COUNTY OF OSCEOLA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Veterans Services Adhoc Committee

AGENDA

Tuesday, June 9, 2015
10:30 a.m.

49th Circuit Court Jury Room
Osceola County Courthouse
301 West Upton Avenue
Reed City, Michigan 49677

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda – Approval of the Agenda.


4. Committee Member Comments.

5. New Business.
   • Discuss Current and Future Veteran’s Services and Staffing for Osceola County.

6. Committee Member Comments.

7. Extended Public Comments (Six Minute Limit).

8. Adjournment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Committee welcomes public comment. We appreciate your attendance and look forward to hearing any concerns you may have. We request that the following rules of procedure be followed: At the beginning and at the end of each Committee meeting, there is time to receive public comment from the audience. If you wish to address the Committee, we ask that you stand, give your name and present your concern. If you wish to speak while the Committee is addressing a specific issue, you are asked to make arrangements ahead of time with the Committee Chairperson. No comments or questions will be taken at any other time.

If you should require special assistance in order to attend the meeting, please notify the County Coordinator at (231) 832-6196, twenty-four (24) hours before the posted meeting time, for arrangements to be made.
VETERANS' RELIEF FUND
Act 214 of 1899

AN ACT to provide relief outside of the soldiers' home for honorably discharged indigent soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses and members of women's auxiliaries and the indigent wives, widows and minor children of such indigent or deceased soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses and members of women's auxiliaries, and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts.


The People of the State of Michigan enact:

35.21 Veterans' relief fund; levy and collection of annual tax; emergency appropriation; disposition.

Sec. 1. The county board of commissioners of each county shall annually levy, a tax not exceeding 1/10 of a mill on each dollar, to be levied and collected as provided by law, upon the taxable property of each township and city, for their respective counties, for the purpose of creating a fund for the relief of honorably discharged indigent members of the army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and women's auxiliaries of all wars or military expeditions in which the United States of America has been, is, or may hereafter be, a participant as prescribed in section 1 of Act No. 190 of the Public Acts of 1965, being section 35.61 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and the indigent spouses, minor children, and parents of each such indigent or deceased member. Funds raised in accordance with the provisions of this section may be expended for the relief of indigent wives and children of active duty soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, coast guardsmen, nurses, and members of the women's auxiliaries during the continuance of present hostilities and prior to their discharge. However, in any year which, in the opinion of the board, an emergency justifying the same exists, the board may appropriate a sum not to exceed 2/10 of a mill on each dollar for said purpose. The sums, when collected, shall be paid to the county treasurer of the county where such tax is levied in each of the counties in this state, to be paid out by the treasurer upon the order of the soldiers' relief commission duly signed by the chairperson and secretary of the commission. If any money in the fund is not necessary for the purpose for which it was raised, the money shall remain in the treasury of the county as a soldiers' relief fund, and shall be considered in raising future sums therefor.


Former law: See Act 193 of 1889, being CL 1897, §§ 2074 to 2079.

35.22 Soldiers' relief commission; membership, appointment, terms, officers, vacancies, oaths of office, compensation, powers and duties, removal.

Sec. 2. (1) The judge of probate in each county shall appoint 3 persons, residents of such county, who shall be honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses or members of the women's auxiliaries, of the United States army and navy, volunteers or regulars, who served in a war in which the United States has been, is or may hereafter be, a participant, at least 1 of whom shall have served in World War I, to be known as the "soldiers' relief commission" of the county, with the powers and duties in this act provided. If there is no World War I veteran who is willing to serve, a veteran of a war as defined in Act No. 190 of the Public Acts of 1965, as amended, being sections 35.61 and 35.62 of the Compiled Laws of 1948, may be appointed to serve on the soldiers' relief commission.

