COUNTY OF OSCEOLA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Veterans Services Adhoc Committee

MINUTES
Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Meeting Called to Order by Chairperson Emig at 10:32 a.m.

Members Present: Commissioner Larry Emig, Commissioner Jack Nehmer, Scott Schryer – C.O.A. Director, Sara Youngs – Chief Deputy County Clerk, Dan Massy – Community Developer, Paul Griffith – Michigan Works SWC and Susan Vander Pol – County Coordinator.

Member Absent: Russ Nehmer (excused)

Public: Mike Wyman-Michigan Works SWC.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: None.

Agenda Approval: Motion by Commissioner Jack Nehmer, supported by Scott Schryer, to approve the agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comments: Mr. Wyman was in attendance with Mr. Griffith and he is familiar with some of the programs for veterans currently offered.

Committee Member Comments: Commissioner Emig gave an overview of the purpose of the Adhoc Committee.

Veteran’s Services and Staffing: Commissioner Emig provided some history of what the Board of Commissioners has been discussing in providing services to the veterans in Osceola County. The County currently has a Soldiers and Sailors Board, Veteran’s Trust Fund and provides burial and marker benefits.

Susan Vander Pol shared information regarding the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency requirements to receive the one-time $20,000 grant. An individual would need to be hired (Veterans Service Officer) or contracted who is accredited or will be accredited before September 15, 2015 and intent to have a permanent Department of Veterans Affairs provided. There would be 3 to 5 veterans appointed to oversee the department and Veterans Service Officer. Discussion was held on challenges that would be faced in completing this before September 15th, as well as oversight of the Veterans Services Officer and program if it is not under the Board of Commissioners.

Paul Griffith shared information on programs and staffing he is aware of that other counties are providing, as well as services the Michigan Works location could provide for an individual at their Reed City location.
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Information was provided by other committee members on their knowledge of programs offered for veterans and what other counties or veterans offices are doing. Sara Youngs mentioned it would be beneficial if the County were able to find a person who would perform the functions of a navigator to assist the veterans in finding programs and help with the coordination and paperwork involved to obtain benefits.

Additional discussion was held on whether it would be in the County’s best interest to accept the $20,000 grant or because of restrictions, establish their own office, staff and programs. The following recommendation was made:

**Recommended by Commissioner Nehmer, supported by Scott Schryer, to not accept the State of Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency one-time grant of $20,000. Recommendation was unanimously supported.**

Susan was asked to obtain job descriptions or independent contractor agreements from other counties, find out if the State will be providing other training for accreditation and staffing levels (full-or part-time) the surrounding counties have.

Additional discussion was held on having an employee versus a contracted service for the Veterans Officer position as well as potential hours worked.

The Committee set the day of Tuesday, June 30th at 10:30 a.m. for their next meeting.

**Committee Member Comments:** None.

**Extended Public Comments:** None.

Motion by Commissioner Nehmer, supported by Scott Schryer, to adjourn at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Susan M. Vander Pol
Osceola County Coordinator