



## MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 15, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

### APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair David Henry; the meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams. This joint boards meeting was conducted in conjunction with the MVH Board of Managers meeting.

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 2. Attendance Roll Call – MVFA

Chair David Henry called for a roll call of members present.

The following MVH Board of Directors were present: Zaneta Adams (Muskegon, MI); Henry Boutros (Naples, FL); David Henry (Muskegon, MI); Mary Naber (Grosse Pointe Park, MI); Ken Robbins (Manistee, MI); David Rutledge (Ypsilanti, MI); MaryAnne Shannon present at 10:10 a.m. (Sault Ste. Marie, MI); Brad Slagle (Marquette, MI); Larry Yachcik (Freemont, MI)

MVH Board of Managers: Deborah Chambers, Robert Johnson, Harold Mast, Shane Preston

MVH Executive Leadership Team: Anne Zerbe, Steve Rolston, Fred Schaible, Ron Oja, Jennifer Manning, Melissa Velie, Mike Hassan, and Patty Altimore

Guests: Christine Apostol, Laura Birchmeier, Corey Doan, Sean Depuydt, Cary Lincoln, Courtney Tweedale, Assistant Attorney General Katie Waskiewicz, et al.

#### 3. Adoption of Agenda - MVFA

*Yachcik, seconded by Slagle, motioned to accept the meeting agenda dated December 15, 2020 as presented. The motion passed 8-0.*

#### 4. Public Comment

None

**5. Approval of Proposed Minutes – MVFA**

*Adams, seconded by Naber, motioned to accept the proposed meeting minutes dated November 17, 2020 as presented. The motion passed 8-0.*

**6. MVH Committee Updates – MVFA**

**Executive Committee** - Chair Henry indicated that committee members did not meet; thus, there is nothing to report to the board.

**Budget and Financial Oversight Committee** – Chair Slagle reported that committee members met on December 2, 2020 and reviewed the purpose and goals of the committee. The 2021 appropriation was addressed, noting that the Michigan Veteran Homes is now a “stand alone” in Sec. 104 of the FY2021 state appropriation with separate spending authorizations. Chair Slagle requested regular financial reports related to the budgets including expenditures, revenues, and year-end projections. The committee also addressed the need for the development of MVH board policies related to assessments/ per diem and donated funds.

**Facility and Capital Improvement Committee** – Chair Boutros stated that committee members did not meet; thus, there is nothing to report to the board.

Mike Hassan provided an overview of the new Homes construction. The MVH at Chesterfield Township is 93% complete, while the MVH at Grand Rapids is 77% complete.

**Governance and Policy Development Committee** – Chair Rutledge reported that committee members did not meet; thus, there is nothing to report to the board.

**Outreach and Fund Development Committee** – Chair Yachcik reported that the committee met on December 2, 2020 to discuss the next steps in developing a potential MVH capital campaign and possible future uses for the existing buildings on the Grand Rapids campus. The committee recommends the following:

A capital campaign for a new Home is not yet ready for action. The committee needs to grasp a better understanding of the actual operating budget for a new Home which will be available once the MVH at Chesterfield Township is open.

The future uses of the existing buildings on the MVH at Grand Rapids campus need to be addressed immediately. There is an ongoing need for behavioral health beds and an opportunity to combine with private partnerships.

Chair Yachcik concluded by stating that committee members need to prepare ideas for what is needed in both areas. Further, they should match these ideas to the recommendations presented by the Transform Consulting Group, the contracted fundraising consulting group. Chair Yachcik also agreed to meet with the MVH Facility and Capital Improvement Committee to address the future uses of the existing buildings.

## 7. Old Business

**COVID Mitigation Efforts** – Anne Zerbe provided an overview of the MVH COVID Mitigation Efforts. The primary goal of this initiative is to create transparency to members and stakeholders in the community regarding the inherent risk if no COVID controls are in place. Areas addressed include:

System-Wide Policy & Process Changes – initiatives implemented as part of mitigation efforts.

Identified Weaknesses & Process Improvement/Corrective Action Taken – process improvement efforts to identify areas where there may be weaknesses in internal processes.

Identified Threats – process improvement efforts help identify several external threats that have prompted further examination and contingency planning.

The mitigation efforts will continue to be updated as processes are improved. Specific differences between procedures in the Homes will be addressed in more detail; however, most differences are attributed to supplies and facility layout. The MVH has received an outpouring of additional support from the National Guard, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

DJJHV Pharmacist Brad Harvala is offering a series of informational presentations to MVH staff which highlight the COVID-19 vaccine. During the presentation, the pros and cons of the vaccine will be explained to provide MVH staff with information to make an informed decision regarding their personal health.

**Transition of Governance Update** – Fred Schaible provided an update on [Senate Bill 1109 \(2020\)](#) and [Senate Bill 1110 \(2020\)](#). More information should be available the January 19, 2020 meeting.

## 8. New Business

**2021 MVH Board Meeting Dates** – Anne Zerbe provided a proposed schedule for the 2021 MVH Board of Directors meeting dates.

*Naber, seconded by Slagle, motioned to accept the board meeting dates for 2021 as presented. The motion passed 9-0.*

## 9. Public Comment

None

## 10. Board of Directors Comments

Zaneta Adams – inquired as to the type of snacks and food supplies that are acceptable for donating to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans staff. She extended happy holidays to the board. Ms. Adams encouraged the MVH staff to keep doing a great job and that the board has their backing.

Brad Slagle – acknowledged the hard work regarding COVID mitigation efforts and construction in the new Homes. He added a thank you to all and Merry Christmas.

Ken Robbins – echoed the sentiments of Brad Slagle and expressed appreciation to all for their efforts. He also reiterated that he has faith in the MVH Leadership Team.

Larry Yachcik – expressed a thank you to all and is hopeful for a vaccine for the veterans. He added that the MVH staff is supported by the board.

MaryAnne Shannon – stated that she is anxious to sit at the table with the board again, and appreciates the hard work exhibited by MVH staff. She thanked everyone and extended good holiday wishes to all.

Mary Naber – dittoed everyone's comments and commended the MVH leadership on its efforts, noting that transparency is difficult to achieve when unable to meet in person. She extended a holiday blessing to all.


David Rutledge – stated that during these unprecedented times, it is imperative to reach out to touch those we serve. He encouraged the front-line workers to find down time to enhance mind, body, and soul. Mr. Rutledge stated that has a deep appreciation for the work and thank you to all.

Henry Boutros – wished happy holidays to all.

Chair Henry – expressed that the pandemic is no friend to anyone, and it creates pressure on systems and staff. He stressed the need for self-care and the importance of work/life balance. Chair Henry takes comfort in quality leadership and wants to acknowledge the work that is done. He summed up that we are in this together and staff is welcome to reach out to the board for advice or to just vent. Lastly, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

## 11. Adjournment

*Boutros, seconded by Naber, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.*  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

  
Bradford Slagle,  
MVFA Board Secretary