(2) One of such persons shall be appointed for a term of 1 year; 1 for a term of 2 years; and 1 for a term of 3 years, and at the expiration of the term for which each of such persons was appointed, his successor shall be appointed for a term of 3 years thereafter. The persons so appointed shall organize by the selection of 1 of their number as chairman, and 1 as secretary, and in the event of the death, resignation, change of residence or other disability of any member of the commission, creating a vacancy, the judge of probate shall fill such vacancy by an appointment for the unexpired term. The members shall each file the constitutional oath of office with the probate court, and receive the proper certificate of their appointment. They shall be entitled to reasonable compensation for their services, to be fixed and paid by the board of supervisors of their respective counties. The judge of probate shall have authority to remove any member of such commission for cause.

35.23 Soldiers' relief commission; determination of amounts to be granted and manner of payment; judicial review.

Sec. 3. The supervisor of each township and ward in each of the counties of this state, and where there is no ward supervisor the aldermen of the several wards of every incorporated city in this state, shall, on or before the last Monday in September in each year, make and place in the hands of the soldiers' relief commission of the county, a list of all the persons entitled to relief under the provisions of this act, and the soldiers' relief commission, on the first Monday in October in each year, shall proceed to determine the amount necessary for aid and relief to be granted such persons under this act, which shall be then and there recorded in the books to be kept by the secretary of said soldiers' relief commission. The commission may determine not only the sum to be paid, but the manner of paying the same, and may discontinue the payment of such relief in their discretion. Appeal may be taken therefrom to the circuit court of such county, by certiorari by filing application therefor with the clerk within 15 days following the making of such decision. The court shall hear the case de novo and its decision shall be final.


35.24 Emergency relief provision; limitations.

Sec. 4. Whenever any emergency shall arise in case of sickness, accident or death, which, in the opinion of any supervisor or alderman, needs relief, such supervisor or alderman, when inconvenient to consult any of the members of said commission, shall have the power to draw an order on the county treasurer for a sum not to exceed 10 dollars, and shall certify his action and the circumstances of the case to such soldiers' relief commission, which shall ratify the same, and such commission may grant such further relief at any time as it may deem necessary: Provided, however, That no claim for relief shall be allowed and paid which shall create a deficiency in the fund.


35.25 Soldiers' relief commission; annual report, contents.

Sec. 5. Said soldiers' relief commission shall make to the board of supervisors, at its October session in each year, a full report of its doings and the amount of relief money on hand, the amount expended during the year preceding, and the amount estimated for the year ensuing, and such further information and suggestions as they may consider necessary to the discharge of their duties under this act.


35.26 Unexpended funds; transfer to general fund.

Sec. 6. In cases where moneys have heretofore been raised by any city or township under the provisions of the acts hereinafter repealed, the balance of such moneys unexpended on the first day of April, 1900, may, by vote of the common council or township board, be transmitted to, and made a part of the general fund of such city or township, as the case may be.


35.27 Soldiers' relief commission; administration of oaths.

Sec. 7. The several commissioners appointed under this act shall have power to administer oaths in the execution of the duties of their offices.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Act 192 of 1953

AN ACT to create a county department of veterans' affairs in certain counties, and to prescribe its powers and duties; and to transfer the powers and duties of the soldiers' relief commission in such counties.


The People of the State of Michigan enact:

35.621 County department of veterans' affairs; creation; administration; committee; appointment, qualifications, and terms of members; vacancies.

Sec. 1. The county board of commissioners may create a county department of veterans' affairs. The department shall be under the administration of a committee of 3 to 5 veterans, appointed by the county board of commissioners, who shall be residents of the county and who have served honorably on active duty in the United States armed forces or who served actively in the United States armed forces in a war or received an armed forces campaign or service medal, to be appointed upon the recommendation of the posts of each chartered veterans' organization within the county. Each member appointed shall have demonstrated knowledge, skills, and experience in public service, business, or finance. If an opening on a committee of veterans occurs, the county board of commissioners shall provide notice of that opening to 1 or more newspapers within the county and to veteran service organizations within the county. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law of this state to the contrary, a member of the board of commissioners of a county shall be eligible for appointment. Members appointed by the board of commissioners shall be appointed for a term of 4 years each. However, the terms for members first appointed shall be staggered so that not more than 2 vacancies are scheduled to occur in a single year. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments for the unexpired terms.


