



MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 2024

Includes Meeting Minutes from
Special Meeting Held 6/7/24

PREPARED BY

Christa Hammers
Superintendent

MEETING AGENDA

6-26-2024

- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Chaplain's Prayer
- IV. Roll Call of Officers
- V. Reading & Approval of Meeting Minutes/Special Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
 - b. Property Update
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

Meeting MINUTES

5-22-24

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

President Andy Ruggerio called the meeting to order at 5:01pm and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

Tom Troutman - VFW - Mendota / Greg Stock - AmLeg - Marseilles / Gary Graffis - AmVets - Ottawa / John Duback - AmVetes - Ottawa / Roscoe Mazur - AmLeg - Oglesby / Phil Harth - AmLeg - Mendota / OTHER: Leah Erikson, Realtor

Officers Present

President – Andy Ruggerio
Vice President – Dennis Znaniacki
Guard – Elton Murphy
Chaplain – Harold Olsen

Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent
Lissa Olson - Assistant Superintendent
James Sturtevant- VSO
Emily Hackler- VSO
Kelli Rietgraf - Administrative Assistant

Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:

Motion by Roscoe Mazur and seconded by Harold Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

NONE.

Superintendent's Report

Christa told the commission that the office held the 4th annual Veterans Expo on May 16th and had a total of 47 Vendors and roughly 150 people came through.

Christa also discussed that Lissa and Emily were able to go to Colorado to National Training from May 11-17. Lissa discussed that they were able to witness an actual 3 judge panel board hearing. They also witnessed the first ever one-stop service connection event. The Veteran went from filing the claim to going into exams, to getting either approved or denied all in one event.

Christa then told the commission that the office will be closed on May 27th in honor of Memorial Day. The office staff is encouraged to participate or support area events.

Christa then stated that the legislation that prevents those that are not accredited from assisting in Veterans claims filing has passed both houses and is on the Governor's desk for signature. It is called the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act.

Christa then stated that the office has brought in over \$3.9 Million to Veterans and their Families so far this year. This is over \$1.2 Million from where we were last year at this time.

Christa stated to the Board that she had a presentation regarding the two properties and when that portion of the meeting came up, she would ask that all members be able to view the TV.

Superintendent's report was motioned for approval by Dennis Znaniecki and seconded by Harold Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting MINUTES

Old Business

NONE.

New Business

Christa went over the properties via presentation.

A vote then took place on which property the VAC Board would like to make an offer on.

President Andy Ruggerio informed the VAC Board that it was the concensus after discussion that the North property was the better option and made the most sense for the VAC's future.

The VAC Board unanimously voted to make an offer on the property to the North of our current location at no more than asking price.

The Board asked that Christa work with Leah Erikson in order for that to happen.

For the Good of the Commission

Elton stated that the VFW has their burger night tomorrow- 5/23 Memorial Day they have a car show and you can still enter to be in it.

Phil stated that Dependent ID Cards (DOD Cards) are now different and make sure you have the correct one. Plan to be completely phased out of "old" cards by 2026. Discussed where to go for an appointment, Rock Island, Peoria, Darien and others.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Phil Harth.

Motion passed unanimously at 5:23pm.

Special Meeting MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING - JUNE 7, 2024

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

President Andy Ruggerio called the meeting to order at 12 pm and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

Thomas Shea - AmLeg - Ottawa / Greg Stock - AmLeg - Marseilles / John Koehler - AmLeg - Oglesby / Louis Sekula - AmLeg - LaSalle / Ron Sisco - AmLeg- Mendota / Gary Graffis - AmVets - Ottawa / John Duback - AmVets - Ottawa / Chuck Erb - VFW - Marseilles

Officers Present

President – Andy Ruggerio
Vice President – Dennis Znaniiecki- EXCUSED
Guard – Elton Murphy
Chaplain – Harold Olsen

Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent
Lissa Olson - Assistant Superintendent
James Sturtevant- VSO
Emily Hackler- VSO
Kelli Rietgraf - Administrative Assistant

Special Meeting MINUTES

Due to the nature of a special meeting- no old minutes were presented for accepting.

Opening Prayer/Pledge and Roll Call was taken.

Superintendent's Report

Christa told the commission that the Board has convened to go over an approve or deny two resolutions between the VAC and County Boards.

Resolution 24-001:

To add an additional line number to our current budget and for future budgets that any and all "excess" monies will go into for use on the property purchase and building of the VAC building.

Resolution 24-002:

That the VAC is to purchase land in the amount of \$185 thousand and that the property purchased and eventual building will be that of the VAC's.

The Resolutions were viewed and discussed by the commission and President Andy Ruggerio called for a vote to accept as-is Resolution 24-001.

Seconded by Harold Olsen.

A roll call vote was called:

Thomas Shea - "yay"
Greg Stock - "yay"
John Koehler- "yay"
Andy Ruggerio - "yay"
Louis Sekula- "yay"
Ron Sisco- "yay"
Gary Graffis- "yay"
Elton Murphy- "yay"
Harold Olsen- "yay"
Charles Erb- "yay"

Motion to accept and enact Resolution 24-001 is unanimous.

Meeting MINUTES

Superintendent's Report Continued

President Andy Ruggerio called for a vote to accept as-is Resolution 24-002.
Seconded by Elton Murphy.

