



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 NOVEMBER 22 & 23, 1996, MEETING OF THE NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Chairman John Mullen opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silent prayer for POW/MIA.

Chairman Mullen announced that he had received a phone call from Gary Hoffman and that Gary was resigning from the Veterans Affairs Committee effective immediately. Resignation due to a job change and that he and his family have moved to Minot.

Roll call, following members present:

John Mullen	Donald Weible	Others in Attendance:
Paul Aaberg	Dean Bayer	Commandant Ken Anderson
Kent Anderson	James Carlascio	Commissioner Ray Harkema
Larry Dakken	Kenneth Evenson	Chuck Risch, Claims Officer
Joseph O'Brien	James Johnson	Gene Kouba, Bismarck Branch DVA
Rheinhold Weber	Thomas Rainsberry	
Rick Olek	Kenneth Vatne	

ABSENT: Gary Hoffman

Paul Aaberg moved that the minutes of the meeting held July 13 & 14, 1996, at Medora, ND, be approved as mailed to members. Second by Dean Bayer. Carried.

Chairman Mullen introduced the following guests for remarks: Jennifer Gladden, Executive Director ND Job Service. No remarks.

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
VETERANS AFFAIRS
JOHN J. O'BRIEN, SUB CHR
LARRY DAKKEN, VICE-SUB CHR
PAUL S. AABERG
RICHARD S. OLEK
RHEINHOLD WEBER
KENT ANDERSON
DONALD WEIBLE

RAY HARKEMA
COMMISSIONER
VETERANS AFFAIRS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

KEN ANDERSON
COMMANDANT
VETERANS' HOME
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
VETERANS' HOME
KENNETH EVENSON, SUB CHR
THOMAS RAINSBERRY, VICE-SUB CHR
JAMES A. CARLASCIO
KENNETH A. VATNE
DEAN BAYER
GARY HOFFMAN
JAMES JOHNSON

M/G KEITH D. BJERKE
ADJUTANT GENERAL

EX OFFICIO
DOUGLAS M. KENYON
VA CENTER DIRECTOR

JENNIFER GLADDEN
ND JOB SERVICE

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Douglas Kenyon, VA Center Director, who reported on changes and happenings at the Fargo VA. He asked that the Committee consider the purchase of a telecommunication system to be used between the Clinic at Grafton and VA Hospital at Fargo for diagnostic purposes. The System to cost about \$87,000.00.

Gen. ~~James Fleming~~^{Ken Fleming}, representing Maj. General Bjerke, Adjutant General: Gen. ~~Fleming~~^{Ken Fleming} gave a report on the Veterans Cemetery. He also submitted a budget request for the 97-99 biennium in the amount of \$150,000.00 to man the cemetery at present level. Additional funding needed for additional manning for 97-99 would be \$200,000.00

Thomas Rainsberry reported on homeless Vets in North Dakota. Tom requested that the Department of Veterans Affairs consider a program for homeless Vets in North Dakota. This program could be operated with help from the VA Center and Social Services. \$10,000.00 was a figure mentioned for cost of initiating program.

Meeting recessed at 1:45 so sub committees could meet.

Meeting reconvened at 8:30 am, November 23, 1996.

Bob Evans, Williams County Service Officer was introduced. He made a request for assistance to replace a van used to transport veterans from Western North Dakota to Miles City Veterans Hospital. Cost of van about \$20,000.00. As secretary of the ND Veterans Coordinating Council Bob reported that all the veterans organizations had paid their pledges for Measure #4 expenses, and he would be making a complete report to the Council.

Department of Veterans Affairs sub committee Chairman Joe O'Brien reported for his committee. Moved by O'Brien to approve report. Second by Rainsberry. Carried.

Veterans Home sub committee Chairman Evenson report for his committee. Evenson moved that Commandant Anderson be supported on changes and moving of personnel and hiring an accountant to comply with recommendations of OMB. Second by Carlascio. Carried. Commandant Anderson reported on Veterans Home operation. Evenson moved for approval of this report. Second by O'Brien. Carried.

Chairman Mullen reported that he had received a letter of request from Veterans Service Officer Dennis Berg for a van to pick up veterans in Sioux County. Cost about \$20,000.00.

Discussion on the replacement of the two vans operated by Department of Veterans Affairs from Stanley to VA Hospital and from Wahpeton to VA Hospital. Cost about \$40,000.00.

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Moved by Olek that full committee reconvene after we hear State Treasurer Gilmore's report. Second by Evenson. Carried.

Recessed at 9:45 A.M. to meet with Coordinating Council.

Reconvened at 11:45 A.M.

Due to weather Treasurer Gilmore was unable to make the meeting. Commissioner Harkema gave an estimate of balance of Trust Fund interest money on hand July 1, 1997, would be \$25,000.00 if all funds budgeted are spent. Anticipated earnings from the Trust Fund could be between \$500,000.00 and \$550,000.00 for the 97-99 biennium. With the \$200,000.00 needed to continue the programs in place and administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs we have a total of \$577,000.00 in requests for the 97-99 Biennium. After discussion Evenson moved that all requests be tabled till our next meeting. Second by O'Brien. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Submitted by
Paul S. Aaberg, Secretary

vok
December 4, 1996