



# Administrative Committee On Veterans Affairs

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/15/80 North Dakota 56839

CHAIRMAN  
JAMES G. ROSENDAHL  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

## North Dakota Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs Bismarck, North Dakota December 15, 1980

The meeting was called to order in the conference room of the Job Service building by Chairman James Rosendahl.

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Jim Rosendahl, Jim Morris, Orville Gullickson, Marvin Konrad, Gordon LaMont, Bernard Wagner, Art Ulness, Stanley Severson, Pete Helm, Lloyd Zander, Charles Code, Therman Kaldahl, General C. Emerson Murry, and Frank Gathman.

Those with an excused absence were George Dahlen, Gayle Doherty, and Steve Groth.

Guests present were: Earnest Schmit, Floyd Henderson, Dennis Berg, Bill Williamson, and Gordon Thorson. Chairman of the evaluation committee, Joe Novak, was also in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Since there were no corrections or additions, they were approved as read.

Chairman Rosendahl read a letter he received from Mr. Gerald Taylor, President of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council recommended that the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs appoint a committee to investigate and evaluate the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs regarding allegations made against the Department. They also recommended that this evaluation be completed by December 15, with a report to be given to the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs, the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council, and the Department of Accounts and Purchases.

Several persons were suggested to serve on this evaluation team. Mr. Rosendahl noted that in discussion with Mr. Gathman, it was felt it would be better that Mr. DuCharme not serve on this committee because of the close working relationship between him and the Department of Veterans Affairs. They were also unable to contact Mr. Alan Rice. The evaluation team was made up of Mr. Joe Novak, Chairman; Mr. Earnest Schmit, and Mr. Gordon LaMont. The evaluation has now been completed. Chairman Rosendahl asked Mr. Novak to present their report to the committee.

Mr. Novak noted, "The special evaluation committee accepted this difficult

MEMBER COMMITTEE FOR  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
ORVILLE GULLICKSON, CHAIRMAN  
GAYLE DOHERTY, VICE CHAIR  
JAMES G. ROSENDAHL  
GEORGE D. PARSONS  
GORDON LAMONT  
STANLEY R. SEVERSON

EX OFFICIO  
M. C. EMERSON MURRY  
VALERIE GATHMAN  
EDWARD J. KLECKER  
THERMAN KALDAHL  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE BUREAU

FRANK GATHMAN  
ARNO G. ULNESS  
GAYLE DOHERTY

assignment with some hesitation and the full realization that whatever we did in our critical analysis of such a popular department, we would be subjected to criticism from some. Be that as it may, we want the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs to accept it in the manner in which it is presented. We as individuals or as a committee, do not claim to be infallible. We are honest and we attempted to work without bias or prejudice."

Mr. Novak read the entire written evaluation report. (See attachment.)

He further stated, "Our assignment may have, in the final analysis, been the easy one. Yours from this time on may be substantially more difficult. We hope that you will see fit to assume the challenge without thought of personal interest. We, as individuals involved with this assignment, will soon pass. The needs of the veterans will continue on. It is that specific need that will have to direct your time and attention to make it all worthwhile."

Chairman Rosendahl commended the committee for an excellent evaluation and report.

Pete Helm moved a copy of the report be presented to W. M. Williamson for the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. Motion seconded by Orville Gullickson and carried unanimously.

Orville Gullickson moved Mr. Rosendahl present a copy of the report to Dean Conrad, Director of Accounts and Purchases, along with a cover letter. Motion seconded by Marvin Konrad and carried.

Chairman Rosendahl asked that the Administrative Committee hold this evaluation report in confidence.

Bill Williamson expressed some thoughts written to him by Mr. Therman Kaldahl, Executive Director of the North Dakota Job Service. Following Mr. Kaldahl's attendance at a meeting of the Administrative Committee in Minot, approximately a year ago, he challenged the Administrative Committee to make greater use of their ex officio members.

Mr. Rosendahl responded that they certainly welcome the participation of the ex officio members and do encourage their participation in either of the subcommittee meetings, whichever pertains to them or is of the most interest to them.

Mr. Kaldahl noted that he feels the way the situation with regard to the Department of Veterans Affairs has been handled and the end product from the evaluation committee are two things that the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs should be extremely proud of. He feels the report is one of the best pieces he has seen. He noted this report ought to be part of a permanent record and one that should be followed up on.

Following separate meetings of the subcommittees on Veterans Affairs and the Soldiers' Home, the Administrative Committee again met.

Jim Morris, Chairman of the Soldiers' Home subcommittee, reported that the Home presently has 132 members on the rolls. There are 120 present, five of which are females. They are presently receiving additional applications for admittance to the Home.

The construction is practically complete. They will receive a visit from the VA Architectural Inspector soon. Following this inspection, the remaining moneys will be expended.

When their budget was submitted, they included a proposal for conversion to coal heating. This was deemed impractical because of the availability of coal. They have now done a further study on the advisability of using electrical heating through Ottertail Power. It looks like this will be much more feasible.

Mr. Morris expressed his appreciation for the help of everyone at the dedication of the new wing of the Soldiers' Home. The Soldiers' Home report by the VA was generally good. Any recommendations made will be implemented as soon as possible.

Orville Gullickson reported that the subcommittee on Veterans Affairs recommended an increase in the amount of the Veterans Aid Loan of up to \$2,000, with an interest charge of 8%. If the loan is repaid on time, half of the interest would be refunded. They would also like to seek an additional \$350,000 from the Vietnam Veterans Bonus Fund to add to the Veterans Aid Loan Fund. Bernard Wagner moved we seek legislation as proposed on the Veterans Aid Loan. Motion seconded by Pete Helm and carried unanimously.

The budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs was cut by \$20,210, the amount set aside for travel of County Veterans Service Officers to attend an annual training conference. The subcommittee would like to ask that \$12,105 be added to travel to be used by the Commissioner's office to contact County Veterans Service Officers and county commissioners.

Orville Gullickson moved that the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs support the addition of \$12,105 to the travel budget of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Motion seconded by Gordon LaMont and carried.

The Veterans Affairs subcommittee also suggested that a \$200 honorarium be paid to each member of the evaluation team. Jim Morris moved this honorarium be paid. Motion seconded by Marvin Konrad and carried unanimously.

The Veterans Affairs subcommittee approved seeking an undergraduate to work for eight - ten weeks in the office of the Department of Veterans Affairs to promote the Veterans Aid Loan.

In the subcommittee meeting it was moved that Mr. Zander implement as many of the recommendations as he could, as soon as possible, and report back to the committee at the next meeting. The same evaluation team will reevaluate the office in three months.

Lloyd Zander noted that he wanted to commend the team that evaluated the Department of Veterans Affairs for providing a very efficient and fair evaluation.

The next meeting of the Administrative Committee will be January 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference rooms of the North Dakota Job Service in Bismarck.

Pete Helm moved the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Gordon LaMont and carried.