

Bay County Veteran Affairs

Committee Meeting

Date: October 18, 2022

Subject: REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting called to order by the President of the Board, Vaughn Beqick at 3:00 pm.

Commissioners present were Vaughn Beqick, Mike Pergande, Troy Stewart, Marilyn Lazarz, and Tim Eckstein. Motion by Stewart 2nd by Lazarz to accept the July 2022 Committee Minutes.

Citizens Input

Mr. Jim Barcia announced that Craig Goulet accepted the Essexville City manager position, and that the County is looking for a replacement. Mr. Barcia also wanted to commend Leonard Norman for doing a great job on the Bay County Veteran Cemetery project.

Petitions and Communications

A grant for the Bay County Veterans Council from the State of Michigan for more than \$76,000, was submitted, a motion to accept by Eckstein 2nd by Pergande, all in favor.

Service Officer report:

Kaczmarek, not present

Old Business

Leonard Norman presented a brief on the Veterans Cemetery project. To date Mr. Norman has located 6,028 Veterans in 29 Cemeteries with 3 or 4 Cemeteries to go. He stated "I walk through the cemeteries and look at each marker, many cemeteries have the person's name but do not have them listed as a veteran".

Beqick- National Guard veterans are not listed as a veteran, they had to be "called up"
Pergande- the veteran had to be under title 10 orders, National orders to be considered a veteran. Pergande went on to say that his dad rests in Floral Gardens, however, there is no service head stone, his dad's service marker is on the veteran circle.

Lazarz- There are several veterans that don't have a head stone, can we check their

DD214 to verify they served and get them a marker? Marilyn said her father n law served on Normandy. Norman- some stones have the campaign they served in, Beqick they (family) may not have known their family members service information.

Lazarz- have the vaults been checked? Norman, no, how would we know if someone in the vault is a veteran, also there are may Midwestern veterans here.

Barcia- Thank you Leonard very much.

Pergande- do we open this to the public to see if we missed anyone? Both Barcia and Beqick thought this was a good idea. Eckstein- how do we verify a family's veteran, photo? Barcia, maybe Senator Peters or Congressman Kildee can have someone check federal records. Bowersock- we can check military records in Lansing.

Norman finished by stating that Kaczmarek and Bowersock will be able to add names to the list through funeral home notifications. Eckstein- move to accept the cemetery report, Lazarz 2nd, all in favor.

Beqick- Thomas Yuill's name will be placed on the front of the stone, we should notify any family in the area, we also need to identify a company then make them a county vendor, his church family plans on attending. Also, operation green light is October – November 11th, nationwide green porch lights will be lit. Veterans Day, no flags.

Amber Davis-Johnson- we are waiting on the definition of "indigent", Pergande- 2 years? Beqick we need to define indigent per State law by December.

Miscellaneous- None

New Business

IWO JIMA memorial is in place at the valley garden club, they need donations.

Eckstein- Challenge coins for chaplain Charles, the chaplain hands these out during military funeral honors, Eckstein purchased the first 100-150 coins, we are now in need of more, Beqick- the VVA may be able to help fund, they are looking for ways to spend down their account. The Vietnam wall 40th anniversary will be celebrated at 1100 on November 11th in Washington D.C. The POW/MIA service/River of time was a success.

Citizens Input- None

Motion to adjourn by Eckstein, 2nd by Stewart, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.