

**Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs
Relief Meeting
Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2016**

The Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs Relief Meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. in the County Commissioners Conference Room by Bob Fong, Chairman.

Roll Call: Bob Fong (BF), Terry Dykema (TD), Darrell Hogston (DH), Steve Fell (SF), Ruth Burmeister (RB).

Members Absent: Kim Loncar (excused).

Guests Present: None.

Claim #73-16 Claim for help with phone/cable and food.

Motion by SF to pay \$276.08 for phone/cable and food voucher.

Motion 2nd by TD.

Roll Call Vote: Terry Dykema, Darrell Hogston, Steve Fell, Bob Fong.

Yea – 4, Nay – 0 All in favor

Motion Approved.

V#82-16 \$200.00 food voucher

V#83-16 \$76.08 phone/cable

Claims Review Session was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. by Bob Fong, Chairman.

Went into Workshop Session.

Re-opened Relief Session at 9:50 a.m. by Bob Fong, Chairman.

After additional discussion on Claim #73-16, the Veteran will be assisted with bills in addition to those requested (see detail below) due to current adverse circumstances. Veteran has filed for additional VA benefits.

Motion by DH to pay \$2,318.78 for car loan payoff and auto insurance.

Motion 2nd by SF.

Roll Call Vote: Terry Dykema, Darrell Hogston, Steve Fell, Bob Fong.

Yea – 4, Nay – 0 All in favor

Motion Approved.

V#85-16 \$2,072.19 car loan balance payoff

V#86-16 \$170.33 auto insurance

Claims Review Session was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. by Bob Fong, Chairman.

Went into Workshop Session.

Public Act 161. Discussion of Disabled Veteran property tax exemption.

Workshop Session closed at 11:58 p.m. by Bob Fong, Chairman.

**Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs
Business Meeting
Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2016**

The Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs Business Meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. in the County Commissioners Conference Room by Bob Fong, Chairman.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Bob Fong - Chairman (BF), Terry Dykema (TD). Darrell Hogston (DH), Steve Fell (SF), Kim Loncar (KL), Ruth Burmeister (RB), Andy Sebolt - County Commissioner Liaison (AS).

Members Absent: None.

Guests Present: None.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by DH to accept Agenda as published:

Motion 2nd by SF.

Voice Vote: Yea – 5, Nay - 0 All in favor.

Motion Approved.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by SF to accept Consent Agenda as published.

Motion 2nd by DH.

Voice Vote: Yea – 5, Nay - 0 All in favor.

Motion Approved.

Correspondence – None.

Website Conference Call

Conference call from webmaster for session on website beta testing. Account login, security features, ease of use were demonstrated. Fillable forms will require installation of proper version of Adobe on the user's computer. Department members will continue to beta test new sections of website as they are released.

Sub-Committee Reports

VSO (Veterans Service Officer) Report – RB

VSO reported that recent DAV Training Conference she attended was worthwhile and well done.

Clerk shared information on:

- 1) Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) pilot program. The pilot program began July 1, 2016 and will run through the end of December 2016. Further information will be provided in early 2017 regarding the results of the program and any further changes. Veterans seeking MVTF assistance should apply online at MichiganVeterans.com or by calling 800-MICH-VET.
- 2) Announcement of retirement open house for the county administrator: Friday, July 29 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Oceana County Circuit Court Room.

- 3) “We Honor Veterans” ceremony, Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 1:30, at the Oceana County Council on Aging (OCCOA). The program is sponsored by Hospice of Michigan, AmVets and OCCOA. The program will feature a pinning and certificate ceremony to honor local Veterans.

Budget and Finance Committee - SF

New Expenditures:

V#-80-16: CardMember Services. \$1,372.57.

Motion by SF to pay \$1,372.57 for web host fee, VSO travel. Motion 2nd by KL.

Roll Call Vote: Terry Dykema, Darrell Hogston, Steve Fell, Kim Loncar, Bob Fong.
Yea – 5, Nay – 0 All in favor Motion Approved.

V#-82-16: Ruth Burmeister, VSO \$70.21.

Motion by SF to pay \$70.21 for VSO travel/training fees. Motion 2nd by DH.

Roll Call Vote: Terry Dykema, Darrell Hogston, Steve Fell, Kim Loncar, Bob Fong.
Yea – 5, Nay – 0 All in favor Motion Approved.

V#-84-16: Xonetech. \$2,420.00.

Motion by SF to pay \$2,420.00 for Webmaster services fee. Motion 2nd by DH.

Roll Call Vote: Terry Dykema, Darrell Hogston, Steve Fell, Kim Loncar, Bob Fong.
Yea – 5, Nay – 0 All in favor Motion Approved.

Budget Expenses Report:

Total department expenditures through end of June 2016. \$5,635.95.

Motion by SF to accept as published if no corrections, subject to audit. Motion 2nd by KL.

Voice Vote: Yea – 4, Nay – 0 All in favor. Motion Approved.

SF to request budget transfer of \$5,000 to cover Webmaster fees.

Balance available as of June 30, 2017: \$117,000.00

Discussion of offer from Frontier to reduce monthly internet fee requiring a two year contract commitment. Decision pending until Primary Election millage renewal results are in.

Community Relations – TD

Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – DH

Discussion on contacting Veterans College Coordinators/Advisors at local colleges regarding the VA Work-Study program, for possible candidates for second VSO position.

Policy and Procedures – BF

Although the millage renewal remains our current first priority, KL is continuing to work on department policy/procedures draft.

County Commissioner’s Veterans Liaison - Andy Sebolt

Nothing to report.

Old Business

Second computer for office. Decision pending until millage renewal results are in.

Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors (MACVC) brief to Committee. Date of presentation to be determined. The new County Administrator and the County Commissioners will be invited to attend this presentation on millage-funded offices.

Great Lakes People Fund and County Incentive Grants. Department will apply for new grants after August 2 Primary Election.

New Business

Millage Renewal. Recent meetings at the local Posts went well. More signage is needed for distribution and placement in the County. Informational ad needed in local paper.

Motion by SF to order more millage renewal signs, cost not to exceed \$250.00. Motion 2nd by DH.

Roll Call Vote: Terry Dykema, Darrell Hogston, Steve Fell, Kim Loncar, Bob Fong.
Yea – 5, Nay – 0 All in favor Motion Approved.

Motion by SF to place informational ad, cost not to exceed \$300.00. Motion 2nd by DH.

Roll Call Vote: Terry Dykema, Darrell Hogston, Steve Fell, Kim Loncar, Bob Fong.
Yea – 5, Nay – 0 All in favor Motion Approved.

No further committee business at this time.

No public comments.

Adjournment

Motion by DH to close Department Meeting Motion 2nd by SF.
Department Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m. by Bob Fong, Chairman.

The next general meeting will be Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

9:00 a.m. Veterans Affairs Relief Meeting

1:00 p.m. Veterans Affairs Business Meeting, held in **County Commissioners Board Room.**

Refreshments – KL

Bob Fong, Chairman

Kim Loncar, Secretary