

# Minutes

Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County, Illinois

Meeting Date: January 15, 2014

➤ Preliminaries

- ❖ Called to Order: 6:58 PM
- ❖ Prayer: Recited by Frank Kurtz
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Don Dahm
- ❖ Meeting dedication: To all veterans in nursing homes
- ❖ Introduction of guests, concerned citizens, and the press:  
Cheryl Bullock, VSO and Steve Barrett, VSO – VACKC staff

---

- ❖ Roll Call:

<u>Commission Members – Superintendent – County Board Liaison</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
• President Jeff Cox – Delegate – American Legion Post 489	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Vice President Don Dahm – Delegate - American Legion Post 675	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Secretary Norm Meier – Delegate – American Legion Post 459		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Treasurer Ed Kurz – Delegate – VFW Post 8234	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Delegate Frank Kurtz – American Legion Post 395	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Jerry Salois – American Legion Post 395		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Alternate John Schwartz – American Legion Post 675	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Bob Leonard – VFW Post 8234	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Ted Simpson – American Legion Post 459		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Alternate Sonny Ellen – American Legion Post 489		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Delegate Michael Marcelain – Tri-County Chapter of VietNow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Michael Donahue – Tri-County Chapter of VietNow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Superintendent Ed Dixon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Liaison Jeff Wehrli		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
◆ <u>Established quorum: YES</u>		

➤ Commission Officer's Reports

❖ President

- Report – Appointed Cheryl Bullock as the recording secretary for this meeting in the absence of Commission Secretary Meier.
- Correspondence – Presented several “thank you” cards and e-mails for the Christmas gift certificates

❖ Vice President

- Report – No report given

❖ Secretary

- Report – Absent – But the minutes from a previous meeting was sent in advance for review and approval – no corrections were made.
- Motion passed to accept the minutes as read and file for record YES

❖ **Treasurer**

- Report – Written report submitted – amount of deposits made and the check written to purchase the Aldi gift certificates for Christmas. Castle Bank Account balance is \$9,262.21.
- Motion passed to accept the report for file and audit YES

➤ **Superintendent's Report:**

- Report: Written report submitted
  - Number of donated burial plots has increased to 20.
  - Resolution submitted to County Board Chairman John Shaw for County Board action that pertains to the processing of burials for indigent veterans.
  - Annual report to the Illinois Governor.
  - Discussed new 2014 insurance deductibles received from Jeff Wilkins.
  - 2013 – Spent \$107,326.91 for assistance claims and \$4,512,336 in spendable income came in to the county from the VA Claims that were processed and resolved.
  - Requested the meeting date for April be moved. Motion was passed to move April meeting from 04-02-14 to 04-09-14 at the same location and time.

➤ **Commission Committee Reports**

- ❖ Bylaws Committee – no changes received - nothing to report.
- ❖ Budget Committee – 2013 Fund Balance Spreadsheet showed a distribution shortage from the County of \$3,889.66. Approved budget was \$389,837 but only received \$385,947.34.
- ❖ Election Committee – nothing to report until nominations open at the September meeting.
- ❖ Legislative Committee – promoting passage of a bill that would restore the retirement pay of veterans.
- ❖ IACVAC Report – nothing to report until after the next IACVAC meeting which will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup> in Decatur.

➤ **Old Business**

- ❖ Staff and Commission Training – the annual harassment training will be held in January and all staff members are scheduled.
- ❖ The Commission reviewed the bids that were received for new 12 + 2 handicapped bus and recommended their selection to the County Budget and Finance Committee. The following is a synopsis of the review discussions and results:
  1. Southern Bus & Mobility – This bid was for a Diamond conversion on a Ford chassis at \$54,461 minus a \$6,000 trade-in resulting in a \$48,461 bid. All of the requested specifications were included in the bid. However, the closest maintenance location for this company was located in Breese, Illinois which is 40 miles east of East St. Louis. This bid was not accepted because the vehicle did not meet the standard desired by the Commission and it would result in exorbitant costs if towing or warrantee work were needed. These costs were not provided for in the VACKC 2014 Budget.
  2. Midwest Transit Equipment – This bid was for an Elkhart Coach conversion on a Ford chassis at \$51,165 minus \$4,500 trade-in resulting in a \$46,865 bid. All of the requested specifications were included in the bid. However, the closest maintenance locations for this company were located in Kankakee and Des Plaines, Illinois. This bid was not accepted because the vehicle did not meet the standard desired by the Commission and it would result in exorbitant costs if towing or warrantee work were needed. These costs were not provided for in the VACKC 2014 Budget.

