

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

Thursday, May 23, 2019 @ 8:00 AM

BOARD MEETING

Minutes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE / CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Leelanau County Representative Alan Aldrich, John Block, Robert "Art" Eisner, Bill Fowle, Ron Hofmeister, Neal Horning, County Commissioner Gordie LaPointe, Rachael Sherman, Mollie Sourek

Staff: Michael Roof, Erin Whitney

Absent: None

Guests: Veterans Coalition President John Lefler

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

None

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

Motion to approve agenda – Hofmeister

Seconded – Sourek

Approved unanimously

COMMISSIONER REPORT

LaPointe began to tell committee about commissioners' visit to Wexford County jail and its superiority to the Grand Traverse County jail, and when Eisner asked him to clarify for the

committee the topic's relevance to veterans' issues, LaPointe stated if he was only to speak on veteran specific issues during his Commissioner's Report, there was no point in his attending every meeting, and he would only attend those meetings for which he had veterans' news to relate going forward. LaPointe then left the meeting. Eisner stated he would request a meeting with County Administrator Alger to discuss role of commissioner representative in VA committee meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No questions/discussion

Motion to approve minutes from April 18, 2019 – Horning

Seconded – Sherman

Approved unanimously

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Roof clarified that the \$84,000 listed for Leelanau Contributions is twice what the actual amount is, and he has requested the Finance Department correct this figure. He stated he was informed by County Administrator Alger that LaPointe had approached Alger regarding reducing the Veterans Affairs millage. Roof expressed concern regarding LaPointe's position on the millage, and stated even though since being hired he has significantly reduced the office operational costs, now doesn't seem the appropriate time to reduce millage.

Motion to approve financial reports– Hofmeister

Seconded – Horning

Approved unanimously

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Roof stated the office has continued regular outreach efforts as well as attending the Senior Expo last month. He reported the space for the NMCAA homeless veteran outreach coordinator has been cleared out but not yet painted. The veterans court judge, mentor coordinator, and attorneys have been assigned. The training is scheduled for September with official launch date of January 2020. Roof pointed out the office stats show higher numbers of office visits overall compared to last year, likely the result of increased outreach. He will have VSO Clark do additional outreach in Leelanau County to try and increase that office's traffic.

Motion to approve director's report – Block

Seconded – Hofmeister

Approved unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to approve adjournment – Hofmeister

Seconded – Horning

Approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 AM

DRAFT