



EDWARD T. SCHAFER, GOVERNOR
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
JOHN J. MULLEN
McVILLE, NORTH DAKOTA

SECRETARY
PAUL S. AABERG
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21 & 22, 1994, MEETING OF THE
NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
ON VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**LOCATION--KELLY INN, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
CONVENED AT 1:00 P.M.**

Joint meeting with the Veterans Coordinating Council, President Mike Dobmeier of Veterans Coordinating Council presiding. President Dobmeier called meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer for POW/MIA.

Roll Call of Coordinating Council.

Glenn Fogel from VA Medical Center reported for Douglas Kenyon, Center Director. Fogel reported inpatient at VA Hospital up 8%. Estimate outpatient to be same or higher for 1994.

Col Donahue of National Guard reported on activities of Guard. Guard in North Dakota actively recruiting. Guard is on active readiness program.

Col Thilmony reported on Veterans Cemetery. Need for funding for completion of grounds landscaping and for maintenance. 184 veterans and spouses have been interred. Bonus program--\$145,000 has been paid. \$36,000 ready to pay when paper work is completed. Will be short of funding to complete program. Final date for applications is December 31, 1994.

Rick Ryan reported for Employment and Training Service. Effort being made to keep veterans training and employment service intact and under the VA.

Gary Hoffman reported for Job Service. North Dakota ranks 6th in nation on job placement for all veterans.

Rod Backman, Office of Management and Budget, responded to use of earnings of Veterans Post War Trust Fund. Rod agreed that Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs should have say on use of Trust Fund Earnings.

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
VETERANS AFFAIRS
AL HUBER, CHR
MICHAEL VANDROVEC, VICE-CHR
PAUL S. AABERG
SECRETARY
JOE NOVAK
KENT ANDERSON
DONALD WEIBLE

RAY HARKEMA
COMMISSIONER
VETERANS AFFAIRS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

KEN ANDERSON
COMMANDANT
VETERANS' HOME
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
VETERANS' HOME
JAMES ZIEGLER, CHR
SUZANNE KIME, VICE-CHR
JAMES GROVEN
THOMAS RAINSBERRY
JOHN W. PENCE
MARVIN A. JENSEN
KEN EVENSON

M/G A. P. MACDONALD
ADJUTANT GENERAL

EX OFFICIO
DOUGLAS M. KENYON
VA CENTER DIRECTOR

GERALD BALZER
ND JOB SERVICE

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Monte Skogstad reported on his experience with Veterans Preference Law and need for improvement to wording law so it could be fore effective.

Leo Swenson, Legislative Liaison Director for Coordinating Council commented on duties of his committee.

Recess at 2:00 P.M. so Coordinating Council and Veterans Administrative Committee could meet separately.

Chairman Mullen called meeting of Veterans Administrative Committee at 2:25 P.M. All members present.

Vic Hass moved that reading of minutes of committee meeting on November 5 & 6, 1993, be dispensed and they be approved as distributed. Second by John Pence. Carried.

Legislative Director Al Houthouser representing Governor Schafer gave a few remarks. He touched on the fact that Veterans Administrative Committee was working on Nursing home beds for veterans.

James Ziegler moved that Administrative Committee be allowed to meet privately to discuss selection process for a new Commissioner. Second by John Pence. After discussion, motion carried.

Chairman Mullen asked guests to leave meeting but also that under open meeting law they were not requiried to leave. Guests left room and committee entered into discussion on selection process as reported in minutes of conference call. Joe Novak requested a correction in conference call minutes. He asked that in third paragraph from the end--(a directive was given commissioner Kane to accumulate all applications used and the tape of this meeting and seal and store at the Commissioners office for a period of one year.), that words and seal be deleted. After more discussion, no action taken.

Motion by Paul Aaberg to approve conference call of Wednesday, January 12, 1994, minutes. Second by Ken Evenson. Motion carried.

Kent Anderson moved that further discussion on format of selection process of Commissioner cease. Second by Tom Rainsberry. Motion carried.

Guest and visitors were invited back to meeting. Present were: Dennis Berg, Burleigh CVSO; John Meyer, Cass CVSO; Ron Otto, Morton CVSO; Chuck Risch, Gene Kouba, Ray Harkema, Milton Kane, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs; Ken Anderson, Commandant North Dakota Veterans Home; Dave Dahlgren, Col Donahue and Col Thilmoney.

Ken Anderson, Commandant Veterans Home, reported on Veterans Home. He mentioned not belonging to long term care association and that he could see no useful purpose to join as the long term care association opposed any proposal for additional nursing home beds for veterans.

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Recess at 3:50 P.M. so sub committees could meet. Chairman Mullen announced that Commissioner Kane and Commissioner Select Harkema would be serving snacks and refreshments in Kane's room at 5:00 P.M.

Reconvened at 9:05 A.M., January 22, 1994.

Report by Department of Veterans Affairs by sub committee chairman Al Huber. Discussion on replacement of Commandant's Home in Lisbon. Moved by Joe Novak to seek legal option permissible to committee, cost of proposal, finance option and community support of Lisbon for a new residence and a veterans museum of present residence of Commandant. Second d by Sue Kime, carried.

Moved by Kime to accept report of Veterans Affairs sub committee. Second by Vandrovec, carried.

Report on Veterans Home Committee by Chairman Ziegler. Motion by Tom Rainsberry that priority of nursing home beds be changed. A 60 bed nursing home in Western North Dakota be number one and that a 20 bed addition in Lisbon be number two. Grafton not to be considered at this time. Second by John Pence. In discussion, reason for change being the length of time to get paper work completed for Lisbon addition. Motion carried.

Moved by Ken Evenson that a survey be conducted concerning needs of veterans for domiciliary care versus skilled nursing care. This survey to be done thru Commissioners office using County Veterans Service Officers. Survey to be completed prior to meeting with Legislative Committee March 29, 1994. Second by Vic Hass, carried.

Sub Committee Chairman Ziegler also commented that some lease or purchase proposals would be looked at before March 29, 1994. Two homes in Dickinson and one in Minot.

Moved by James Groven to accept Veterans Home report. Second by Al Huber, carried.

Date of next meeting will be set by Chairman Mullen and Sub committee Chairman Huber and Ziegler.

Chairman Mullen requested all committee members to sit in on joint meeting with Coordinating Council.

Chairman Mullen adjourned Administrative Committee meeting at 9:50 A.M.

Submitted by
Paul S. Aaberg, Secretary

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January 27, 1994