

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12 & 13, 1989, MEETING OF THE
NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

LOCATION--VFW CLUB ,BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
CONVENED AT 1:00 P.M.

Chairman Bernard Wagner called meeting at 1:00 p.m. and opened with Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer for MIA and POW's.

Roll call was held. Fred Schmidt, William Haug, and Terry Richardson were absent. Chairman Wagner stated that Fred Schmidt had called that he had a doctor's appointment and William Haug had called that he could not attend because of another meeting. Veterans Home Commandant James Welder and Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Milton Kane present.

Chairman Wagner informed Committee of luncheon for Mr. Derwinski, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the new established cabinet post. Luncheon would be held at 12 noon, April 13, at the Governor's mansion. American Legion National Commander Sparky Gierke would be in attendance. Administrative Committee would be allowed two members from each organization to attend.

Minutes of Administrative Committee meetings of October 23, 1988, and December 29, 1988, were read and approved.

James Welder and Charles Godke reported on Veterans Home legislation. Senate Bill 2096 allowing for Administrative Committee to apply for funding for Veterans Home addition had been passed and Governor Sinner had indicated he would sign the bill at luncheon. Senate Bill 2137 allowing change of law so that there could be nursing care at Home. James Welder also reported on 209, problems with changes and cuts.

Milt Kane reported on 2009, and how it would affect his department. Request to keep veterans Aid Loan program to stay in Department of Veterans Affairs. Loan term had been extended from 2 or 4 years. Widows of eligible veterans are now eligible for loans.

Chairman called a recess at 1:45 so sub committees could meet.

ORIGINAL

Reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Wagner reported that one member of each veterans organization would be presenting their organization's colors at the Capitol on the morning of July 4. This would be televised on Good Morning America.

Sub committee Chairman Godke for the Veterans Home reported that Veterans Home had 111 residents with 123 on the roll. Was a need for updating rules and dues codes at the Home. Godke also reported that the cost of State car for Commandant would increase from 15 cents to 25 cents per mile.

A Committee of Godke, Joe Novak and Fargo Veterans Hospital Engineer Sorenson would be going to Dickinson on April 19th to look at some facilities for possibility of a veterans nursing home there. Godke reported work program at Home was in limbo due to minimum wage. Possibly our congressional delegation could get legislation introduced and passed to exempt Veterans Home so residents could continue in work program.

Moved by Godke that a committee of Welder, Wagner and Godke be authorized to select architect and engage him to draw plans for addition to Home. Second by Richard States and carried.

Moved by Godke that Godke and Wagner act as agents for full committee to sign for loans and bonds for Veterans Home. Second by Ken Evenson. Carried.

Moved by Godke that James Welder be re-appointed as Commandant of Veterans Home and his salary be in accordance with O.M.B. and legislative guidelines. Second by Richard States. Carried.

Moved by James Swenson that Veterans Home report be approved. Second by Michael Vandrovec. Carried.

Richard States reported for Veterans Affairs sub committee. States reported on the hiring of Gene Kouba to work out of Bismarck. State that Kouba had been doing very well in the position and felt he would be an asset to Department of Veterans Affairs. States said there was need for additional training of some County Veterans Service Officers and that Kouba would be able to accomplish this. Milton Kane reported that budget would be very tight, especially travel and to replace equipment.

Moved by Richard States that Milton Kane be re-appointed as Commissioner of Veterans Affairs with maximum salary as provided by O.M.B. and legislative guidelines. Second by Godke. Carried.

Moved by Vandrovec that Veterans Affairs report be approved. Second by David Liuska. Carried.

Moved by David Liuska to adjourn, Second by Jim Ziegler. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by
Paul S. Aaberg, Secretary