

Gratiot County

Department of Veterans Affairs

214 E. Center St., Ithaca, MI 48847 veterans@gratiotmi.com

(989) 875-5258 FAX (989) 875-5209

November 15th, 2022

Gratiot County Veterans Committee
Ithaca, Michigan

RE: Minutes, Gratiot County Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting October 20th, 2022

The regular meeting of the Gratiot County Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (GCVAAC) was held Thursday, October 20th, 2022, at the Gratiot County Courthouse Commissioners Room, Ithaca, Michigan, complying with current Michigan Department of Health guidelines. For members unable or prefer not to attend in person remote zoom was available. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Aplin at 1500 hours. Roll call was held with Autumn Leonard, Brandon Simmet, Terry Barnaby, Ken Davis, and Gary Hoffer. Also present was GCDVA Director Nancy Bozzer.

Approval of Additions/Modifications to the Agenda were motioned by Gary Hoffer, 2nd by Ken Davis.

Approval of the meeting minutes of August 18th, 2022, and proposed agenda were motioned by Ken Davis, 2nd by Brandon Simmet.

Director's Report

Director Bozzer presented the yearly numbers for claim status. It covered from New Claims to BVA appeals. This is the first year of tracking and will provide a good baseline for following years. In addition, the Director will start tracking the number of new intakes for a better understanding of the quantity of Veterans seeking assistance and if our outreach programs are working. Ken Davis questioned how many times a Veteran can appeal a decision, Director stated four times.

The Director briefed the number of outreach events covered over the last 4 quarters as 69. The Director has been researching different events and ways to increase the outreach to our current Gratiot County Veterans. GCVAAC Board members made suggestions on better outreach and advertising programs, and how they are reaching new Veterans.

The Director reiterated the Meijer Food Program will not be continuing next Fiscal Year as there is not much need for food assistance at this time. However, we do have Food4Vets (sponsored by Meijer and MVTF) still available and will continue to use this program along with our Veterans Relief Fund.

The schedule for the Office closures was presented, November 11th, November 24th-25th, December 23rd-January 2nd, 2023. The Emergency Crisis Line will still be available by dialing *211.

Old Business

The Historical Case in the Courthouse Rotunda is still waiting to be secured.

The Heroes Center Board is still looking for an Executive Chair Director and a Vice Chair Director. Director stated she will be strictly an advisor after the funds have been moved.

The Webpage for GCVAAC is currently up and running. Director is adding links for starting small businesses, grants, along with other resources to make the page more informational.

“Duty, Honor, Country”

New Business:

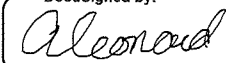
The Veterans' Relief Fund (VRF) (aka Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund) procedures explanation has been altered. Section B of the procedures where it states "Needy will be defined as having an Emergent need that exceeds available household resources" to include "Emergent is defined as an unforeseen circumstance causing a temporary financial emergency that will be resolved with this monetary grant." Ken Davis motioned to add the additional explanation, 2nd by Brandon Simmet.

Operation Green Light was printed in both papers to inform locals of the dates to showcase their support for local and non-local Veterans by having a green porch light on between the dates of November 7th-13th.

Director Bozzer has been focused on the better tracking for Claims and Outcomes so next year at this time she can present Graphs to show progress.

The next scheduled GCVAAC meeting will be at 3:00 pm, Thursday, December 15th, 2022. Motion to adjourn by Gary Hoffer, 2nd by Ken Davis. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1604 hours.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:


27383A0A34AF43E...
Autumn Leonard, Secretary
Gratiot County Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

