

## MEETING OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

**Held:** Monday, September 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Roger Freund (Chairman), Brian Jopek, and Mark Espeseth

**Executive Secretary:** Tammy Javenkoski (CVSO)

**The following new matters were taken up, to wit:**

Roger Freund called the meeting to order in conference room #1 on the first floor of the Oneida County courthouse at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was properly posted, the news media was notified and pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, is handicapped accessible.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The agenda was reviewed. **Motion** made by Brian Jopek, seconded by Mark Espeseth, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The minutes from the March 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed. **Motion** made by Brian Jopek, seconded by Mark Espeseth, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

The Veterans Service Office and Veterans Commission vouchers were reviewed. **Motion** made by Brian Jopek, seconded by Mark Espeseth, to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

The donation account was reviewed. Since the last meeting, one donation was received in the amount of \$32.32. The donation account has a balance of \$11,551.45. **Motion** made by Mark Espeseth, seconded by Brian Jopek, to approved the donation account report. Motion carried.

The CVSO updated the Commission on changes to the DAV van due to COVID. Only three people are allowed on the van at one time and all of them must wear masks. Additionally, the driver has to screen riders before they get on the van to make sure they have no COVID symptoms.

Trevor Blake, Northwoods National Cemetery Manager, updated the Commission on the cemetery. At this time, the cemetery is ready to open but they have to get vendors in place to do opening and closing of graves, set headstones, and do grounds and maintenance before burials can begin.

The CVS0 informed the Commission about the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act that Senator Tammy Baldwin sponsored. If approved, the federal government would provide \$50 million dollars to states with Veterans Service Officers over the next five years to help serve veterans. The Oneida County Board approved a resolution supporting this legislation on August 18, 2020.

The CVS0 informed the Commission about a Veterans Open House being held on Veterans Day this year at the Rhinelander Veterans Center 1002 Coon Street. The event will run from 9:00 am-3:00 pm and will give veterans an opportunity to join a veterans service organization and/or join the local honor guard. The CVS0 will be there to provide information on veterans benefits as well as the new national cemetery.

The Commission reviewed the Veterans Service Office 2019 Annual Report.

The Commission reviewed the current Veterans Service Office 2020 budget status.

The Commission reviewed the Veterans Service Office 2021 budget proposal. The CVS0 has a budget hearing for this proposed budget on Monday, October 5.

The CVS0 informed the Commission about a new customer survey the office has on their web page.

Items for the next agenda:

- Debrief budget hearing
- Northwoods National Cemetery update

The next meeting will be held on December 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in conference room #1 in the courthouse. **Motion** made by Brian Jopek, seconded by Mark Espeseth, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Motion carried.

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_