

## **Cerro Gordo County Veteran Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, March 27, 2023, 9:00 am**

Commissioner attendance: Cecil Foell, Richard Ochoa, Daryl Johnson and Cindy Davis. Other representative Maria Bilharz (Director CVSO), Paul Beatty (CVSO)

Absent: Jessica Reith

1. Meeting called to order by Richard Ochoa at 9:14 a.m.
2. Approval of previous months minutes. Daryl Johnson made a motion to approve the February minutes, second by Cindy Davis. Motion passed.
3. Signing of bills. Bills that were signed included: phone, KCMR Vets Tribute, postage, office supplies, Xerox Printer lease, monitor stands, training monitors, sponsorship pf Mohawk Trap team. Cindy Davis made a motion to approve the bills; second by Cecil Foell. Motion passed.
4. What's New in the Office:

### **Home Base Iowa Update**

Maria Bilharz stated her office requested to be placed on the Supervisor's Agenda to present what they have for the Home Base Iowa incentives. At that time, they will collaborate with the supervisors about approved items to include for a larger incentive package. Ideas regarding the monetary incentive options would be to express a deposit amount on a home purchase (Staying away from rent). If they are buying a home, it is affirmation they are they are staying a while. Maria Bilharz stated they will also propose an opportunity to assist with funds on behalf of utility hook-up fees and/or deposits. Larger incentive packet per veteran would not to exceed \$1,000, or an amount the Supervisors are comfortable with providing.

The VA office also needs to clarify with the Supervisor's what the expectations are of the VA office in managing the Home Base Iowa Program, and where the source of funds will be extracted from. There has already been a revenue line item created in the budget for any income donations (one donation has already been received), and an expense line item has been created for future expenses. The VA office will inform commissioners of the date this is placed on the Supervisor's agenda.

### **April Tree Donation**

The tree order has been turned in however much of our inventory comes out of Minnesota and due to heavy snow, they are a couple of weeks behind. Therefore, we should expect to receive the trees the week of April 23, 2023, however that date could change as well. As soon as the trees arrive Maria Bilharz will contact commissioners to inform us of the dates to donate the trees in Ventura and Dougherty Each of those communities will receive three trees.

5. Quilts of Valor donation review. The mission of Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. To receive a Quilt of Valor of Valor one must be serving, or have served, in one of the military branches and honorably discharged. National Guards and Reservist qualify if they were activated. Cindy Davis made a motion to make a \$500 donation to the North Central Iowa Chapter Quilts of Valor group, seconded by Richard Ochoa. Motion passed.

6. Public Comments – There were no public comments

6. Next meeting scheduled for April 24th, 2023 - 9:00 am

7. Adjourn – Cindy Davis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cecil Foell. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Davis