User: sedmonds
 DB: Gratiot
 PERIOD ENDING 09/30/2022

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2021-22 AMENDED BUDGET	ACTIVITY FOR		YTD BALANCE 09/30/2022 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	AVAILABLE BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	% BDGT USED
			MONTH 09/30/2022 INCREASE (DECREASE)	09/30/2022 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)			
Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND							
Expenditures							
Dept 681 - SOLDIERS BURIAL		3,600.00	0.00		1,350.00	2,250.00	37.50
101-681-833.00	BURIAL		0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
101-681-974.00	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES (\$10000 +)						
Total Dept 681 - SOLDIERS BURIAL		3,600.00	0.00		1,350.00	2,250.00	37.50
Dept 682 - VETERANS COUNSELOR							
101-682-702.00	DEPARTMENT HEADS SALARY	15,211.00	2,211.31		15,621.95	(410.95)	102.70
101-682-703.00	SALARIES & WAGES	45,947.00	5,354.40		46,086.54	(139.54)	100.30
101-682-703.10	PER DIEM	1,800.00	0.00		1,500.00	300.00	83.33
101-682-704.10	SUPPLEMENTAL PAY	1,539.00	0.00		0.00	1,539.00	0.00
101-682-712.00	LONG-TERM DISABILITY	219.00	2.90		191.16	27.84	87.29
101-682-715.00	SOCIAL SECURITY	3,820.00	541.47		3,900.36	(80.36)	102.10
101-682-715.10	MEDICARE	893.00	126.64		912.19	(19.19)	102.15
101-682-716.00	HOSPITALIZATION	4,800.00	608.71		6,798.97	(1,998.97)	141.65
101-682-716.02	HEALTH INSURANCE BUY-OUT	495.00	495.00		495.00	0.00	100.00
101-682-716.10	RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
101-682-717.00	LIFE INSURANCE	98.00	8.58		110.73	(12.73)	112.99
101-682-717.10	RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE	0.00	0.00		0.62	(0.62)	100.00
101-682-718.01	RETIREMENT - DEFINED CONTRIBUTION	3,023.00	378.25		3,057.90	(34.90)	101.15
101-682-719.00	WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION	129.00	17.59		129.31	(0.31)	100.24
101-682-721.00	DENTAL/OPTICAL	665.00	21.20		665.00	0.00	100.00
101-682-726.00	SHORT-TERM DISABILITY	155.00	38.08		257.20	(102.20)	165.94
101-682-727.10	OFFICE SUPPLIES - POSTAGE	2,117.00	71.75		1,941.32	175.68	91.70
101-682-727.50	DONATION EXPENDITURES	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
101-682-815.00	MEMBERSHIP DUES	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
101-682-860.00	TRAVEL	250.00	0.00		1,144.86	(894.86)	457.94
101-682-861.00	MILEAGE	600.00	(48.80)		760.04	(160.04)	126.67
101-682-942.00	RENT	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
101-682-974.00	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES (\$10000 +)						
101-682-991.00	PRINCIPAL	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
101-682-992.00	INTEREST	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 682 - VETERANS COUNSELOR		81,761.00	9,827.08		83,573.15	(1,812.15)	102.22
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		85,361.00	9,827.08		84,923.15	437.85	99.49
Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND:							
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		85,361.00	9,827.08		84,923.15	437.85	99.49
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS							
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS		85,361.00	9,827.08		84,923.15	437.85	99.49

PERIOD ENDING 09/30/2022

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2021-22 AMENDED BUDGET	ACTIVITY FOR MONTH 09/30/2022 INCREASE (DECREASE)	YTD BALANCE 09/30/2022		AVAILABLE BALANCE (ABNORMAL)	% BDTG USED
				NORMAL	(ABNORMAL)		
Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND							
Expenditures							
Dept 682 - VETERANS	COUNSELOR	29,475.00	3,121.49	28,888.03	586.97	98.01	
101-682-702.00-030	DEPARTMENT HEADS SALARY-STATE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
101-682-702.02-030	DEPARTMENT HEAD SALARY TRAINING-STATE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
101-682-703.00-030	SALARIES & WAGES-STATE	592.00	0.00	317.91	274.09	53.70	
101-682-704.10-030	SUPPLEMENTAL PAY-STATE	141.00	24.82	141.48	(0.48)	100.34	
101-682-712.00-030	LONG-TERM DISABILITY-STATE	1,827.00	211.79	1,809.33	17.67	99.03	
101-682-715.00-030	SOCIAL SECURITY	427.00	49.54	423.15	3.85	99.10	
101-682-715.10-030	MEDICARE-STATE	1,005.00	1,005.00	1,005.00	0.00	100.00	
101-682-716.02-030	HEALTH INSURANCE BUY-OUT	49.00	4.70	48.63	0.37	99.24	
101-682-717.00-030	LIFE INSURANCE-STATE	1,474.00	156.11	1,444.40	29.60	97.99	
101-682-718.01-030	RETIREMENT-DEFINED CONTRIBUTION-STATE	62.00	7.66	61.30	0.70	98.87	
101-682-719.00-030	WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION-STATE	335.00	0.00	335.00	0.00	100.00	
101-682-721.00-030	DENTAL/OPTICAL-STATE	80.00	(9.98)	80.00	0.00	100.00	
101-682-726.00-030	SHORT-TERM DISABILITY-STATE	1,029.00	45.00	877.65	151.35	85.29	
101-682-727.10-030	OFFICE SUPPLIES - POSTAGE-STATE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
101-682-752.00-030	COMPUTER EQUIP & SUPPLIES-STATE	9,610.00	3,681.71	9,042.73	567.27	94.10	
101-682-800.00-030	OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES-STATE	2,334.00	696.35	2,172.84	161.16	93.10	
101-682-815.00-030	MEMBERSHIP DUES-STATE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
101-682-850.00-030	COMMUNICATIONS-STATE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
101-682-860.00-030	TRAVEL-STATE	3,950.00	48.80	1,797.01	2,152.99	45.49	
101-682-880.00-030	COMMUNITY PROMOTION-STATE	22,970.00	990.58	22,630.78	339.22	98.52	
101-682-900.00-030	ADVERTISING/PUBLISHING-STATE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
101-682-910.00-030	TRAINING-STATE						
Total Dept 682 - VETERANS COUNSELOR		75,360.00	10,033.57	71,075.24	4,284.76	94.31	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		75,360.00	10,033.57	71,075.24	4,284.76	94.31	
Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND:							
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		75,360.00	10,033.57	71,075.24	4,284.76	94.31	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS		75,360.00	10,033.57	71,075.24	4,284.76	94.31	

