

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
2650 LaFranier Rd, Traverse City, MI 49686  
Public Services Building

**Thursday, July 25, 2019 @ 8:00 AM**

**BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE / CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Present:, John Block, Bill Fowle, Ron Hofmeister, Neal Horning  
County Commissioner Gordie LaPointe, Rachael Sherman, Mollie Sourek

Staff: GTC Director Michael Roof, Erin Whitney

Absent: Leelanau County Representative Alan Aldrich, Robert "Art" Eisner

Guests: Veterans Coalition President John Lefler, Kim Lefler

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE**

Lefler asked if department is purchasing a pop-up canopy and banners for outreach. Roof stated that yes, the office is buying them for additional outreach, and the funds are coming out of the 2% grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Lefler stated that later this month there will be an escort from the airport to Covell Funeral Home for the remains of a Korean war veteran.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA**

None

Motion to approve agenda – Sourek

Seconded – Hofmeister

Approved unanimously

## **COMMISSIONER REPORT**

LaPointe stated he met with prosecutor yesterday to discuss veterans' treatment court, and said progress is being made. He asked what the eligibility process will be for the program, and Roof stated it has not yet been determined, and while he is not the court coordinator he is trying to offer his experience and opinions.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No questions/discussion

Motion to approve minutes from June 27, 2019 – Fowle

Seconded – Horning

Approved unanimously

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Roof stated that he included amendments to the budget in the meeting packet to keep the committee apprised of changes. He clarified that the state reimbursed the office for two trainings, but that money went into the budget as revenue and not back into the "training" line item. LaPointe asked if the amount the county charges Leelanau County for services is up for negotiation, and Roof said no, that the MOU was just renewed at that amount in January.

Motion to approve financial reports– Horning

Seconded – Sourek

Approved unanimously

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Roof reported that staff and Trust Fund committeemen attended training last month at the downtown government center. He also stated that the MACVC is working with the legislature to adjust the county grant parameters. Currently the base grant is \$50,000 with additional money based on number of resident veterans per the national GDV. The office did not apply for the grant last year because the original requirements were too restrictive. LaPointe asked if the department or state will contribute money to the new veterans' court, and Roof said no, that grants are available to apply for through the state. He stated that the veterans' treatment court training in D.C. was enlightening. The department outreach has produced a steady increase in visits to the office compared to last year. Block asked how much the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund keeps as a minimum balance, and Roof said 61.1 million, currently.

Motion to approve director's report – Fowle

Seconded – Sherman

Approved unanimously

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to approve adjournment – Fowle

Seconded – Sherman

Approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 AM

DRAFT