

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
2650 LaFranier Rd, Traverse City, MI 49686  
Public Services Building

**Thursday, January 24, 2019 @ 8:00 AM**

**BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE / CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Leelanau County Representative Alan Aldrich, John Block, Robert "Art" Eisner, Bill Fowle, Ron Hofmeister, Neal Horning, GTC Commissioner Gordie LaPointe, Rachel Sherman

Staff: Michael Roof, Erin Whitney

Absent: Mollie Sourek

Guests: Veterans Coalition President John Lefler, Deanna Sinclair-Parker, Liz Walker

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE**

None

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Roof had form for chairman to sign

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

a. Board Chairman

Nominations – Eisner, by Hofmeister

Seconded – Fowle

Election of Eisner as Board Chairman – Approved unanimously

b. Vice Chairman

Nominations – Eisner nominated Hofmeister

Seconded – Fowle

Election of Hofmeister as Vice Chairman – Approved unanimously

c. Secretary

Nominations – Hofmeister nominated Horning

Seconded – Fowle

Election of Horning as Secretary – Approved unanimously

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes– Hofmeister

Seconded – Fowle

Approved unanimously

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Roof clarified for the committee that there is \$10,000 not yet listed under “Revenues” but it will be on next month’s report. This is a grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and will go toward outreach and helping peacetime veterans with emergent needs. He also pointed out that there is \$323,000 not reflected on budget due to three senior staff members leaving last year and only two positions filled. He has requested that balance be added to a line item, but it is not part of this year’s budget. The money does not go back into the general fund. A percentage of the millage goes into a contingency fund in the event the millage is not renewed. Roof clarified for LaPointe that all contingency funds came from millage. Block requested “Existing Revenue Balance” be added under “Revenues.” At Hofmeister’s inquiry Roof stated that the vehicle purchase is reflected under line item 978 on “Expenditures.”

Motion to approve financial reports– Hofmeister

Seconded – Horning

Approved unanimously

### **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Roof reported that the contract with Benzie County has ended and Leelanau County has renewed their MOU. The office has continued outreach into community to try and reach more veterans who may not otherwise encounter this office. He stated that the office has been advertising in the local papers, via flyers, and social media. LaPointe suggested also informing the townships. Lefler offered to contact radio stations, and Roof will provide his schedule to help coordinate. Fowle offered to post office literature at Traverse City VA clinic. Eisner and Lefler stated for edification of board that outreach has increased tenfold over the past year. Roof stated he would provide quarterly reports to Board of Commissioners regarding office activity, assisted by a spreadsheet created by VSO Dailey for employees to track veterans assisted. The second Tuesday of each month staff will attend the Senior Network coffee hour to

discuss benefits. Roof mentioned that Justice for Vets has informed him they have not yet received paperwork from Court Coordinator Carol Stocking. Roof clarified for the committee that county attorney Forscythe has reviewed relevant laws and determined the VA committee has full authority over office policies – county commissioners approve the millage and large expenditures only.

Motion to approve director's report – Fowle

Seconded – Block

Approved unanimously

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Annual Report - County commissioners to visit office later today, at which time Roof will provide copies of annual report, to detail office activity and expenditures. Roof provided overview of Michigan Veterans Trust Fund program and how it is utilized to assist Grand Traverse County veterans.

Motion to approve Annual Report – Fowle

Seconded – Hofmeister

Approved unanimously

b. Veterans' Relief - The office has been granted \$10,000 from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Roof requested approval to use \$6,000 for assisting peacetime veterans with emergent needs and \$4,000 on outreach and vehicle wrapping.

Motion to approve proposed usage of \$10,000 grant - Sherman

Seconded – Horning

Approved unanimously

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM