



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY
LANSING

BRIAN LOVE
DIRECTOR

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN VETERANS TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 13, 2026
Board of Trustees and Staff

Chairperson James Dempsey, present
Vice Chairperson Paul McIvor, present
Trustee Ray Lopez, present
Trustee John Gardner, excused
Trustee Rodney Loonsfoot, present
Trustee Gregory Spight, present
Trustee Kimberly Napoleon, present
Lindell Holm, Director, present
Carolyn Harden, Departmental Supervisor, present

Chairperson Dempsey called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Notice of Open Meetings Act Compliance

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

Introduction of Guests

Joanne Skippergosh, State Adjutant, MIDAV (Michigan Disabled American Veterans)
Michael DeLaRosa, Director, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan

Accounting Reports

Presented.

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Rodney Loonsfoot) to approve the Public Minutes of December 9, 2025, passed and carried.

A total of 16 appeals/reviews were reviewed in a closed case discussion for January 13, 2026.

Case TFGA 2084

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$14,250.

Case TFGA 2159

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application in the amount of \$22,000.00.

Case TFGA 2175

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application in the amount of \$25,000.00.

MVTF Board Meeting
January 13, 2026

Case TFGA 2208

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$13,800.00.

Case TFGA 2216

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$590.00.

Case TFGA 2237

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$20,012.06.

Case TFGA 2249 – Appeal

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved of your application in the amount of \$1,597.58.

Case TFGA 2267

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$7,682.51.

Case TFGA 2271

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$5,971.15.

Case TFGA 2280

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$11,040.00.

Case TFGA 2290

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved of your application in the amount of \$4,700.00.

Case TFGA 2321

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$8,900.00.

Case TFGA 2234

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$7,945.00.

Case TFGA 2275

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$11,760.00.

Case TFGA 2287

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$5,995.00.

Case TFGA 2303

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$6,000.00.

The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved: was fourteen for **\$157,963.21**.
The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved for 65+ Peacetime was zero.

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Ray Lopez) to accept the emergency grant approvals presented during January 13, 2026, case discussion, passed and carried in the amount of **\$157,963.21**.

County & District Committees--Committee Appointments

None.

Ineligibles/Administrative Errors – Reconsideration

MVTF Board Meeting January 13, 2026

None.

Unfinished Business

Director Holm gave an update on the funding situation for the Salesforce online application project that was previously approved by the Board. DMVA Fiscal stated that it would be necessary to request a legislative transfer of \$200,000 from the Grants line of funding (68810) to the Administration line of funding (68800) in order to cover the costs for the Salesforce online application project.

MVTF Director Holm gave a brief update on the Congressional Medal of Honor Society annual conference host committee meeting he recently attended. A brief discussion followed.

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Gregory Spight) for approval to request a legislative transfer from Grant funding (68800) to Administrative funding (68810) of up to \$200,000 to be allocated for the Salesforce online application, passed and carried.

New Business

MVTF Director Holm discussed that he plans on attending the upcoming NASDVA (National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs) meeting, which is being held March 1-4, 2026, asking for Chairperson Dempsey to consider attending. Trustee Loonsfoot indicated that he will more than likely be attending that meeting as well.

Director Holm reported that the FY25 report is complete and that he intends to share that with the board soon. Holm reported that in 2025, \$2 million was given out with just over 900 applications. A brief discussion followed.

Holm reported on a new policy proposal for the MVTF Board to consider and approve (new policy was provided via email to the trustees). Holm stated that the new policy proposal recommends giving the MVTF director interim authority to approve certain board review cases up to \$7,000. Holm reported that it will reduce workload on staff and board and it will expedite payment of certain applications. The proposed policy provides that the director may not disapprove any applications reviewed under this authority. Applications that do not meet these criteria will continue to be reviewed by the board of trustees according to the normal process. Board approval for these cases will be treated in the same manner as any other interim application approved by the Board of Trustees.

Director Holm gave an update on upcoming MVTF Trustees' term dates. MIDAV State Adjutant, Joanne Skippergosh gave DAV updates stating there are no concerns currently. Skippergosh reported that there is a DAV State Convention that will be taking place in Traverse City.

MVTF Director Holm reported that he and MVAA Director, Brian Love will be meeting with the Texas Veterans Land Board and Treasury to discuss the possibility of creating a Veterans' Land Loan Program in Michigan.

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Gregory Spight) to accept the proposed policy for adoption as an approved Board of Trustees Policy (BTP #401), passed and carried.

Strategic Programs Sub-Committee Reports

None.

MVTF Board Activities

MVTF Board Meeting
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The American Legion will be holding a meeting in February 6-8, 2026, in Port Huron and the VFW will be holding their mid-winter conference January 28 – February 1, 2026.

MVTF Staff Activities

Director Holm reported that there is a scheduled briefing that he will be providing at the War Memorial on January 22, 2026, and MVTF Outreach Analyst, Erik Napieralski, will be attending a resource fair on Feb 12th at the War Memorial in Grosse Pointe as well.

Good of the Order

MVTF Director Holm reported that Keith King, former chairperson of the Board of Trustees, recently passed away. A brief discussion followed.

Public Comments

Michael DeLaRosa, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan reported that Habitat is thankful for the partnership with MVTF and indicated that they would like to promote this partnership at upcoming conferences that are scheduled in Battle Creek, March 18-19, Gaylord, August 5-6 and Lansing November 11th which will include elected officials. DeLaRosa reported that Habitat finished work on its first family home from the VFW National Home last week. DeLaRosa also reported that Habitat will be working on veteran service organizations' buildings that are in disrepair. A brief discussion followed.

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Gregory Spight) to adjourn, passed and carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Approved:

James Dempsey, Chairperson

Date