

Veteran's Service Committee Meeting Minutes

Buffalo County Veteran's Service Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 8, 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 July 8, 2025 at 3:59 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, Lisa Mitchell and Tom McCoy. Also in attendance were Commissioner Myron Kouba, Veteran's Service Officer (VSO) Matthew Starkey and Buffalo County Office Clerk Katie VanSlyke and Buffalo County Clerk Heather Christensen.

Notice of Meeting-

Public Notice of this meeting was published on July 5, 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 June 17, 2025 meeting were previously provided to the committee members for their review. Moved by Harpst and seconded by Bock to accept the June 17, 2025 minutes. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda-

VSO Starkey stated that he had an individual apply for veteran aid but they submitted an incomplete application. The individual has not complied with the request to complete the application. The Buffalo County Veteran office will send a letter explaining the rejection of aid due to the incomplete application and to offer the individual different avenues of assistance that may be better suited for the request.

County VSO Starkey updated the committee about 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. He stated that the 2025-2026 budget has not been finalized so he is not yet able to advertise for the position. Harpst asked if Starkey had heard any news in connection to veterans and the Big Beautiful Bill recently passed through legislation, Starkey stated that he had not heard of any direct connections.

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-

Bock spoke about the recent fireworks and the effect they have on veterans and the options citizens have for how to request lesser days for the use of fireworks. Discussion occurred.

Adjournment- Chairperson McCoy adjourned the meeting at 4:28 P.M. until Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 4:00P.M.



Tom McCoy, Chairperson
Buffalo County Veterans Service Committee



Date