

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

Thursday, April 26 2018 @ 8:00 AM

BOARD MEETING

Minutes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE / CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Robert "Art" Eisner, John Block, Jim Wegener, Neal Horning, Jakob Rossi, Lavern Broughton, Ron Hofmeister, Bob Roelofs, Michael Roof, Erin Whitney

Absent: Bob Johnson

Guests Lucas Clark, Randy McClure

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

Randy McClure, discussed his role as Veterans' Liaison in Congressman Jack Bergman's office helping veterans with their claims. He said Bergman gets a lot of phone calls regarding the CHOICE program, and now that that program has ended Bergman is seeking input from veterans' organizations on how to improve the VA health care system. McClure reported that Project Cherry Tree has developed a pilot program for providing integrative health care for veterans and is going to present it to the VA health care administration along with Jack Bergman's and Debbie Stabenow's offices.

ELECTION OF OFFICER

- a. Secretary
John Block nominated himself.
Motion to approve – Horning
Seconded – Broughton
Approved unanimously

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

OLD BUSINESS

The cost for the independent contractor is being split between Veterans Affairs and Environmental Health, the two departments utilizing its services. As more of the work benefitted Veterans Affairs it is paying 60% of the final costs. The final walk-through with the contractor and architect is today, with the architect ensuring the quality of contractor work. Ace Welding is to complete the entryway sign in approximately 10 days, and will possibly be paid for by the Veterans Coalition. The Veterans Affairs Department is to hold an open house in May to show new space to community, for which the DAV has offered to provide refreshments.

NEW BUSINESS

Roof reported that County Attorney Chris Forsythe offered suggestions for improvements to the by-laws approved 01/25/2018. Forsythe confirmed the committee does not need to maintain recordings of meetings.

Broughton motioned the committee vote on by-laws at next scheduled meeting

Seconded – Block

Approved unanimously

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Last two items added so improvements to office can be tracked. Roof to report back to committee on when millage money is deposited.

Motion to approve – Hofmeister

Seconded – Horning

Approved unanimously

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lucas Clark is to start 04/30/2018 as new Veteran Service Officer. Roof reported that he and the Leelanau County administrator Chet Janik again discussed the contract with Grand Traverse County and Janik stated they are happy with the provided services and will renew the contract again on 01/01/2019. Veterans Affairs Department director Roof and office specialist Michael Redmond is attending the MACVC training next week. Roof has also been asked to address the MVAA at their training in May. The Military Order of the Purple Heart is closing 06/30/2018, accreditation through MOPH is going to be revoked, so any claims filed through them should have POA changed. Roof proposed adding a "Good of the Order" category to the agenda to encompass local veterans' events and other items of interest not directly related to VA committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:55AM

DRAFT