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2021-22		ACTIVITY FOR		YTD BALANCE 09/30/2022 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	AVAILABLE BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	% BDT USED
		AMENDED BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)	MONTH 09/30/2022 INCREASE (DECREASE)	NORMAL (ABNORMAL)			
Fund 293 - SOLDIERS & SAILORS								
Revenues								
Dept 000 - 013								
293-000-400.00	REVENUE	0.00	0.00	775.00	(775.00)	100.00		100.00
293-000-664.00	INTEREST	0.00	0.40	2.12	(2.12)	100.00		100.00
293-000-699.00	CARRYOVER/FUND BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
293-000-699.01	TRANSFER IN	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00		0.00
Total Dept 000 - 013		1,500.00	0.40	777.12	722.88	51.81		51.81
TOTAL REVENUES								
1,500.00		1,500.00	0.40	777.12	722.88	51.81		51.81
Expenditures								
Dept 000 - 013								
293-000-700.00	DISTRIBUTIONS	1,500.00	0.00	980.83	519.17	65.39		65.39
293-000-974.00	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES (\$10000 +)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
293-000-995.00	INTEREST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total Dept 000 - 013		1,500.00	0.00	980.83	519.17	65.39		65.39
TOTAL EXPENDITURES								
1,500.00		1,500.00	0.00	980.83	519.17	65.39		65.39
Fund 293 - SOLDIERS & SAILORS:								
TOTAL REVENUES		1,500.00	0.40	777.12	722.88	51.81		51.81
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,500.00	0.00	980.83	519.17	65.39		65.39
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		0.00	0.40	(203.71)	203.71	100.00		100.00

Fund 296 VETERANS MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE FUND

GL Number	Description	Balance
*** Assets ***		
296-000-001.00	CASH	1,773.13
296-000-003.00	CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	0.00
296-000-015.00	MONEY MARKET	0.00
296-000-015.10	INSURED CASH SWEEP	8,234.68
296-000-040.01	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	0.00
Total Assets		10,007.81
*** Liabilities ***		
296-000-202.01	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	0.00
296-000-202.02	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - EXPENSE ACCRUA	0.00
Total Liabilities		0.00
*** Fund Balance ***		
296-000-390.00	FUND BALANCE	16,063.39
Total Fund Balance		16,063.39
Beginning Fund Balance		16,063.39
Net of Revenues VS Expenditures		(6,055.58)
Ending Fund Balance		10,007.81
Total Liabilities And Fund Balance		10,007.81

Gratiot County

Department of Veterans Affairs

214 E. Center St., Ithaca, MI 48847

veterans@gratiotmi.com

(989) 875-5258 FAX (989) 875-5209

RE: Veterans' Relief Program VRP (Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund Program)

PURPOSE: This Memorandum establishes Procedures for the Implementation of the Gratiot County Veterans' Relief Program (VRP)

AUTHORITY: The Gratiot County Veterans' Relief Program finds its authority in two State Laws.

