



STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ZANETA ADAMS
DIRECTOR

PROPOSED MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING

January 12, 2021

Board of Trustees and Staff

Chairperson Barry Wood, present
Vice Chairperson, vacant
Trustee James Tighe, present
Trustee Carol Hebert, present
Trustee Jim Dempsey, present
Trustee Jill Mathews, present
Trustee Thomas Smith, present
Lindell Holm, Director present
Carolyn Harden, Departmental Supervisor, present
Dawn Shinaver, Departmental Analyst, present

Chairperson Wood called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

Notice of Open Meetings Act Compliance – Yes

Chairperson Wood received confirmation that the meeting notices were posted pursuant to Public Act 267 of 1976, the Open Meetings Act.

Introduction of Guests

Zaneta Adams, Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
Julie Cowie, Project Manager, Michigan Veterans Entrepreneur Lab, Grand Valley State University

Public Comments

MVAA Director Adams gave an update on the MVAA Community Outreach and Regional Engagement Initiative (CORE) process. Director Adams also reported that the State of Michigan hiring freeze has been lifted and positions will begin being posted very soon. A brief discussion followed. Director Adams also reported that the State and the VA are now offering vaccinations to individuals that are in approved groups. Julie Cowie, Project Manager, Michigan Veterans Entrepreneur Lab, Grand Valley State University gave an overview of their program and how it works directly with veterans, assisting them with their entrepreneurship ideas through their Michigan Veterans Entrepreneur Lab at GVSU. Cowie briefed the Board on how many veterans they have assisted and would like to create opportunities to work with the MVTF to assist more veterans through a possible partnership.

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION (Jill Mathews/Carol Hebert) to approve the Public Meeting Minutes, of December 8, 2020, MVTF Board Meeting, passed and carried.

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A total of 16 appeals and reviews were considered and discussed

Case 73 (Region 9, Washtenaw County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for delinquent mortgage in the amount of \$10,764.78.

Case 74 (Region 10, Wayne County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for electric in the amount of \$103.97, water/sewer in the amount of \$692.19 and rent in the amount of \$1,750.00.

Case 75 (Region 8, Calhoun County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application for a drain and sump pump installation in the amount of \$7,680.00. The remaining request for home repairs in the amount of \$23,459.00 was disapproved.

Case 76 (Region 1B, Marquette County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for a new furnace in the amount of \$4,800.00 in an interim decision.

Case 77 (Region 10, Wayne County)

Withdrawn

Case 78 (Region 5, Midland County)

Resolved

Case 79 (Region 10, Oakland County)

Resolved

Case 80 (Region 10, Oakland County)

Resolved

Case 81 (Region 3, Roscommon County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for a new boiler in the amount of \$4,800.00 in an interim decision.

Case 82 (Region 4B, Montcalm County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for and new furnace in the amount of \$5,145.00 and a hot water heater in the amount of \$1,720.00 in an interim decision.

Case 83 (Region 8, Calhoun County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for vehicle insurance in the amount of \$320.00 and new tires in the amount of \$510.00.

Case 84 (Region 8, Kalamazoo County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for delinquent rent in the amount of \$4,492.60.

Case 85 (Region 5, Saginaw County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for heat/electric in the amount of \$596.42, rent in the amount of \$1,435.00 and water/sewer in the amount of \$185.14.

Case 86 (Region 6, St. Clair County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for delinquent mortgage in the amount of \$10,453.10.

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Case 87 (Region 10, Macomb County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for delinquent rent in the amount of \$8,685.00.

Case 88 (Region 3, Crawford County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for a new roof and fascia in the amount of \$12,550.00.

Case 89 (Region 4A, Ottawa County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for trenching in the amount of \$5,500.00 and water hook-up in the amount of \$15,300.00 in an interim decision.

Case 90 (Region 4B, Ionia County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for vehicle repairs in the amount of \$8,685.00.

Case 91 (Region 4A, Newaygo County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for a new roof in the amount of \$9,625.00.

Case 92 (Region 4B, Allegan County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for a new boiler in the amount of \$6,200.00 in an interim decision.

Case 93 (Region 2, Leelanau County)

Resolved

The total amount authorized for emergency grants approved/partially approved was ten for **\$73,187.81**.

A MOTION (Carol Hebert/Jill Mathews) to accept the emergency grant approvals and denials made in the January 12, 2021 case discussion, passed, and carried.

Accounting Report

Presented without comment

Ineligibles/Administrative Errors – Reconsideration

None

County & District Committees--Committee Appointments

Presented

A MOTION (Carol Hebert/Jill Mathews) to accept the appointments was made, passed, and carried.

Unfinished Business

Director Holm reported on the MVAA Food 4 Vets program supported by the Board's grant will use food cards specific stores that can verify that purchases will be for food only. Currently, the challenge is to find stores that operate in the northern parts of the state and can provide this verification. Holm added that these cards will be disbursed to 10 regions and will include the MVAA logo as well as the MVTF logo and will begin distribution next

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month. Director Holm reported that the MVAA and the MVTF will be moving office spaces this coming April or as COVID restrictions allow. Holm also discussed the Strategic Plan timeline. A discussion followed.

New Business

Director Holm discussed a draft of the set of bylaws for review and discussion. A brief discussion followed. Holm reported that the GVSU proposal is set to be done by the new Strategic Planning Committee once it is approved in April 2021 and then every July thereafter. A discussion of the strategic appointment committee volunteers was discussed. Chairperson Barry Wood, Trustee James Dempsey, and Director Lindell Holm all volunteered to serve. A brief discussion and process followed. Chair Barry Wood discussed policy #302 and suggested title changes within that policy. Chairman Wood made nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman with voting to occur at the February 8, 2021 MVTF meeting.

A MOTION (Carol Hebert/Jill Mathews) to table the by-laws presented until a review by the Attorney General's office could be conducted and to discuss at the February 8, 2021 MVTF Board Meeting, passed, and carried.

A MOTION (JJ Tighe/Carol Hebert) to change titles of Chairman to Chairperson and Vice Chairman to Vice Chairperson, passed, and carried.

MVTF Board Activities

None, due to COVID restrictions.

MVTF Staff Activities

Director Holm reported that the MVTF staff is restricted to enter State Office Buildings for two weeks due to outside threats to State Office Buildings. Holm added that the MVTF will be able to print checks and mail to veterans in need during this time using resources at the Joint Forces Quarters (JFQ) facilities.

Good of the Order

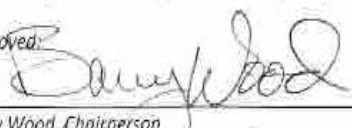
MVTF Staff person Dawn Shinaver shared a story of a veteran who was in dire need of water and was helped by receiving a grant from the MVTF. She reported that he was so thankful that he vowed to make a monthly donation to the MVTF.

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

A MOTION (Carol Hebert/Jill Mathews) to adjourn passed and carried.

Approved:


Barry Wood, Chairperson

Date