35.622 Soldiers' relief commission; abolition, transfer of powers and duties to county department of veterans' affairs.

Sec. 2. In any county in which the board of supervisors adopts the provisions of this act, section 2 of the act creating the soldiers' relief commission created under the provisions of Act No. 214 of the Public Acts of 1899, as amended, being section 35.22 of the Compiled Laws of 1948, is hereby declared to be inoperative and the powers and duties of commission are hereby transferred to the county department of veterans' affairs created under the provisions of this act, and wherever soldiers' relief commission is used in Act No. 214 of the Public Acts of 1899, as amended, and Act No. 235 of the Public Acts of 1911, as amended, being sections 35.801 to 35.804 of the Compiled Laws of 1948, it shall mean the county department of veterans' affairs herein created.


35.623 Administrative committee of county department; selection of officers, expenses; veterans' service officer, appointment; offices.

Sec. 3. The committee shall select a chairman and a secretary. The committee is authorized to incur such expense as shall be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this act within the budget set up by the board of supervisors. The members of the committee shall be entitled to receive the same per diem and mileage in attending meetings as members of the board of supervisors. The committee shall appoint a veterans' service officer and such other employees as shall be necessary from time to time to carry out the provisions of this act. In the selection of the veterans' service officer hereby authorized, the committee shall consult with and request the assistance of any association or council of organized veterans in such county, and any recommendation from such association or council of veterans as to the personnel to be appointed by said committee under the provisions of this act, while not binding on said committee, shall be given the greatest consideration. The board of supervisors shall furnish, equip and maintain reasonably adequate office facilities for the county department of veterans' affairs.


35.624 County department; powers and duties.

Sec. 4. The county department of veterans' affairs shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as
shall be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this act and any and all other benefits to which veterans may be entitled as prescribed by the county department of veterans' affairs.

FUNERAL EXPENSES OF VETERANS
Act 235 of 1911

AN ACT to provide for the payment and reimbursement by counties, in certain cases upon application therefor, of expenses incurred in the burial of the bodies of honorably discharged members of the armed forces of the United States, or their spouses, and to repeal certain acts or parts of acts.


The People of the State of Michigan enact:

35.801 Veterans' burial expenses; payment by county; application; definitions.
Sec. 1. (1) Except as otherwise provided under subsection (2), if an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the United States who served for a period of not less than 90 days of active service, or who is discharged under honorable conditions after serving less than 90 days of active service because of a service-connected disability, during a period of time in which the United States was at war or during the Vietnam conflict, or the spouse or surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States, dies possessed of an estate, both real and personal, not exceeding the sum of $25,000.00, over and above all encumbrances and was a resident of the state at the time of death and a resident of the state for a period of 6 months before entering the service or for a period of 3 years immediately before death, the county board of commissioners or the board of county auditors, upon application by the executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased person, or by the person who incurred or advanced expenses in connection with the burial of the honorably discharged member of the armed forces, or the spouse of the honorably discharged member of the armed forces, shall pay to the estate of the deceased person, or to the person who incurred or advanced the burial expense, the sum of $300.00. If the investigation provided for in section 2 shows that the deceased did not leave a dependent surviving, but did leave an estate sufficient to meet lawful claims, including burial expenses, then the county board of commissioners or the board of county auditors shall not pay the expenses. The application shall be submitted within 2 years after the date of death of the deceased person.

(2) On the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection, the estate limit provided for under subsection (1) shall be $40,000.00. This subsection does not apply to a county if the county board of commissioners passes a resolution by majority vote that exempts the county from the requirements of this subsection.

(3) If a county makes an election under subsection (2), the county shall file a copy of the resolution with the department of management and budget. The department of management and budget shall report not less than annually to the legislature which counties, if any, have made an election under subsection (2).

