and put on the computer so if an emergency move is necessary again we will have our files.

An After Action Report will be held on July 21, 2008 and Rebecca Buch will represent the department.

We have kept track of the flood victims we have assisted so the County can be reimbursed by FEMA.

We are seeing an increase in veterans who are 100% service connected and have not been to our office. Mostly veterans are Vietnam and Korea era veterans’. The spouse doesn’t work and now they need assistance because of the gas and food prices. Increase in the cost of living this year has affected our veterans. Our office did not ask for more money in FY 08/09 budget but we may have to revisit the budget for FY 09/10. We will keep track to see how much of an increase this will be to our budget.

On July 17, 2008 Tom Miller will be at NE Community Meeting. You can contact Fran Kuhns at 265-0470 for more information. This meeting concerns the foreclosures of homes in Iowa.

When a veteran is behind on house payments our office asks what the veteran’s plan is if we help catch him up. However our office does not give advice on budgeting and spending habits of our veterans.

Every county can apply for a grant up to \$15,000 for training. This is to help counties with getting their director or commissioners accredited. Commissioner Lipovac is accredited and should meet the accreditation requirement for our county.

Moved by O’Kane to approve this motion, Seconded by Lipovac.

VOTE YEA: Lipovac, O’Kane, Quijano

Commissioner O’Kane nominated Commissioner Quijano for Chairman. Seconded by Lipovac.
VOTE YEA: Lipovac, O’Kane

Commissioner Lipovac nominated Commissioner O’Kane for Secretary. Seconded by Quijano.
VOTE YEA: Lipovac, Quijano

Client #GZ0039 – Veteran came to our county and can not work. Bob Stebbens from the Iowa Department of Veteran Affairs assisted the veteran in applying for VA disability and social security disability. Landlord is physically afraid of the veteran. Also the veteran gave incorrect information to the landlord by telling her that we were paying the mobile home park and the landlord was to give the veteran \$200 from the check to pay his trailer payment.

Director called veteran and explained what the landlord told our office and that he was done in this office because that was considered fraud.

Veteran was also going to our office and Camp Dodge for assistance.

This file was audited by the Director. Per his request the Landlord sent a statement which the Director read to the commission.

Per Dan Flaherty the veteran has a right to meet the commission because he is being denied benefits. Our office should report this to John Sarcone because the fraud and threatening the Landlord.

Client #GZ0753 - Veteran has not been to enough appointments at the hospital to track his ailments. Therefore he can not get a better medical. Commissioner O’Kane will assist veteran in obtaining the necessary appointments and medical for extended assistance through our office. There is a question on if we are paying for the veteran’s girlfriend to live with him. The last place he lived he stated it was not his girlfriend but we were paying girlfriend. All the information points to girlfriend but veteran denies it.

August’s meeting: will be held on August 14, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. the location to be announced.

Moved by O’Kane. Seconded by Lipovac to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE YEA: Lipovac, O’Kane, Quijano

Mindi O’Kane, Chairperson