

# **Veteran's Service Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Buffalo County Veteran's Service Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 13, 2025  
Board of Commissioner' Board Room, Kearney, NE**

Chairperson Tom McCoy called the Regular Meeting of the Buffalo County Veteran's Service Committee Meeting to order on May 13, 2025 at 3:58 P.M. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was made available to the public for this meeting and posted at the back of the Board Room.

## **Roll Call-**

Committee members present were Richard Bock, Stanley Brodine, Lisa Mitchell and Tom McCoy. Absent: Robert Harpst. Also in attendance were Commissioner Myron Kouba, Commissioner Bill Maendele, Veteran's Service Officer (VSO) Matthew Starkey, VSO Kollin Forney, Veteran Office Manager Linda Jones, Buffalo County Office Clerk Katie VanSlyke and Buffalo County Clerk Heather Christensen.

## **Notice of Meeting-**

Public Notice of this meeting was published on May 1, 2025, in the Kearney Hub and in accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes and also available on the Buffalo County Veteran Services Website.

## **Approval of Minutes-**

The minutes of the April 8, 2025 meeting were previously provided to the committee members for their review. Moved by Bock and seconded by Mitchell to accept the April 8, 2025 minutes. Absent: Harpst. Upon vote, the motion passed.

## **Regular Agenda-**

VSO Starkey reviewed a request for aid for Veteran D.S. to the Committee and discussed the request for a total of \$3,300.00 (rent). After discussion it was moved by Bock and seconded by Bodine to approve the requested amount. Absent: Harpst. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Bock left the meeting at 4:14 P.M.

VSO Starkey reviewed a request for aid for Veteran S.E. to the Committee and discussed the request for a total of \$1,248.50 (utilities, insurance and debt). After discussion it was moved by Brodine and seconded by Mitchell to approve the requested amount. Absent: Bock and Harpst. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Chairperson McCoy opened the discussion regarding the metal flag holder markers for Veteran burial grave sites that was continued from the April 8, 2025 meeting. County VSO Starkey reminded the Committee of what was discussed previously. After discussion it was moved by Mitchell and seconded by Brodine to approve a standard U.S. Veteran metal flag holder marker as the default emblem for Buffalo County Veteran burial grave sites with the option of an era metal flag holder marker if the veteran qualifies. Absent: Bock and Harpst. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Discussion occurred regarding the recommendation for location for the June 2025 Veteran meeting. It was moved by Brodine and seconded by Mitchell to hold the June meeting at Cunningham's Journal On The Lake located at 610 Talmadge St Suite A, Kearney, NE 68845 on Tuesday June 10, 2025 at 7:00P.M. Absent: Bock and Harpst. Upon vote, the motion passed.

County VSO Starkey updated the committee on Veteran-centered Legislation in the Unicameral. He provided the members with information about LB 650 which was signed into law by the Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen on May 6, 2025 and provides exemption from Motor Vehicle Tax on one vehicle for eligible USVA service-connected disabled veterans. A copy on the handout is on file with the County Clerk. VSO Starkey also spoke about the office being busy with preparation for Memorial Day. Office staff has walked several cemeteries checking to make sure veteran graves are marked as well as coordinating efforts with volunteers on some of the outlying cemeteries.

#### **Mileage Claims-**

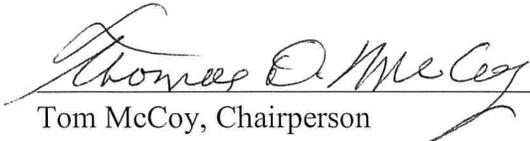
The Committee was informed that mileage claims could be submitted for those committee members requesting reimbursement.

#### **Public Comment Period/ Benefits Questions and Answers-**

No one addressed the Committee.

**Adjournment-** Chairperson McCoy adjourned the meeting at 4:39 P.M. until Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 7:00P.M.

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Tom McCoy, Chairperson  
Buffalo County Veterans Service Committee

5-19-25  
Date