

**Veteran's Service Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Buffalo County Veteran's Service Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 17, 2025**  
**Cunningham's Journal on the Lake, 610 Talmadge St Suite A Kearney, NE 68845**

Chairperson Tom McCoy called the Regular Meeting of the Buffalo County Veteran's Service Committee Meeting to order on June 17, 2025 at 6:58 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 for anyone who wishes to have a copy.

**Roll Call-**

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

**Notice of Meeting-**

The original Public Notice of the June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting was published on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in the Kearney Hub and listed on the Buffalo County Website. The June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting was continued due to a scheduling error and the rescheduled June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting notice was published on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in the Kearney Hub, posted on the meeting building and listed on the Buffalo County Website in accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

**Approval of Minutes-**

The minutes of the May 13, 2025 meeting were previously provided to the Committee members for their review. Moved by Harpst and seconded by Mitchell to accept the May 13, 2025 minutes. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**Regular Agenda-**

Moved by Brodine and seconded by Harpst to re-elect Chairperson McCoy as a member of the Buffalo County Veteran's Service Committee for a five-year term. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Veteran's Service Officer (VSO) Starkey presented the application for Veteran C.W. to the Committee and discussed the request for \$1,585.00. After discussion it was moved by Brodine and seconded by Harpst to deny the requested amount of \$1,585.00 at this time. Upon vote, the motion passed.

VSO Starkey presented the application for Veteran T.C. to the Committee and discussed the request for aid. After discussion it was moved by Brodine and seconded by Harpst to approve the request for groceries and fuel in the amount of \$250.00. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Veteran's Service Officer Starkey presented the application for Veteran D.S. to the Committee and discussed the request for aid. After discussion it was moved by Brodine and seconded by Harpst to approve the request for groceries and fuel in the amount of \$200.00. Upon vote, the motion passed.

VSO Starkey provided an update on Legislation and activities at the Buffalo County Veteran Service Office. He informed the committee that the Unicameral session adjourned on June 2, 2025. Several bills related to Veteran's and military servicemembers were passed and signed by the Governor. Of note, LB 650 granted Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption. Details about the procedures for this are forthcoming. LB 419 cleaned up language used in a bill from last year that regarding Veterans eligibility for Nebraska Veterans Home and Nebraska Veterans Aid. In other bills, several new Military Honor Plates have been created. More information about those will be released soon.

VSO Starkey also spoke about the results of the Budget Hearing with the County Board of Commissioners and the possibility of bringing on a temporary part-time clerk to help the office scan paper records in an effort to make veterans in the county eligible for benefits through the State Veterans database. VSO Starkey also reported the proposed budget for the office was amended to reflect current costs for travel for VSO's to obtain Continuing Education Hours. Finally, VSO Starkey informed the Committee that his proposed budget included \$45,000 for County Veterans Aid as it has been for several years.

#### **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-**

Commissioner Maendele thanked the Veterans office staff and the Committee for their continued hard work and thanked them for helping all the Buffalo County veterans in need. Harpst requested prayers for Richard Bock and his family. No one else addressed the Committee.

**Adjournment-** Chairperson McCoy adjourned the meeting at 7:25 P.M. until Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 4:00 P.M. in the Buffalo County Boardroom.

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Tom McCoy, Chairperson  
Buffalo County Veterans Service Committee



Date

## **CHAIRPERSON MCCOY'S NOTES**

Buffalo County Veteran's Service Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 4:00 P.M.

Board of Commissioner' Board Room, Kearney, NE

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1. Chairperson Tom McCoy calls the Meeting of the Buffalo County Veteran's Service Committee Meeting to order
2. Lead in the Pledge of Allegiance
3. A copy of the Open Meetings act is available and posted in the back of the Board Room.

### **ROLL CALL**

Richard Bock: \_\_\_\_ Stanley Brodine: \_\_\_\_ Robert Harpst: \_\_\_\_ Lisa Mitchell: \_\_\_\_  
and Tom McCoy: \_\_\_\_

1. **Notice of July 8, 2025 Meeting was published in the Kearney Hub on July 5th 2025 and is listed on the Buffalo County Website**
2. **Motion to approve the June 17, 2025 Minutes**
3. **Discussion and Decision on applicants for County Veteran's Aid**
4. **Update from VSO Starkey**
5. **Mileage Claims-**
6. **Correspondence- None**

**"Citizens Forum" Public Comment Period/ Benefits Questions and Answers**

**Adjournment- Next Meeting Date: August 12, 2025 at 4:00 P.M**