Provisions of Act 214 of 1899:

"To be eligible for a grant from the County VRP you must be a legal resident of Gratiot County Michigan at the time of application. You must have been **discharged under honorable conditions**, with at least 1 day of active wartime service. Service during the following periods (or an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service between periods in places such as Grenada, Lebanon, Berlin, Persian Gulf, or the Mayaguez operation) is required: WWI: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 (if service in Russia then to April 1, 1920); WWII: December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; Korea: June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955; Vietnam: August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975; Gulf War: August 1, 1990 to TBA

Provisions of Act 192 of 1953, MCL 35.624: "Sec 4: The county department of veterans affairs shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as shall be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this act and any and all other benefits to which veterans may be entitled as prescribed by the county department of veterans affairs." In keeping with this provision, and the fact that Gratiot County funds the VRP from the General Fund (not the millage authorized under Act 214 of 1899), the Gratiot County Veterans Committee and the Gratiot County Department of Veterans Affairs have authorized assistance to Peacetime Era Veterans in addition to Wartime Era Veterans.

PROCEDURES:

A. This policy is established pursuant to the referenced state laws, to clarify county policies for the implementation of state law regarding the VRP established to assist **indigent veterans** and the spouses, widows, minor children, and parents of said indigent or deceased veterans. The Veterans Service Officer will determine if the Veteran has been "**discharged under honorable conditions.**" This will include both an "Honorable" Discharge and a "General Under Honorable Conditions" Discharge. NOTE: This determination is made based on the military discharge and does not include those who have been determined to have service "Honorable for VA Purposes."

B. The Veterans Service Officer taking the application will ensure that the Veteran is truly "indigent." The Attorney General of Michigan has defined "Indigent" as being both "poor" and/or "needy." *For purposes of the Gratiot County VRP, "poor" will be defined as at or below the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Non-Service-Connected Pension Rate.* This easily accessible table is adjusted annually by the USDVA, and is set just above the poverty rate. This chart also accounts for the number of legal dependents in a Veteran's household. For purposes of the Gratiot County VRP, "needy" will be defined as having an **Emergent** need that exceeds available household resources.

"Duty, Honor, Country"

C. The Gratiot County VRP is limited by Budget. Assistance can only be provided up to the amount of funds in the County Budget Line for “Soldiers and Sailors.” When those funds are exhausted no further assistance can be provided without additional funding being authorized by the County Board of Commissioners.

D. Food Vouchers will be provided by other programs (Food4Vets and Gift Cards) and once those programs are exhausted then food vouchers may be granted under this program. Food Vouchers will be provided at a rate of \$100 per Veteran, plus an additional \$50 per dependent; up to a maximum of \$200 per applicant/family. A Veteran can only apply one time in a thirty-day period. Any further restrictions may be established from time to time by the Veterans Committee based on needs and budgetary constraints.

E. Other assistance may be given under VRP, (ie...utilities, car repairs, rent assistance, medical bills, etc...) but limited in monetary award per veteran/family. Due to the minimal budget and other assistance available, the award will be limited up to \$300 per veteran/family and can be used to supplement other assistance programs. The veteran/family will only be eligible for VRP assistance only once during a Fiscal Year.

F. The Veterans Service Officer will take the application either in person, via mail, or over the telephone. The VSO taking the application will determine if the Veteran is eligible by service. If not, the VSO will immediately notify the applicant that the application cannot be approved. If the applicant is eligible by service, the VSO will take the application and consult with the remaining VSOs if time and availability permits.

G. Once the Veteran is approved for assistance, the VSO will submit the appropriate paperwork to the accounting department to send to vendor or issue a Food Voucher. The Food Voucher may only be used at Ric’s grocery store. NOTE: The Voucher will be returned by the Store, with receipt, for payment.

APPEALS: Appeals will be addressed to the Veterans Committee at their next scheduled meeting.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROGRAMS.

The VRP, by law, assists Indigent Veterans. Those Veterans who do not qualify as Indigent, may apply for assistance through the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) or other government and private programs, as eligible.

This policy is effective upon approval by the Gratiot County Veterans Committee.

Approved: October 20, 2022 at Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee meeting, Gratiot County Courthouse.

Encl: Financial Application