

Jasper County Commission of Veterans Affairs

315 West 3rd Street North, Suite 250, Newton, Iowa 50208

Administrator Alyssa Wilson & CVSO Keith N. Thorpe

Phone (641) 792-7993 FAX (641) 787-1302

Commissioners: Marta Ford, Susan Springer, Jerry Nelson, Matthew Smith, Christofer Kingrey

14 September 2022

Minutes

At 1500 Chairman Jerry Nelson called the Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Jasper County Veterans Affairs to order. The other commissioners in attendance were Marta Ford, Susan Springer and Christofer Kingrey. Matthew Smith was absent. Also, in attendance were Administrator Alyssa Wilson, CVSO Keith Thorpe and Donita Huegel, Program Coordinator of RSVP.

Jasper County Ride: Donita shared with the commission the importance of the “Jasper County RIDE Program”. Donita’s comments are attached to the minutes.

Approve Minutes 10 August 2022 Regular Meeting: Marta Ford made a motion and Christofer Kingrey seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **“No Greater Love” Outreach Event:** (46) Veterans and their family members as well as Retired Brigadier General Craig A. Bargfrede attended the movie. The cost of this event was \$400.00. The commission was pleased with the movie; the attendance; and the venue.
2. **Sully Area Outreach:** Date, time, location, sustenance, and presentation to be determined at the October 2022 meeting.
3. **EFSP GRANT:** Administrator Wilson is working with Jess from United Way. Grant money should be available in November to use towards rent/mortgage and utilities. This is a federal grant and will have its own line item like the Allocation Fund. Monies will be received via EFT and can be spent through 4/30/2023. First half released by November and second half will need to be requested if necessary.
4. **Veterans Lodging / Cooling Centers:** More information forth coming with the new changes to the Jasper County Cares meeting. Administrator Wilson will be attending the first meeting on October 11, 2022, from 10:30 to noon at the Jasper County Administration building.

New Business:

1. **August 2022 Administrator’s Activity Report** was presented to the commission.
2. **August 2022 Budget Report: (Expense; Allocation; Donation)** was presented to the commission.
 - (a) The commission will ask the Jasper County Board of Supervisors for an increase in mileage compensation from .585 to .625, the current IRS Mileage Rate. Administrator Wilson will get this topic on the next Board of Supervisors Agenda.
 - (b) Susan Springer made a motion and Christofer Kingrey seconded to purchase a Desktop Computer for the CVSO Office. The motion passed unanimously.

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3. **Nursing Homes – Pension:** Administrator Wilson will reach out to each nursing home for a day that works best to invite the facilities in for a working lunch and Pension Presentation.
4. **Our office vs the VA:** Continue educating veterans on the difference between the VBA and VHA and explaining that our office does not have the access or authority to do anything in regard to the Veterans health care through VHA.
5. **Fall School:** Jerry Nelson, Marta Ford and Susan Springer will be attending on 10/10/2022. Alyssa Wilson and Keith Thorpe have CEUs for this year and will not be attending.

Announcements:

Public Input

None

Confirm next meeting: 12 October 2022, 1500, at the Jasper County Office Building

At 1608 Marta Ford made a motion and Chris Kingrey seconded to adjourn.
The motion passed unanimously.

/s/ Keith N. Thorpe

Jasper County RIDE Program

RSVP's Jasper County RIDE volunteers fill a transportation gap in Jasper County by providing access to medical appointments and other medically necessary services free of charge.

Passengers must be Jasper County residents who have no other means of transportation. They must be 65 or older, a U.S. Veteran, qualify for low-income assistance, OR receive disability.

Rides need to be scheduled at least one week in advance of the appointment out of respect for the volunteers' time and to ensure availability of volunteers.

We currently have 24 drivers, with two on hold because of health concerns. In the first quarter of 2022, the drivers gave 37 rides to veterans. They gave 35 veteran rides in the second quarter. In August alone, the drivers took veterans to 32 appointments.

The need is there and this program fulfills that need at no cost to the clients. It is a VERY rare occurrence when a request for a ride cannot be filled - even during the winter months when many drivers leave for warmer temperatures. This is because the drivers care for our clients and know that many would forgo medical care because of lack of transportation.

We transport veterans anywhere in Iowa. One veteran client was transported to life-saving dialysis three days a week for years. He has since passed away. Another veteran client goes to Des Moines for transfusions every four weeks. Others go to physical therapy/rehab multiple times a week.

Along with rides to much-needed appointments, the drivers often provide support and companionship to the veterans. Many relationships are established.

I'm confident in saying that you could ask any of our veteran clients their thoughts on the program and you will receive nothing but positive, supportive feedback.

26 Veteran Clients
10/21/13