A roll call vote was called:

Thomas Shea - "yay"
Greg Stock - "yay"
John Koehler- "yay"
Andy Ruggerio - "yay"
Louis Sekula- "yay"
Ron Sisco- "yay"
Gary Graffis- "yay"
Elton Murphy- "yay"
Harold Olsen- "yay"
Charles Erb- "yay"

Motion to accept and enact Resolution 24-002 is unanimous.

President Andy Ruggerio asked for closing prayer and salute to colors.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Chuck Erb.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting concluded at 12:15pm.

END OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.

JUNE

Office Activity:

The office has an accepted offer on the North property. Contract has been signed by our current president and earnest money has been turned in. Next is getting the property soil checked and there is one bid right now, waiting on one more to get that completed. Christa has a couple of future meetings with the County Board to go over financing this build and then we can discuss and decide on who we are going to have in charge of the build process.

The office had a special meeting held on June 7 to go over resolutions for the VAC to the County. One was in regard to making a new line item for current budget "overages" to be put into along with any future excess money for the funding of the future building/property. The second was for the VAC to be the future holder of the property and building with the County responsibilities to be those of just what the MVAA entails.

The budget will be worked on and presented at next board meeting. The VAC staff will also be presenting, if desired- for their bonuses.

MAY Office Activity			
Office Visits	99	Intent to File	29
Phone	746	Intital Claims	32
Outstation	14	Appeals	28
Mendota	4	VA Healthcare	5
Streator	7	Pension/DIC	5
Marseilles	3	Other	157

OFFICE OTHER ACTIVITIES- MAY			
PTSD GROUP	39	WALK-INS:	56
FLUTES	11	APPT MADE	14
VHA	0	QUESTIONS	42
MidWest Shelter	0	TOTAL:	106

MAY Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2024 Amount	Monthly Amount
70%	11/21/2023	Dec-24	\$ 22,367.36	\$ 1,716.28
DIC	8/14/2023	Dec-24	\$ 61,234.31	\$ 1,955.21
Burial	8/14/2024	Dec-24	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
90%	11/6/2023	Dec-24	\$ 38,676.60	\$ 2,374.65
10%	12/28/2023	Dec-24	\$ 2,739.68	\$ 171.23
DIC	2/14/2023	Dec-24	\$ 43,044.15	\$ 1,612.75
Burial	2/14/2023	Dec-24	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
dependent	11/1/2024	Dec-24	\$ 1,671.00	\$ 93.00
80%	1/10/2023	Dec-24	\$ 40,324.77	\$ 2,447.01
100% P&T	1/13/2023	Dec-24	\$ 107,858.23	\$ 4,078.99
10%	10/9/2023	Dec-24	\$ 3,076.83	\$ 171.23
dependent	9/1/2022	Dec-24	\$ 3,797.44	\$ 115.62
10%	1/10/2023	Dec-24	\$ 4,570.11	\$ 171.23
30%	7/5/2023	Dec-24	\$ 11,469.78	\$ 524.31
dependent	10/17/2022	Dec-24	\$ 7,050.00	\$ 288.00
100%	8/7/2023	Dec-24	\$ 85,279.35	\$ 4,078.99
40%	10/4/2023	Dec-24	\$ 11,814.99	\$ 838.28
100% P&T	4/11/2023	Dec-24	\$ 66,810.11	\$ 3,946.25
80%	1/25/2024	Dec-24	\$ 27,131.04	\$ 2,161.01
dependent	4/1/2023	Dec-24	\$ 3,397.85	\$ 135.05
dependent	8/10/2022	Dec-24	\$ 3,134.00	\$ 104.00
70%	3/20/2024	Dec-24	\$ 23,699.60	\$ 1,861.28
10%	3/8/2024	Dec-24	\$ 2,397.22	\$ 171.23
dependent	12/13/2024	Dec-24	\$ 3,334.40	\$ 208.40
DIC	3/13/2024	Dec-24	\$ 32,218.52	\$ 2,354.29
30%	12/19/2023	Dec-24	\$ 7,704.04	\$ 524.31
60%	1/10/2024	Dec-24	\$ 21,381.24	\$ 1,619.62
80%	6/27/2023	Dec-24	\$ 23,940.12	\$ 1,995.01
100%	3/5/2024	Dec-24	\$ 2,225.99	\$ 171.23
30%	1/17/2023	Dec-24	\$ 14,518.08	\$ 524.31
70%	2/27/2024	Dec-24	\$ 21,658.56	\$ 1,716.28
100%	1/5/2024	Dec-24	\$ 63,764.46	\$ 4,859.46
70%	10/27/2023	Dec-24	\$ 41,690.40	\$ 1,994.02
80%	1/25/2024	Dec-24	\$ 40,469.40	\$ 2,365.01
100%	2/7/2024	Dec-24	\$ 33,896.43	\$ 4,648.42
20%	4/10/2024	Dec-24	\$ 4,061.88	\$ 338.49
		Total	\$886,407.94	\$52,334.45
		Year to Date Total	\$4,790,240.78	\$450,089.33

The VAC is happy to report that we are keeping on trend with an increase to benefits paid out to our Veterans and Families! Totalling \$4.7 Million by the end of May 2024. This is over \$1.5 MIL more than where we were FY23. We continue to see new clients daily and thank all our Veterans and Families for trusting us with their claims process.

Our Office
OVERVIEW