

Commissioners: Fred Chabot, Marta Ford, Jerry Nelson, Ed Spangenburg, and Susan Springer

18 October 2023

Minutes

At 1511 hours, Commission Chairperson Jerry Nelson called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Jasper County Veterans Affairs Commission to order. The commissioners in attendance were Fred Chabot, Marta Ford, Jerry Nelson, Ed Spangenburg, and Susan Springer. Also attending the meeting were Administrator Alyssa Wilson and CVSO Keith N. Thorpe.

Approve Minutes:

Marta Ford made a motion and Susan Springer seconded to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Jasper County Commission of Veterans Affairs held on 13 September 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. County-Funded Cell Phone:

Administrator Wilson's county-funded Samsung Galaxy cell phone is working. A second billing mistake was made and a credit has been issued in the amount of \$140.92. The cell phone number is not published; Administrator Wilson forwards calls from the office telephone to the Samsung Galaxy cell phone when she is not in the office.

2. By-Laws for the Commission:

Fred Chabot offered to prepare a draft Word document in advance of the November, 2023 commission meeting for review. The review and revision of the draft document will be on the November commission meeting agenda. Marta Ford suggested that guidelines for the distribution of county funds to veterans can be found in past meeting minutes; these should be made a part of commission by-laws.

3. Green Light Program:

The Jasper County Board of Supervisors has approved the courthouse being bathed in green light during the period 6-12 November 2023. The county maintenance supervisor is working out the details.

4. Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Testing:

Administrator Wilson is waiting for Dr. Paul Essen, TBI Coordinator, Central Iowa Healthcare System, to inspect the small conference room in the Jasper County Office Building for suitability.

5. Fall School Discussion:

Commissioners and staff discussed pertinent topics from the county commissioner and veteran service officer training 9-11 October 2023 at the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine Temple in Altoona, Iowa. One

of the greatest challenges to timely and accurate veteran services is the change to the Congressionally-mandated “National Work Queue” at U.S. Veterans Administration offices nationally. This has contributed to a sixth month backlog for pension claims and a high number of inaccurate decisions. It was the consensus of the commissioners that occasional meetings with surrounding county commissions would be of value. No actions were taken from the Fall School discussion.

New Business:

1. September, 2023 Administrator’s Activity Report:

Commissioners reviewed the September, 2023 Administrator’s Activity Report. It was noted that all types of veteran interactions are increasing.

2. The August, 2023 Expenses, Allocation, Donation, ESFP Reports:

The reports were presented to the commission.

3. 1st Quarter, FY2024 BOS Expense, Allocation, Donation, and ESFP Report:

Susan Springer made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to approve the submittal of these reports to the Jasper County Board of Supervisors. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Jasper Rides:

Marta Ford made a motion and Ed Spangenburg seconded to give up to ten “Christmas appreciation” \$50 gift cards to Jasper County volunteer veteran transporters. The cost will be charged to the Veterans Affairs Commission transportation account. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements: None

Public Input: None

Confirm next commission meeting: Wednesday, 8 November 2023, 1500 hours, at the Jasper County Office Building.

At 1615 hours, Susan Springer made a motion and Ed Spangenburg seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Ferdinand J. Chabot, Secretary