Veteran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, January 12, 2022

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in attendance: Ken Slininger, Gary Bracht, Jim Brakebill, Ken Weston, John Nordine, Phil Anderson, and Eileen Boylston

Members absent Joanna Latimer, Tom Moncrief

County Rep: Jerry Gingrich

Guests: Commissioner Danny Stone, Mark Nash, Britney Lutz

2. Reading and approval of the old minutes.

3. Reviewed Grant County Veteran Assistance Fund. Jerry provided a run down on the numbers and talked about what is being budgeted, noted that the Commissions agreed to helping up to $5000 on funeral expenses. Also noted that our budget for this year has been approved, although he did not have the year-end report as the county had not gotten that together yet.

4. 2022 Veterans Assistance Fund Policy: Policy is complete and approved.

5. Veteran Service Officer position for the county:
   - Gary, Ken, and Jim met to come up with key points on why we need to hire a veteran service officer, they drafted a Formal Recommendation Letter to present to the commissioners that recommended the county hire a fulltime service officer. The board reviewed the draft letter and approved the content with a few minor changes. 2022 Budget has included some funding for a county service officer. The process, per Jerry: Formal Recommendation Letter is submitted to the Commissioners, the VAB meet with the Commissioners to have a discussion, the Commissioners approve the position.
   - Jerry will provide Gary, Ken, and Jim the job description from when we last hired a VSO, as well as the job description for the positions at Chelan and Douglas County. Gary, Ken, and Jim will use these documents to draft a job description for this position. It was noted that it should include that the position must be filled by a veteran, that they must live within a commutable distance and that the position would have a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the county veterans. Ken suggested that at least some members of the VAB participate when the candidates for this position are being interviewed.
   - Meeting reference VSO Job Description: Jan 20th, 4pm, Courthouse.
   - Next meeting reference VSO position: Jan 31st, 3pm, via WEBEX.

6. VVA Contract for the Veterans Service Office: The contract will be renewed. The current rate will apply for use of the space. Contract is for up to 3 years, renewing each year. No cost to VVA for utilities, and they pay $1/month.

7. Old Business:
   - Stand Down. Reserved for next year: September 24th 2022.
   - Veteran Court Discussion: There was no discussion about veteran court today but keeping this item in the minutes until we can pursue further.
   - Memorial: On hold until Ephrata decides what they will be doing with the street in front of the courthouse.
   - What are other VAB’s doing to assist veterans: Jerry will reach out and ask.
8. New Business:
   - 2022 Board Leadership Elections (Vote on Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary). Voted and approved for Chair: Ken Slininger, Vice Chair: Gary Bracht, and Secretary: Eileen Boylston

9. Updates:

Post 157.
   - Continue doing blood drives.
   - Involved with helping the food bank (60 to 70% labor provided by them).
   - Sponsor the Cub Scouts and provide them meeting space.
   - Have tentatively selected a place to do a Veterans Memorial.
   - Next monthly meeting, February 8th.

Post 28.
   - Open Mon-Saturday, 1pm to 9pm, and Sunday, 9am to 7pm. Breakfast available on Sundays. Doing special events and meals.
   - Bi-Laws updated, and elections in the future.

Joanna Latimer.
   - Is the Hospital Community Health Worker, can connect veterans to community services. They are still really busy.

Post 183.
   - Noted that the last two meetings have been very productive
   - Donated $750 to help the Career & Tech Program at Quincy High School
   - Donated to the Police for the children shopping spry
   - Donated to the Food Bank this month (January)
   - Next meeting Feb 12th at 9am at Jacks in Quincy.

Post 209.
   - Open 7 days a week, 4pm to 7pm Monday through Saturday, and 9am to 3pm on Sunday. Sunday breakfast is 9am to 11am.
   - Have their general meeting the second Tuesday of each month.

VFW Post 24.
   - Not in attendance

WorkSource.
   - Our Office in Moses Lake is now fully open. Masks are required to enter.
   - We again have in-person classes Resumes, Interviewing and more.

10. Meetings.
    - Next VAB Meeting: March 9th, Wednesday, 4pm, Jerry will set up Skype, also have the option to come in person at the Ephrata Courthouse.