3. Central States Bus – this bid was for a Goshen Bus conversion on a Chevy chassis at \$54,733 minus \$4,500 trade-in resulting in a \$50,233 bid. All of the requested specifications were included in the bid. This bid was preferred and approved because the vehicle standard was met and the closest maintenance location is only 13 miles from the VACKC office. Therefore, a motion was passed to accept this bid and send it to the County Budget and Finance Committee for their recommendation to the County Board.

➤ **New Business**

- ❖ President Cox received a summons for Grundy County Case Number 13-L-73. This case involves a complaint for “wrongful termination” and the plaintiff is suing for \$247,844.49 for wages and reimbursements and \$100,000,000 in punitive damages. The substance of this case was discussed. The discussion led to a motion to retain Attorney which was unanimously passed. Tim Rathbun is a municipal law attorney and will be representing the VAC of Kendall County, the Illinois Association of Veteran Assistance Commissions, six Grundy County veteran organizations, the Grundy County VAC, the superintendent of the Grundy County VAC, and the President of the Grundy County VAC. The expenses will be divided.

➤ **Good of the Commission** – To promote special community and Post events

- ❖ Plano American Legion Post 395 – nothing to report
- ❖ Newark American Legion Post 459 – Pig roast and gun raffle in February
- ❖ Yorkville American Legion Post 489 – discontinued Friday Night Fish Fry until Lent
- ❖ Oswego American Legion Post 675 – Friday Night Fish Fry
- ❖ Yorkville VFW Post 8234 – reported on the Christmas activities at the LaSalle Veterans Home
- ❖ Tri-County Chapter of VietNow – nothing to report

➤ **Closing Prayer**            Recited by Frank Kurtz

➤ **Salute The Flag**

➤ **Adjournment**            Motion passed at 7:50 PM.

These minutes were recorded by Cheryl Bullock who served as the recording secretary for this meeting at the request of President Cox because of the absence of Commission Secretary Meier. They will be presented for review and approval at the April 9, 2014 VACKC meeting.



Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County

811 West John Street - Suite 264

Yorkville, Illinois 60560

Ph: (630) 553-8355 \* Fax: (630) 553-0003



COMMISSION MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

MEETING DATE: *JANUARY 15, 2014*

Post or Chapter	Designation	VACKC Title	Name	Signature
American Legion Post 395	Delegate		Frank Kurtz	<i>Frank Kurtz</i>
	Alternate	IACVAC Alternate	Jerry Salois	<i>ABSENT</i>
American Legion Post 459	Delegate	Secretary	Norm Meier	<i>ABSENT</i>
	Alternate		Ted Simpson	<i>ABSENT</i>
American Legion Post 489	Delegate	President	Jeff Cox	<i>Jeff Cox</i>
	Alternate		Wallace Ellen	<i>ABSENT</i>
American Legion Post 675	Delegate	Vice President	Don Dahm	<i>Don Dahm</i>
	Alternate		John Schwartz	<i>John Schwartz</i>
VFW Post 8234	Delegate	Treasurer	Ed Kurz	<i>Ed Kurz</i>
	Alternate		Bob Leonard	<i>Bob Leonard</i>
Tri-County Chapter of VietNow	Delegate		Mike Marcelain	<i>Mike Marcelain</i>
	Alternate		Mike Donahue	<i>Mike Donahue</i>
<b>COUNTY BOARD LIAISON &amp; VACKC STAFF</b>				
County Board	Liaison		Jeff Wehrli	<i>ABSENT</i>
VACKC Staff	Superintendent / IACVAC Treasurer		Edward Dixon	<i>Edward Dixon</i>
VACKC Staff <i>(If requested)</i>	CVSO / IACVAC Delegate		Bradley Barrett	<i>B Barrett</i>
VACKC Staff <i>(If requested)</i>	CVSO / IACVAC Training Committee		Cheryl Bullock	<i>Cheryl Bullock</i>