

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
Minutes - September 8 & 9, 1972
VFW Club
Fargo, North Dakota

Chairman Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

Roll call taken - all members present. Two Ex-Officio members present - Rice and Gronvold; Absent - Fiedler and Melhouse.

Motion made by Crawford to dispense with reading of minutes of previous meeting; seconded by Welander; carried.

Chairman Wagner outlined agenda. Sub-committee on the Soldiers Home to continue their study on the Home Improvement Fee. Sub-committee on Veterans Affairs to be briefed at the Commissioner's office.

Under Item 8, Administrative Guidelines, each Sub-committee was to report on the operation of its agency. This business is carried over to the next meeting.

Budget Reports: Both Sub-Committees reported on hearings before the budget review board; such hearings considered to be very favorable. Was reported that Dale Moug and a party of legislators were to visit the Soldiers Home on September 18th.

Much discussion was held, and concern expressed over possible failure to have Improvement Fee collections ear-marked to this special fund.

Commissioner Zander introduced John Meyer, Cass County Veterans Service Officer, who spoke for changing dates for eligibility for Veteran Aid Loans back to February 1, 1955. The Committee on a motion by Rosendahl; seconded by Welander; favored such a change.

Sub-committees held separate meetings from 2:35 to 4:05 p.m.

Full Committee heard report from Jim Rosendahl on budget; meeting by Zander with Board of Higher Education regarding 60-day suspension of tuition payments for Viet-Vets. Also Veterans Aid Loans for out of state veterans and that Sub-Committee voted that preference be given to those who were residents at time of entry into service. Motion made by Rosendahl; seconded by Welander; that Committee favor changing dates of Veterans Aid Loans back to February 1, 1955; carried.

Commissioner Zander was commended for his budget presentation and his annual report.

Joe Novak appointed to audit Department of Veterans Affairs. Jim Morris and Steve Groth appointed for Soldiers Home. This in compliance to Item 8 of Guidelines.

Recessed at 4:30 p.m. to meet at 9:00 a.m. at Legion Club.

Saturday, September 9 - 9:00 a.m.

Clarence Welander reported for Sub-Committee on Soldiers Home:

Home Improvement Fee proposed:

- A. \$20,000 per year (goal)
- B. Fair, just to all members
- C. Money to be used for "Home Improvement."

Exemptions:

- 1. Home members payroll
- 2. Service connected compensation
- 3. Authorized leaves or furloughs
- 4. Illness's, hospitalization, etc.

Fees per month

\$0 - \$50.00	- None
\$50.00 - \$100.00	- \$5.00
\$100.00 - \$150.00	- \$15.00
\$150.00 - \$200.00	- \$25.00
\$200.00 - Over	- \$30.00

Rosendahl moved acceptance; Groth seconded; carried.

Committee recessed at 9:30 a.m. to meet jointly with Veterans Coordinating Council to hear General Melhouse's report on Vietnam Bonus.


Sub-Committee Chairman Rosendahl reported on actions of Sub-Committee. John Meyers again presented Veterans Aid proposal.

Sub-Committee Chairman Welander presented Home Improvement Fee proposal.

After reassembling from joint meeting, Sloan moved to adjourn; seconded by Rosendahl.

Next meeting to be coordinated with the Council in advance of opening of the Legislature.

Adjourned 11:00 a.m.


Ernest N. Schmit
Secretary