



STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ZANETA ADAMS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

December 8, 2020

Board of Trustees and Staff

Chairperson Barry Wood, present
Vice Chairperson Robert Williams, excused
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 10:32 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
Michael Hyacinthe, Regional Veteran Engagement Specialist for Habitat for Humanity, International/Michigan
Lori Hornbeck, Office of Good Government, Department of Technology, Management and Budget

Public Comments

MVAA Director Adams reported that the MVAA is updating and revising the strategic plan for the entire agency and added that, once completed, they will be posted on the MVAA webpage. Director Adams also briefed the Board on the MVAA Community Outreach and Regional Engagement Initiative (CORE) and gave an update on the tracking of these interactions and outreach. Director Adams reported that last month the MVAA launched the Speakers Bureau Program which offers speaking presentations of the lives and service of our 550,000 Michigan veterans for all schools public and private, as well as having these speakers to be available to speak at other speaking events throughout the state. Director Adams also gave an update on the WJR radio show in January. A brief discussion followed.

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Approval of Minutes

A MOTION (Carol Hebert/Jim Dempsey) to approve the Public Minutes, of November 10, 2020, passed and carried.

A total of 15 appeals and reviews were considered during the December 8, 2020 case discussion

Case 58 (Region 1, Marquette County)

Moved to January

Case 59 (Region 4a, Oceana County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for a wood stove in the amount of \$900.00 and wood in the amount of \$540.00 in an interim decision.

Case 60 (Region 4b, Kent County)

Withdrawn

Case 61 (Region 3, Roscommon County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for a new septic tank and drain field in the amount of \$5,350.00 in an interim decision.

Case 62 (Region 10, Wayne County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for electric in the amount of \$287.39, rent in the amount of \$759.00 and vehicle payments in the amount of \$1,451.00.

Case 63 (Region 10, Macomb County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for mortgage in the amount of \$6,392.12.

Case 64 (Region 3, Presque Isle County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application for a new furnace in the amount of \$2,780.00.

Case 65 (Region 10, Wayne County)

Withdrawn

Case 66 (Region 5, Midland County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for furnace, air conditioning and hot water heater in the amount of \$8,904.00.

Case 67 (Region 10, Wayne County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for rent in the amount of \$6,469.13 or \$5,019.13 after you paid a portion.

Case 68 (Region 9, Washtenaw County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for rent and water in the amount of \$16,760.06.

Case 69 (Region 4a, Oceana County)

Withdrawn

Case 70 (Region 5, Midland County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application for new metal roof in the amount of \$3,600.00 and the remaining portion in the amount of \$1,000.00 will be paid by you.

Case 71 (Region 4a, Mecosta County)

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- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for new septic and drain field system in the amount of \$9,000.00.

Case 72 (Region 10, Wayne County)

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application for a new home roof in the amount of \$6,000.00.

The total amount authorized for emergency grants approved/partially approved was five for **\$15,667.39**.

A MOTION (James Dempsey/Jill Mathews) to accept the emergency grant approvals and denials made in the December 8, 2020 case discussion, passed, and carried.

Accounting Report

Presented

Ineligibles/Administrative Errors – Reconsideration

None

County & District Committees--Committee Appointments

None

Unfinished Business

Lori Hornbeck (DTMB) presented the MVTF Strategic Plan to the Board, adding that this is a “living document”. Timeline discussion requirements and deadlines were addressed and some considerations of changing time-line objections were discussed and considered. Discussion and some minor edits followed. Lori Hornbeck also addressed additional staffing requirements needed in conjunction with the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

A MOTION (James Dempsey/JJ Tighe) to accept the Strategic Plan and to implement it, passed and carried.

A MOTION (James Dempsey/Jill Mathews) to request an exemption to the hiring freeze in order to hire an additional staff person to assist with the Strategic Plan and the additional county-based application workload due to COVID19, passed and carried.

Director Holm gave an overview of the Meijer voucher food initiative and passed on a request from the MVAA to consider a contribution to continue the efforts to help veterans facing food insecurity during the COVID 19 pandemic.

A ROLE CALL VOTE to continue to support the MVAA food programs to assist all peacetime and wartime veterans facing food insecurity in the amount up to \$300,000 passed and carried.

Director Holm gave an update of the MVTF’s 75th Anniversary and suggested the Board consider purchasing facemasks commemorating the 75th anniversary to be made available for veterans. Holm presented a few logos and designs of facemasks for distribution by the end of January 2021. Discussion followed.

A MOTION (James Dempsey/Jill Mathews) to approve MVTF’s 75th Anniversary facemasks to be distributed to veterans, passed, and carried.

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New Business

Director Holm reported on an opportunity to collaborate with Habitat for Humanity International/Habitat Michigan. Michael Hyacinthe with Habitat for Humanity (H4H) gave a presentation and brief history of funding and the work of H4H and how H4H would like to collaborate with the MVTF to support veteran engagement efforts through a two-year grant. Hyacinthe added that H4H is uniquely positioned at both grassroots and regional level to connect and focus resources to and for veterans. Director Holm presented a possible two-year timeline to reach the desired outcome. Supporting documents and board discussion followed.

A MOTION (James Dempsey/Jill Matthews) to approve a two-year grant program collaborating with Habitat for Humanity, International/Michigan, passed and carried.

MVTF Board Activities

None.

MVTF Staff Activities

Director Holm reported that he and Chairman Wood attended (virtually) the Grand Valley State University Michigan Veteran Entrepreneurs Laboratory pitch program last week.

Good of the Order

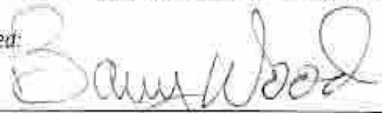
None.

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

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

Approved:



Barry Wood, Chairperson

1/13/2021

Date