

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, Fred Chabot, Ed Spangenburg

19 April 2023

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, Fred Chabot and Ed Spangenburg. Also, in attendance were Administrator Alyssa Wilson and CVSO Keith Thorpe.

Approve Minutes: Fred Chabot made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to approve the minutes of the regular scheduled meeting on 8 March 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Sully Area Outreach 2023:** The outreach event will be held on Saturday April 22, 2023, at the Lynnville City Hall. The rental fee for the hall is \$35.00. The event is being advertised via social media, The Hometown Press, The Newton Daily News, The Advertiser and Radio Station KCOB. The event will be schedule from 9Am to 11AM. Bakery goods, coffee and water will be provided. Alyssa Wilson will share information on the “Pact Act” as well as other VA related subjects. Commissioners Marta Ford, Fred Chabot, and Ed Spangenburg plan to attend.
2. **Open House March 10, 2023:** The open house exceeded expectations regarding turnout. We had 33 attendees (including commissioners: Fred Chabot, Ed Spangenburg, and Marta Ford). This event was able to connect 1 Vietnam Veteran with Doug Bishop regarding the Honor Flight.
3. **VA S.A.V.E and Vet in Crisis Training: March 22, 2023:** The Jasper County Sheriff’s Department and Newton Fire Department attended. All agencies throughout Jasper County were notified of this training by Jasper County Public Health and Jasper County Emergency Management. The Community Session had only 3 attendees. One from the community along with commissioners Fred Chabot, and Marta Ford.

New Business:

1. **The March 2023 Administrator Report** was presented to the commission.
2. **The March 2023 Expenses, Allocation. Donation & ESFP Reports** were presented to the commission.
 - (a) Susan Springer made a motion and Ed Spangenburg seconded to approve the 3rd Quarter Board of Supervisors Report. The motion passed unanimously.
 - (b) Marta Ford made a motion and Fred Chabot seconded to purchase a “Laser Printer” for the Veterans Affairs Office. The motion passed unanimously. The “allocation account” will be used for this purchase.

OVER

3. VARO (VA Regional Office Update – Des Moines):

- (a) Currently, Veteran Benefit Administration representatives are not attending statewide events.
- (b) State Service Offices are located on the 5th floor of the Neal Smith Federal Building.
- (c) The only State Service Officer Organizations at the Federal Building are the Disabled American Veterans and the American Legion. These two organizations have only four accredited VSOs. **Three** with the DAV and **One** with the American Legion. These 4 VSOs are responsible for handling appeals statewide.

Note: This shortage of VSOs has led Alyssa Wilson to handling appeals from our office.

Announcements:

Public Input

None

Confirm next meeting: 10 May 2023 at 1500 at the Jasper County Office Buildings.

At 1622 Fred Chabot made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/ Keith N. Thorpe