VETERANS BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2020

MINUTES

A meeting of the Veterans Board of Cuming County, in the State of Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 7:26 a.m. on February 24, 2020 at West Point, Nebraska with Gatzemeyer, Feyerherm, Storm, Kindschuh, Schwer present. Brahmer was absent. Hunke attended as Recorder.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication on the County website and postings on bulletin boards and media screens at the Cuming County Courthouse, two of the County’s designated methods for giving notice, a copy of the agenda being attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice. The VSO publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the “Nebraska Open Meetings Act” was posted in the meeting room and on the County’s website. A pamphlet form of the act is available upon request. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. EXPENSES
   Gatzemeyer listed the following expenses for the month: Telephone $51.65, Licenses $33.98, Mileage $59.16, Fuel $45.09.

2. BUDGET
   Gatzemeyer reported to be at 59% of budget with four months left in this fiscal year; averaging 10% per month, so everything seems to be on target at this point.

3. CUMING COUNTY VETERANS AID
   Gatzemeyer reported that bills totaling $686.74 were paid as approved at the last meeting. The balance shown on the 1/31/20 bank statement was $1061.21. Two checks totaling $247.95 are outstanding at this time. Schwer and Kindschuh signed an acknowledgement of funds totaling $686.74 needed to replenish the account to a $1500 balance. This form is kept for auditing purposes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. MINUTES
   Minutes of the January meeting were presented. Kindschuh made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Schwer. Vote resulted as follows: Storm, Feyerherm, Kindschuh, Schwer yeas; nays none; Brahmer absent; motion carried.
2. OUTSTANDING CLAIMS
Gatzemeyer reported that the Nebraska Veterans Aid claim that had been pending for a year now was approved and paid this month. The veteran's widow passed away this month so the children should have received a check for $5,445 last week.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CUMING COUNTY VETERANS RECEIVING COMPENSATION
Gatzemeyer presented a report indicating 155 Vets in Cumming County were receiving VA compensation in 2018. Disability ratings, ages and gender of these individuals were categorized on this report also. Data for 2019 will be released soon and will be presented to the Board.

2. HONOR ROLL
Gatzemeyer reported that two veterans passed away since last meeting.

3. MUTUAL AID REPORT
Gatzemeyer reported the completion of one Nebraska Veterans Aid application, as mentioned above. There has been one application so far this year for Cuming County General Assistance.

4. OFFICE RELOCATION
Gatzemeyer reported that the VSO office might be moving to another office space to help make room for the new Emergency Manager and Economic Development Director. The new space would allow more privacy for veterans coming into the office for assistance.

5. EMERGENCY MANAGER POSITION
Gatzemeyer reported that eleven applications have been received for the Emergency Manager Position. Interviews will take place on Wednesday narrowing the list of qualified applicants from eleven to five.

6. HOSPITAL BED AVAILABLE
Gatzemeyer reported that the widow of a recently deceased veteran has a hospital bed that she would like to donate to someone in need. Board members were asked to contact Gatzemeyer if they know anyone who might be able to use the bed. There is no room in the VSO office to store beds, wheelchairs etc. Feyerherm stated that Wisner has some equipment but he did not know if they had room to store a hospital bed. Gatzemeyer said he would contact someone in Wisner.

7. REBUILDING TOGETHER
Gatzemeyer reported that representatives from Rebuilding Together visited the office last week. They have received a grant to assist veterans with home improvements and are looking for veterans in Cuming and Dodge counties to serve. Gatzemeyer asked Board members to let him know if they become aware of any veterans who might need ramps installed, roofs shingled, bathroom improvements, etc. Approval of requests for assistance does depend on the veteran's income, but the threshold is high, so there should be veterans who qualify.

Gatzemeyer reported that the VA can help veterans with these projects too but only one time; any additional needs must be met by the veteran or other providers.

Gatzemeyer reported that Economic Development also has funding to help with home improvements.
8. **TOWN HALL MEETINGS**
Gatzemeyer reported that he is planning a Town Hall meeting for April or May to share information with Cuming County Veterans.

Dodge County VSO and VA Reps will be present before and after the Dodge American Legion meeting to assist Vets with VA enrollment and claims. Lisa sent out a flyer about this opportunity to vets registered with the Cuming County VSO who reside in Dodge County.

9. **MEETINGS**
Gatzemeyer reported attending four meetings as VSO since the last board meeting. He was finally available to attend a Wisner meeting, for the first time since he was hired, because his regularly-scheduled School Board meeting was held on a different night. He was unavailable to attend four scheduled meetings. In roles other than VSO, Gatzemeyer reported attending eighteen meetings; he was unavailable to attend six scheduled meetings; these meetings were primarily Emergency Management related.

10. **APPOINTMENT DATES**
Gatzemeyer reported upcoming appointments. He will be out of the office for March 5-6 for Girls State Basketball and March 12-13 for Boys State Basketball and April 1-3 for CVSO Conference. Lisa will be out of the office March 5-9 for vacation and April 23-27 for family wedding in Texas.

11. **FEYERHERM RE-ELECTED**
Feyerherm reported that he was re-elected for another term by the American Legion. He reminded the Board that the Legion meetings will be held on the 1st Thursday in March and April.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Veterans Board meeting will be held on March 30, 2020. The agenda will be kept current in the Veterans Service Office and on the County website (www.cumingco.com).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Schwer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kindschu. Vote resulted as follows: Storm, Feyerherm, Kindschu, Schwer yeas; nays none; Brahmer absent; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

[Signatures]

Lisa Hunke, Recorder

Jason Gatzemeyer, VSO

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Date 2/24/2020

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