



Minutes - July 18, 2023

Call to Order: Chair Rashkin called the hybrid meeting of the Education & Veterans Committee to order on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 5:02 P.M., in Conference Room N1, Rock County Courthouse East.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Rashkin, Peer, Sutterlin, Clasen and Crary.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Paul Crawford, Veteran Service Officer.

Others Present: None.

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Sutterlin moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Crary. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Approval of Minutes:

June 20, 2023 Minutes: Supervisor Peer moved approval of the minutes of June 20, 2023 as presented, second by Supervisor Sutterlin. ADOPTED.

Approval of Transfers: None.

Review of Payments:

May Payments: The committee accepted the report.

June Payments: The committee accepted the report.

Review and Approval of Resolutions: None.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Discussion Regarding School Superintendents Updates: No reports today. County Administrator Josh Smith continues to reach out to superintendents for updates.

Veterans Service Office Updates : Mr. Crawford said they received the first rough draft blueprint of the new building. They made some tweaks and should be receiving the final drawing hopefully, yet this week. The next step would be to write up the lease. If everything goes as planned, they are still on target for a January move-in date. Supervisor Sutterlin asked about the design costs. Mr. Crawford said our Facilities Director, Brent Sutherland, would be best to answer any monetary questions. Supervisors can reach out to Mr. Sutherland by phone or email.

Mr. Crawford is working on a social media campaign with Madison Media. It is a three-month campaign that will cost somewhere between \$6,000 and \$8,000. He is still considering the best timing for the campaign (before or after the move). Funds must be used before 12/31/24. The committee expressed concern of whether the office would be adequately staffed for the increased workload. Mr. Crawford said he will begin tracking client visits to the office. He will create a waitlist for services if needed and monitor the wait times closely. For transparency purposes, the committee asked Mr. Crawford to post the reasons and advantages for consolidating the offices on both the Veterans Facebook and website pages.

Mr. Crawford said they will have a tent at the fair next week. They have purchased promotional giveaway items. He said they receive \$14,000 from WDVA (Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs) every year. Most years this money does not get used but he is looking into how he can use the funds this year.

Mr. Crawford said the Veterans Service Commission currently consists of three commissioners. They are long-standing members. They would like to add two additional commissioners to the commission. The only requirement is that they must be a Rock County veteran. There would be an application process to find the new commissioners. Mr. Crawford has talked with other CVSO's about additional things that their commissions do. He is looking into a possible transportation grant. The addition of two more commissioners would be low risk/high reward.

Committee Requests: Supervisor Clasen would like to discuss the role of the committee and the possible use of ARPA funds on our next agenda.

Next meeting date and time: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.

Adjournment: Supervisor Clasen moved to adjournment at 5:38 P.M., second by Supervisor Sutterlin. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracey VanZandt
Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.