

ARTHUR A. LINK, GOVERNOR

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Administrative Committee On Veterans Affairs

BOX 1537

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501

Minutes - July 25, 1975

Conference Room
Employment Security Bureau
Bismarck, North Dakota

SECRETARY
Joe Novak
Bismarck, North Dakota

CHAIRMAN
James G. Rosendahl
Fargo, North Dakota

Chairman Wagner called the meeting of the Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. CST. Roll call was taken with the following present: Crawford, Gullickson, Habiger, Morris, Novak, Rosendahl, Sloan, Ulness, Wagner, and Swafford. Absent and Excused: Grothe, Swartz, and Welander. Ex-Officio members present: Gronvold; Kory Ford, representing Ed Klecker. Absent: Melhouse and Rice.

Chairman Wagner then introduced Colonel Gagnon from the Governor's office to make a presentation on behalf of the Governor to Lloyd Zander, Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This letter of appreciation and commendation will be made a permanent part of the correspondence files of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs, and is attached. Chairman Wagner made close-out comments indicating his termination of Chairmanship of the Committee, and introduced James Rosendahl whom the Governor has selected for the Chairmanship for the ensuing year, and Joe Novak whom the Governor has selected for the Secretary for the ensuing year.

Chairman Rosendahl called for the minutes of the last meeting which were read and accepted. Committee appointments for the ensuing year were read with all members remaining on the same Committees with the exception of William Swafford, representing the D.A.V., who was assigned to the Sub-Committee on the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Joe Novak, who was transferred to the Soldiers Home Sub-Committee.

Sub-Committee for
VETERANS AFFAIRS
Russell S. Crawford, Chm.
Orville L. Gullickson, Vice-Chm.
James G. Rosendahl
Terry K. Swartz
William F. Swafford
Donald F. Sloan
Kenneth G. Habiger

EX-OFFICIO
M/G LaClair A. Melhouse
Adjutant General
Irvin D. Noll
VA Center Director
Edward J. Klecker
Director of Institutions
M. N. Gronvold, Director
Employment Security Bureau

Sub-Committee for
SOLDIERS HOME
Clarence Welander, Chm.
James M. Morris, Vice-Chm.
Joe Novak
Stephen J. Groth
Arthur E. Ulness



Handwritten initials and signatures in the top right corner.

Chairman Rosendahl also noted that a new man will replace Alan Rice who has retired from the Federal Service, and at that time a motion was made by Mr. Ulness and seconded by Mr. Morris that a letter be prepared to thank Mr. Rice for his very beneficial participation in the endeavors of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs since the new Committee was formed on July 1, 1971. At 10:30 a.m. Chairman Rosendahl temporarily adjourned the full-committee in order to provide an opportunity for the sub-committees to meet and to report back to the full-committee at the conclusion of their separate meetings.

At 11:20 a.m. the reconvened meeting began and the reports of the Soldiers' Home, prepared by Mr. Morris, were presented and moved by Mr. Gullickson and seconded by Mr. Crawford; their acceptance with all members voting "aye".

Following the report of the Soldiers' Home Sub-Committee, which was presented by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Sloan with all present voting in favor to establish a five-man committee of A.C.O.V.A. members to study the use of the money from residents for added facilities for the Soldiers' Home. This was anticipated with the approval of the Legislature for the assessment of these monies. This Committee was appointed by Chairman Rosendahl to consist of the following members: Mr. Welander as Chairman, Mr. Morris as Vice-Chairman, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Gullickson, and Mr. Novak as members. Mr. Rosendahl and Mr. Code will serve as ex-officio members on a consulting basis. It was the concensus of the group that a thorough study be made at this time with a completion date not later than July 1, 1976, with recommendations to then be brought to the Coordinating Council for their consideration. It was also the concensus of the Committee that all possible alternatives be considered, including such things but not limited to an addition, a conversion to a nursing home facility, a possible relocation of a portion of the Soldiers' Home to another area of the State, and any and all other ideas that will be beneficial to the Soldiers' Home residents.

It was recognized by the Committee that in approximately five (5) years the large number of veterans resulting from World War II will be approximately 63 to 65 years old and that a great increase

in residency may be anticipated at that time. It was further brought out that this project might be provided for by advanced funding through a bonding issue if permitted by the Legislature, and that the income study in conjunction with this review would assess the amount of monies available to cover such a bond issue. It was the consensus of the Committee that this is an extremely urgent matter and that the deadline of July 1, 1976 must be met, as time must be allowed for the Coordinating Council to consider any recommendations made and to formulate a package for presentation to the next Legislative session.

A motion was made in regard to the Soldiers' Home Committee report by Mr. Gullickson, seconded by Mr. Crawford, that the Soldiers' Home be permitted to use all Federal Disaster money to be received as a result of the flood and as provided by the Federal government for the renovation of the damage created by such flood.

The next business was the Department of Veterans Affairs Committee report by Mr. Crawford, which was reported in detail and the motion to accept the report was made by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Morris with all present voting aye. (NOTE: The minutes of the Soldiers' Home Sub-Committee and the Department of Veterans Affairs Sub-Committee will be prepared and submitted to all members under separate cover.) The full-Committee heard the report of Bill Williamson of the Coordinating Council regarding his efforts in his contact with the Attorney General's office regarding the opinion, requested by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which opinion he felt ran contrary to the intent and purpose of the Coordinating Council and their presentations before the last Legislative Session. He reported the Attorney General listened attentively and although he did not respond at that time as to his further intent, he did agree to review his previous decision and respond to Mr. Williamson in writing.

Discussion followed which was concurred in by the Administrative Committee, suggesting that Commissioner Zander, in the future, assume total authority and responsibility for initial determinations in matters of this kind and that he be assured that he has such

total authority and will have the backing of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs when undertaking such action. It was suggested that only after his decision is challenged that an Attorney General's opinion might be requested under similar circumstances.

It was suggested that a master file in the office of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs be maintained throughout the life of the A.C.O.V.A. to provide a central master file containing all of the information, correspondence, minutes, and other communications of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs to provide a full continuity for review by present members, and to provide new members with an update of the activities of the Committee in the past. Mr. Zander pointed out that all correspondence and other pertinent records of the Committee are being maintained and this will be continued.

Mr. Crawford commented about the services of Mr. Wagner and asked that a letter be prepared to show the Committee's appreciation for his services, with a copy to Governor Link; the motion seconded by Mr. Gullickson and carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 a.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,


Joe Novak
Secretary