

## Putnam County Veterans Service Commission

### 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of Putnam County Veterans Service Commission convened on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December at 5:00pm with President Stan Oren presiding. Vice President Siefker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Five members were present as was Executive Director Matt Prenzlin, Office Manager Bob Kroeger, and Service Officer Jonathan Balmer.

Secretary Lauren Gerten made a motion to approve the minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 (regular meeting) - as distributed Vice President Brian Siefker seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

Secretary Lauren Gerten motioned to go into executive session, Vice President Brian Siefker seconded the motion. Roll call vote followed: Bernie Rau – Yes, Denny Hanneman – Yes, Stan Oren – Yes, Brian Siefker- Yes, Lauren Gerten – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Went into Executive Session to review and discuss the applications for financial assistance. After reviewing and discussing the applications for financial assistance we returned to regular session.

Krista Mullins, stay at home mom..... Food \$500.00  
Ottawa ..... Mortgage \$1937.94  
..... Water system repair \$1212.59

Michael Cole, unemployed ..... Food \$350.00  
Ottawa ..... Car payment \$634.40

Chanzie Dietz, laborer ..... Food \$500.00  
Pandora ..... Water \$96.10  
..... Verizon \$159.40  
..... TSC (internet) \$57.92  
..... Nat. Gas \$73.00  
..... AEP \$155.65  
..... Medical \$1100.00  
..... Mortgage \$716.37

Lisa Brennaman, retired..... Food \$200.00  
Continental.....

Kevin Baker, unemployed ..... Food \$200.00  
Leipsic..... Rent \$365.00

Vice president Brian Siefker made a motion to approve Mullin's application for financial assistance (Mortgage, Water Repair, and Food Voucher), Secretary Lauren Gerten seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

Commission member Denny Hanneman made a motion to approve Cole's application for financial assistance (Car Payment and Food Voucher), Vice President Brian Siefker seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

Secretary Lauren Gerten made a motion to approve Dietz's application for financial assistance (Food Voucher, Water Bill, Dental Bill, Verizon, Internet Bill, Electric Bill, Natural Gas Bill, and Mortgage), Vice President Brian Siefker seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

Secretary Lauren Gerten made a motion to approve Brenneman's application for financial assistance (Food Voucher), Vice President Brian Siefker seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

Commission member Bernie Rau made a motion to approve Baker's application for financial assistance (Lot Rent and Food Voucher), Secretary Lauren Gerten seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

Office Manager Bob Kroeger discussed the Thanksgiving Food Vouchers. 510 Vouchers were handed out, Kohls had \$20,221.38 used there and Kalida IGA had \$4,287.73 used there.

Service Officer Jonathan Balmer discussed the YMCA add and that it is free this year but will not be doing it next year.

Commission member Bernie Rau discussed the Fall Conference and that it went well.

Executive Director Matt Prenzlin discussed Christmas Food Vouchers starting December 11<sup>th</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup>. They must be used by December 23<sup>rd</sup> and only give out 350 \$50.00 vouchers. Will post it on Facebook, on the VSO website, and the paper if it gets approved. Secretary Lauren Gerten made a motion to hand out 350 \$50.00 Christmas Food Vouchers from December 11<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> and must be used by December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Commission member Bernie Rau seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

Executive Director Matt Prenzlin discussed COLA and 4% increase was approved for county employees by County Commissioners. Commission member Denny Hanneman made a motion for a 4% increase for COLA, Vice President Brian Siefker seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

President Stan Oren discussed changing the next meeting from January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 to January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Vice President Brian Siefker made a motion to change the next meeting from January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 to January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Commission member Bernie Rau seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

Executive Director Matt Prenzlin discussed that Fort Jennings American Legion just turned in their Memorial Day Voucher for \$500.00 even though the deadline has come and past. Vice president Brian Siefker made a motion to pay the \$500.00 Memorial Day Voucher to Fort Jennings American Legion, Commission member Denny Hanneman seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5 Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

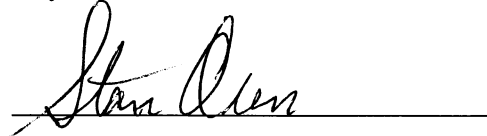
Service Officer Jonathan Balmer discussed that the Commander of the Columbus Grove American Legion presented \$100.00 checks to all the Americanism winners.

Executive Director Matt Prenzlin discussed DIC for widows and that one widow owes the VA money and they are currently looking into it and trying to help. He also handed out the 2024 calendar office meetings.

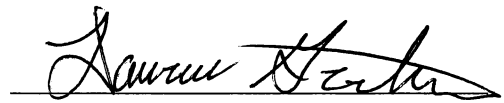
President Stan Oren discussed that there will be no Christmas party this year. He also stated that first of the year elections will take place at the next meeting. Evaluations of office members are due so we can see what everyone has done.

Next regular meeting will take place January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

With there being no further business to come before the board, Vice President Brian Siefker motioned to adjourn the meeting, Secretary Lauren Gerten seconded the motion. Vote: Yea – 5, Nay – 0; **Motion Carried.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stan Oren", written over a horizontal line.

President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lauren Gerten", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary

