

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

## **Buffalo County Veteran's Service Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

**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 December 10, 2024 at 4:00 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, Robert Harpst and Tom McCoy. Absent: Lisa Mitchell. Also in attendance Commissioners Ivan Klein, Myron Kouba and Bill Maendele, Veteran's Service Officer Matthew Starkey and Buffalo County Office Clerk Katie VanSlyke.

### **Notice of Meeting-**

Public Notice of this meeting was published on December 5, 2024, 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 November 12, 2024 meeting were previously provided to the committee members for their review. Moved by Bock and seconded by Harpst to approve the Minutes from the November 12, 2024 with the following Amendment. The Sentence " Veteran's Service Officer Starkey presented the progress of the Veteran Service Office budget so far this fiscal year. Discussion occurred." to be changed to "Veteran's Service Officer Starkey presented the progress of the Veteran Service Office budget so far, this fiscal year. The VSO office has expended \$53,383.42 of the adopted budget of \$220,108.56 or 24%. The VSO office has \$166,725.14 of the approved budget remaining. Regarding Veteran's Relief, the Veteran Service Office has paid out \$11,592.62 in County Veterans' Aid per the Veteran Service Committee directives or 26%. There remains \$33,407.38 of the approved \$45,000 in Veteran's Relief. Discussion occurred.

Veteran Service Officer Starkey also updated the Committee on the work being done by the VSO office and the efforts to reach out to Buffalo County's veterans. VSO Starkey's discussion included a report of one-time payments made by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to Buffalo County veterans this fiscal year by month for a total of \$980,959.57. Discussion occurred." Upon vote, the motion passed.

**Regular Agenda-**

Veteran's Service Officer Starkey presented the application for Veteran J.R. to the Committee and discussed the request for a total of \$2,433.00 (burial). After discussion it was moved by Harpst and seconded by Brodine to approve the requested amount. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Veteran's Service Officer Starkey presented an office update. Newly hired VSO Kollin Forney has completed his first phase of training. His next phase of required training is a 40 hour online class conducted by the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers in January 2025. VSO Starkey also discussed an invitation to the two remaining citizens of Kearney, Nebraska who are World War II veterans to appear before the County Board to be recognized and presented medals as part of the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs "Celebrating 80 years of Victory" medal program. Discussion occurred.

**Mileage Claims-**

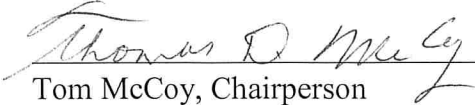
The Committee was informed that mileage claims could be submitted for those committee members requesting reimbursement.

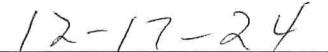
**Public Comment Period/ Benefits Questions and Answers-**

No one addressed the committee.

**Adjournment-** Chairperson McCoy adjourned the meeting at 4:12 P.M. sine die until the reorganization meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2024 at 4:00 P.M.

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Tom McCoy, Chairperson  
Buffalo County Veterans Service Committee

  
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Date