

Jasper County Commission of Veterans Affairs  
Administrator Alyssa Wilson  
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Commissioners: Fred Chabot, Marta Ford, Jerry Nelson, Ed Spangenburg, and Susan Springer

10 April 2024

### Minutes

On 10 April 2024, at 1448 hours, Commission Chairperson Jerry Nelson called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Jasper County Veterans Affairs Commission to order. The commissioners in attendance were: Fred Chabot, Marta Ford, Jerry Nelson, Ed Spangenburg, and Susan Springer by telephone. Administrator Alyssa Wilson and Josh Price, who entered the meeting at 1501 hours, also attended the meeting.

#### Approve Minutes:

Ed Spangenburg made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled Commission meeting held on 13 March 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Unfinished Business:

##### 1. By-Laws for the Commission:

It was the consensus of the Commission to delay the review, discussion, and revision of the draft by-laws to the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, 12 June 2024.

##### 2. RECON at the American Legion:

It was the consensus of the Commission that the Resources, Education, Contacts, Opportunities, and Navigating the System (RECON) meeting at the Newton American Legion on 4 April 2024 was well-executed and well attended. Representatives of the following agencies participated: Veterans Administration; Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, Iowa State University Senior Living Services; Home Base Iowa; Jasper County Elderly Nutrition; and Senator Grassley's office. Newton American Legion provided beverages and Newton HyVee provided cold snacks.

##### 3. PCM Shop Class Thank You:

The Commission provided three breakfast pizzas and a case of Mountain Dew to thank the shop class students for fabricating cases for the cremains of deceased Jasper County veterans. Susan Springer, Alyssa Wilson, and Josh Price represented the Commission at this thank you event.

##### 4. Vietnam Veterans Day:

The 17th Annual Iowa Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, 14 May 2024, at 1100 hours, at the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial, located south of the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines. The event is being hosted by Disabled American Veterans, Des Moines Chapter 20, with support from the Central Iowa VA Health Care System. It was the consensus of the Commission to spend approximately \$270.00 for trays of food and beverages for the live-streaming of this event in the Jasper County Office Building large conference room. A bus to carry Jasper County veterans to and from the actual ceremony with a lunch stop at Smokey D's BBQ was previously approved by the Commission. Administrator Wilson will arrange for publicity of both through the Newton News newspaper and KCOB radio stations. RSVP's will be required for both the live-streamed event and the bus transportation. Jerry Nelson will coordinate with Doug Bishop regarding his preferred involvement in the bus trip.

**5. State School: 16-18 April 2024:**

The Commission acknowledged that the Jasper County Veterans Affairs Office will be closed so that Administrator Wilson is able to attend this meeting in person. The State School is conducted by the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs.

**New Business:**

**1. March, 2024 Administrator's Activity Report:**

Commissioners reviewed the March, 2024 Administrator's Activity Report.

**2. February, 2024 Expenses, Allocation, Donation, ESFP Report:**

Commissioners reviewed the March, 2024 set of reports.

**3. Vietnam Veterans Day - Conference Room Streaming:**

See Item 4. under Unfinished Business.

**4. Kellogg American Legion, 16 May 2024:**

This outreach event has been scheduled to take place at 1800 hours on 16 May 2024. Ed Spangenburg made a motion and Marta Ford seconded for the Commission to provide pizzas and non-alcoholic beverages for this event. Susan Springer volunteered to follow up with Carl Van de Camp regarding a similar outreach event in Prairie City, Iowa.

**5. Financial Assistance While Serving On Active Duty:**

It was the consensus of the Commission to allow for county funds to be used for Jasper County veterans who are serving on active duty and demonstrate a financial need. This is to be handled on a case-by-case basis. This matter will be included in the Veterans Affairs Commission By-Laws.

**6. Jasper Rides - Travel Pay Reimbursement:**

It has come to the Commission's attention that a small number of Jasper County veterans are provided no-cost Jasper Rides to medical appointments and also file for VA travel mileage reimbursement for their appointment. After research into the small number of occurrences, the small amount of money involved, and the complicated process to identify the subject veterans, it was the consensus of the Commission to not track this matter.

Announcements: None

Public Input: None

Confirm next meeting: Wednesday, 8 May 2024, 1500 hrs., at the Jasper County Office Building.

At 1635 hours, Fred Chabot made a motion and Marta Ford seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Ferdinand J. Chabot, Secretary