

MINUTES

OCTOBER 26, 2001

**VETERANS HOME
LISBON, NORTH DAKOTA**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Thomas Moe. Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for the POW/MIA followed.

Roll call, following members **PRESENT:**

Paul Aaberg	Gerald P. Balzer	Daryl Beard
Larry Dakken	Ken Evenson	Rudy Jenson
Ted Krogen	Tom Rainsberry	Kasey Schmaltz
Joe Schneider	Willy Warner	Don Weible
Thomas R. Moe		

following members **ABSENT:**

Joe Litzinger	Ken Vatne
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Others in Attendance

Commissioner Ray Harkema	Commandant Ken Anderson
Bob Olheiser, Deputy State Treasurer	
Larry Robinson, Ex. Director, Valley City State University Foundation	
Ronnie Miller, Voluntary Service - VA Medical Center	
Luke Schmidt, Work Force Programs - Job Service North Dakota	
MG Michal Haugen, Adjutant General - North Dakota National Guard	
SFC Phil Miller - North Dakota Veterans Cemetery	
Bob Hanson, AMVETS State Commander	
Joe Novak, AMVETS, Coordinating Council member	

Minutes of July 2001 meeting.

Motion by Balzer, second by Schmaltz to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest Speakers:

Ronni Miller - As of 10-5-01, Doug Kenyon's new position is CEO, Network Care. George Burns is Acting Center Director. The name of the person accepting the Center Director's position has been forwarded to VA Secretary Principi for approval. Fargo placed first in the nation for MCCR collections. These are third party reimbursements. Voluntary Service is requesting PostWar Trust Fund monies in the amount of \$60,000. Ms. Miller explained the services/activities provided by voluntary service.

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Larry Robinson - [HANDOUT PROVIDED] Information given on Naval V-12 Program instituted during World War II. In North Dakota the program conducted training at the colleges in Dickinson, Minot and Valley City. The Valley City program included some 500 trainees. The Valley City State University Foundation is requesting PostWar Trust Fund monies to help build a memorial listing the names of the its participants. The cost of the memorial is \$20,000 - \$25,000. It is hoped that in the future Minot and Dickinson will also have a memorial on their campuses.

Luke Schmidt - Job Service North Dakota is meeting eleven of fourteen standards. New standards will be in place July 2002 with new criteria.

Bob Olheiser, Deputy State Treasurer - [HANDOUT PROVIDED] Gave explanation of Postwar Trust Fund monies. Recommendation by Ohleiser that the committee request an Attorney General's opinion on the Prudent Investor Rule and its impact on the Fund. Is the Fund required to maintain a \$4.1 million balance at all times, or can it be allowed to fluctuate with the market. Having to maintain \$4.1 million in cash at all times greatly restricts spending when the markets and interest rates are down and curtails long term investment strategies. Olheiser asked about a motion from the July minutes, "*Motion by Jensen, second by Balzer, that \$50,000 be put into a Reserve Fund with another \$50,000 appropriated by June 30, 2002.*" He wanted clarification on the committee's intent. Did the committee wish to obligate \$100,000 to the Reserve Fund in one year or in one biennium?

Meeting recessed for lunch.

Sub-committees to meet at 12:30, with full committee reconvened at 1:00.

Chairman Moe reconvened meeting at 1:00pm.

Guest Speakers:

MG Michael Haugen, ND National Guard - Update on Guard's involvement in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

SFC Phil Miller, North Dakota Veterans Cemetery - [HANDOUT PROVIDED] Update on Veterans Cemetery. The balance of the Cemetery Fund as of 9/30/01 is \$37,418.00 and the balance of the Cemetery Foundation is \$925,668.86.

Meeting recessed so subcommittee can finish their business.

Full committee meeting reconvened by Chairman Moe.

Chairman Moe asked for subcommittee reports.

Veterans Home subcommittee report by Paul Aaberg, Chairman. Subcommittee will be proposing change in the residency requirement for admittance to the Veterans Home. The Interim Budget Committee meetings going well. New Veterans Home pamphlets will be available at the next meeting.