(4) As used in this act, “service” includes service in the armed forces of the United States in a place of emergency, as described in section 1 of 1965 PA 190, MCL 35.61, when ordered to do so by the government of the United States.

(5) As used in this section:
(a) “Estate” means the ownership of real or personal property at the time of death, the title to which was held either in the sole name of the decedent or by the entitleys in common, or joint tenancy with the spouse, child, or parent of the decedent, but does not include real property owned by the decedent as the homestead of the decedent.
(b) “Homestead” means a dwelling or a unit in a multiple unit dwelling and includes a mobile home or trailer coach.


Former law: See Act 170 of 1885, being CL 1897, §§ 1693 to 1696, which was repealed by Act 242 of 1899. Act 242 of 1899 was repealed by Act 39 of 1905, which was amended by Act 163 of 1907. Act 252 of 1909 expressly repealed Act 39 of 1905. Act 252 of 1909 was repealed by section 5 of this act.

35.802 Soldiers' relief commission; investigation of application for reimbursement, compensation.
Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the members of the soldiers' relief commission of each county, whenever
application is made for reimbursement by the county for such funeral expenses paid or advanced, or incurred for the burial of such deceased person, to make an investigation of such claim and report their action to the clerk of the board of supervisors of the county, or to the clerk of the board of county auditors as the case may be, in all cases setting forth all the facts, together with the name, rank and command to which such soldier, sailor, marine, nurse or member of the women's auxiliary belonged, and in case of such wife or widow, the rank and command to which her husband or deceased husband belonged, the name and service rendered as such army nurse, the date of his or her death, place where buried, and his or her residence and occupation while living. They shall require such person or persons who paid, advanced or incurred such burial expenses for such deceased person to furnish the board of supervisors, or board of county auditors in counties having a board of county auditors, with a sworn itemized statement of the expense incurred in the burial of the deceased person mentioned in the application. The members of the commission, except where they are paid a salary, shall receive from the county the sum of $2.00 per day for the time actually and necessarily employed by them in the performance of their duties.


35.803 Duties of county clerk; record of application and reimbursement; headstones.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the clerk of the board of supervisors or board of county auditors as the case may be upon receiving the report and statement of expenses provided for in the preceding section, to transcribe in a book kept for that purpose all the facts contained in said report respecting such deceased soldier, sailor or marine, or the deceased wife or widow of the same, or such deceased army nurse, and to report such application and statement to the board of supervisors or the board of county auditors, as the case may be, at the next meeting thereof. It shall be the further duty of said clerk upon the death and burial of any such soldier, sailor or marine, and upon request therefor, to make application to the proper authorities under the government of the United States for a suitable headstone as is now or may hereafter be provided by act of congress, and to cause the same to be placed at the head of the grave of such deceased soldier, sailor or marine. And also, to cause a suitable headstone to be placed at the head of the grave of the deceased wife or widow of such soldier, sailor or marine or army nurse if the same shall now or hereafter be provided by act of congress.


35.804 Veterans' funeral expenses; payment by county.

Sec. 4. All expenses incurred in such burial as provided in this act, shall be audited and paid by the board of supervisors, or board of county auditors in counties having a board of county auditors, the same as other legal charges against the county.

April 15, 2015

Ms. Susan Vander Pol
301 West Upton Avenue
Reed City, MI 49677

Re: County Incentive Grant Award

Dear Ms. Vander Pol:

Congratulations! Osceola County has been selected to receive a financial award from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, based on the Osceola County proposal to enhance its veteran service provision.

The total amount of the award is a one-time payment of $20,000, which will be electronically transferred once our agency receives the following information:

- The General Counsel’s Accreditation Letter for your new Veterans Service Officer
- Letter from the County’s Board of Commissioners stating their intentions to establish and sustain a permanent County Department of Veterans’ Affairs
- County Federal Tax ID number and mail code
- Transmittal routing and account number where funds should be deposited

If you have questions or need additional information please contact our Director of Targeted Outreach, Robert Price, at (517) 284-5209 or by email at pricer@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeff S. Barnes
Director