

Keweenaw County Veterans Affairs

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2020

November 13, 2020 Keweenaw County Veterans Affairs Office

Roll Call: All Present Barry Koljonen, Chair

- Ned Huwatschek, member
- Wes Aho, member
- Derek Parkinen Veterans Service Officer, Keweenaw County

Guests:

- Bill Hannon
- Pete Halley

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 10am by Chairman Koljonen. The pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed in recognition of past Comrades and Veterans.

Announcement was made to approve agenda from meeting on Friday, September 11, 2020. New approved meeting notes, Wes seconded

Roll call for July Meeting to pay for gravestone setting for cement base for veteran's plaques. This was approved by Wes, seconded by Ned.

Ned requested VSO Derek Parkinen to become the note taker and transcriber for this meeting and all future meetings.

The board discussed the veteran's posters that are put up by the Houghton County VSO board. This notion was declined. If we do have requests for these posters, we will bring this subject back up at a future board meeting.

The current honor roll plaque in Ahmeek has been decided to be fixed, replaced and updated using Keweenaw County mileage monies. The price quote that has been estimated was for \$10,500 for stonework and \$4,800 for woodwork. If the millage monies do not cover this, the board has requested for us to research finding grant opportunities.

The board brought up the idea of reducing the number of meetings from six times per year to four times per year. VSO Derek Parkinen requested to keep the same number of meetings due to the office being new and starting up will require various questions and answers from the board members. By switching to four meetings per year this would incur emergency meetings to be called to order. The board agreed to keep six meetings per year as currently scheduled. The meetings have been

decided to be on the second Friday of every other month at 1000am at the Allouez Community Center. The meeting dates have been approved for 2021 as follows:

- January 8th
- March 12th
- May 14th
- July 9th
- September 10th
- November 12th

The board has requested VSO Derek Parkinen to research prices for the promotional items with the Keweenaw County Veterans Affairs office to also have their phone number on these items. The 2021 grant monies have been established and confirmed for pens, calendars, note pads. We will check the prices with 4 imprints with them being a national chain to offer possibly lower prices than local printing companies.

The board has approved in moving the \$3,000 funding approved in the 2021 grant for burial expenses to be moved to the grant money for office supplies and equipment. VSO Derek Parkinen will be conferring with Barry Koljonen in the next few weeks to go over items needed for the current and opened Keweenaw County VSO office in Allouez in the community center.

The board has requested for Del Rajala, member to be present for the 2021 meetings via Zoom. VSO Derek Parkinen will research and establish a Zoom connection for the next meeting commencing on January 8th going forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion for a new board member to replace Joe Finch was made by Wes and seconded by Ned. The board has approved Bill Hannon as the replacement board member. The board also has approved Pete Halley to be the associate and alternate board member. Pete will be attending all meetings and not have voting rights unless he is filling in for a current board member that is not able to attend a scheduled meeting.

A motion was brought up by VSO Derek Parkinen to remove Barry Koljonen as the Project Manager for the 2021 Grant and to replace Barry with VSO Derek Parkinen. This was approved by Ned and seconded by Wes. VSO Derek Parkinen will fill out the paperwork and have Barry Koljonen sign the form, followed by Don Piche and submitted it to Karen Rowlander with the Michigan department of veteran's affairs to make this official.

A notion for the meeting to adjourn was made by Wes at 1111am and seconded by Ned.