Department of Veterans Affairs subcommittee report by Gerald Balzer, acting Chairman.

Subcommittee discussed the N.D.C.C. "definition of a veteran" and if any action is necessary for individuals who are denied loans and grants based on that criteria. One of the transportation vans has been sold, check received for \$9,742.00. The money will be going back into the PostWar Trust Fund. The Grant Program will need funding and a request will be made at the January meeting. Subcommittee still working on performance standards for the Commissioner.

Discussion on remaining transportation van.

Motion by Schneider that a small committee be named to work with the Commissioner and given the authority to make a decision on what to do with the remaining van, second by Aaberg. Motion passed.

Chairman Moe appointed Daryl Beard, Tom Rainsberry, and Ken Evenson to serve on the committee. Suggestion made to get the van information out to the County Veterans Service Officers to try and generate some interest.

Discussion on Appeals Process. Clarification made on the Chairman's responsibility to appoint the appeals committee to include CVSO's on committee. The Appeals Procedures state the Appeals Committee must be appointed from the Administrative Committee members.

Discussion on proposal of new residency requirement for Veterans Home. Subcommittee would like to reduce requirement from one year to thirty days. They would like to have the proposal ready for the next Interim Budget Committee meeting in January.

Chairman Moe reported that he, Mr. Balzer, and Mr. Aaberg had appeared before the Interim Budget Committee as well as Sharon Ulmer and Ken Anderson from the Veterans Home. Chairman Moe told the Interim Committee he personally believes the membership of the Administrative Committee is too large; but that he acknowledges that is not the sentiment of the other members of the committee. The Interim Committee has not addressed the issue. Mr. Balzer said that the Interim Committee will discuss this at their next meeting. Chairman Moe has received a letter from Bob Hanson, State Commander of the AMVETS, stating that the AMVETS, at their recent State Executive Committee meeting, had voted unanimously in opposition to any reduction to the number of members on the Administrative Committee. Tom Rainsberry reported that the Vietnam Veterans of America had voted unanimously at their last meeting to oppose any membership change. The next meeting of the Interim Committee is January 9, 2002 via interactive video. Chairman Moe encouraged Administrative Committee members to participate at the nearest video site

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Discussion on PostWar Trust Fund requests.

Motion by Jenson to change the date from June 30, 2002 to July 1, 2002 on \$50,000.00 obligation to the Reserve Fund, second by Balzer. Motion passes unanimously. [SEE VOTING RECORD, PROPOSAL 1].

Motion by Evenson to give half of van sale amount to V-12 Memorial Project (\$4,871.00), second by Aaberg. Motion fails, 6 yeas, 7 nays - Dakken, Krogen, Rainsberry, Schmaltz, Schneider, Warner, and Moe. [SEE VOTING RECORD, PROPOSAL 2].

Motion by Warner to give \$2,000.00 from the van sale to V-12 Memorial Project, second by Rainsberry. Motion passes, 10 yeas, 3 nays - Dakken, Schneider, and Moe. [SEE VOTING RECORD, PROPOSAL 3].

Motion by Balzer to give the VA Voluntary Service \$10,000 for bowling, cable tv, and Womens Wellness Program, second by Dakken. Motion passes, 8 yeas, 4 nays - Aaberg, Evenson, Schmaltz, and Schneider. [SEE VOTING RECORD, PROPOSAL 4]. Payment will be made as money becomes available from PostWar Trust Fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Balzer asked if there had been any change to the decision in the grant request of Donald Kern. Commissioner Harkema replied there had not. Chairman Moe said he had visited the Department office and had reviewed the file of Mr. Kern. Chairman Moe said he is satisfied with the action on Mr. Kern's request.

Time and place for committee meetings discussed.

Motion by Balzer for committee to meet April 26 & 27, 2002 at the Veterans Home, Lisbon. Motion fails, 5 yeas, 8 nays.

Motion by Balzer for committee to meet April 19 & 20, 2002 at the Veterans Home, Lisbon. Motion passed, 12 yeas, 1 nay - Dakken.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by

Gerald P. Balzer
Secretary

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