



Veteran Assistance Commission of Will County

Kristina McNichol – Superintendent
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12 April 2022

**Veterans Assistance
Commission Meeting**

5:00 PM

**Location:
Plainfield American Legion Marne Post 13
24741 Renwick Rd, Plainfield IL 60544**

- I. Call to Order: Koch
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Opening Prayer: Mylnek
- II. Roll Call of Attendees: Williams

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	E
Nicholas Barry	Vice President	E
Denise Williams	Secretary	P
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	P
Jim Singler	Chaplain	A
Tom Mlynek	Member	P
Janet Blue	Member	P
Steve Benicke	Member	P
Vic Martinka	Past Chairman	P
John Kestle	Past Chairman	P
John York	Past Chairman	A
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	P

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees:
John Murray, ISCVAC 1st Division VP; Cathy Pleasant, Will County Dep. Auditor; Joe Barton, WCVAC staff; Steven Solum; Will Sutton, Kendall County VAC, IACVAC Judge Adv., AL 13 Delegate; Robert Angone.
- IV. Public Comment:
Horne-are we going to exercise missing 3 meetings re: John York
-Koch suggested we address this next month, asked ASA Wise re: how to handle; ASA Wise will look at attendance records, review by-laws re: non-attendance of Board member.
Koch-1st, 2nd and 3rd call for public comment; no comment offered.
- V. Minutes of Previous Meeting:
 - A. VAC Regular Meeting 8 March 2022; Motion:
Benicke, Martinka; unanimous
 - B. Special Meeting 30 March 2022; Motion:
Horne, Benicke; unanimous

VI. Superintendents Report:

A. Award Log: 2015 – Present \$_.M

Papineau-av. 4-6 months for awards thru VA
Motion to Accept-Horne, Benicke; unanimous

B. Project 150 Report: 4/1/2022

a) Emergency Shelter: Spent: \$100,615.30; Remaining \$49,384.70 (ESG-CV funded)
McNichol-7 veterans assisted in March

C. Financial Assistance Report: (7) Veterans

- a) Shelter: \$1,050.00
- b) Gas: \$167.18
- c) Electric: \$413.28
- d) Water: \$72.99
- e) Personal Products: \$175
- f) Food: \$0

Motion: Benicke, Blue; unanimous

VII. New Business

A. Member Benicke & Member Blue Recommendation on Professional Recruiting Firm:

Benicke-Blue report, volunteered to research Exec. Search firm, sought proactive firm who will actively seek candidate; contacted 8 firms, received 3 responses; Bryant group more attuned to \$250k and above positions, Kees/Alford responded, more in line w/what we sought.

Recommendation for Kees/Alford on \$100k range position, fee would be approx. \$34k; 1st payment due on execution of agreement, 2nd due 60 days in, or on presentation of candidates, 3rd payment due on hiring of their candidate.

-Koch/Blue/Benicke discussed fee based on approx. 1/3 of salary

-McNichol advised Kees/Alford has been used by other county agencies;

-Benicke questioned prudence of selecting first/only viable firm/candidate

-Blue advised search would take approx. 12 weeks, if we wait, it will further delay search

-Martinka-does Will County of WCVAC pay search firm/finders fee

-McGlasson-have search firms been advised of requirement of Supt. being a veteran

-Horne-is there funding set-

-McNichol advised budget has line item for Professional Services

-Koch read out budget is for \$30k

-McNichol advised Interim Supt. Papineau has been advised how to move funds

-Mylnek-asked about using in-house

-Koch advised County can be utilized, given the specialized nature a search firm may be necessary

-Blue-asked if County would also use search firm

-Williams advised per previous comment per McNichol, county has in the past

-Horne-will fee be paid regardless of source of candidate

-Auditor/Pleasant-is there anything in the contract re:if they don't find a candidate, do we still pay

-Carlos Dominguez-Why wouldn't the VAC hire from within?

-Koch-there is nothing saying we can't but they would still have to apply

-Steven Solum-could VAC put out listing, if large amount of applicants received...

Discussion – do we want to go to a search firm? What is the cutoff number of applicants or turn over to a search firm.

-Williams – per previous conversation, this is a volunteer Board, given the nature of the position, will probably receive dozens or scores of applications, time commitment from Board to sift through may be excessive, beyond skill set of Board, reason for using a search firm;

-Horne – 1st Superintendent was hired from Kankakee

-McGlasson – one of the things we are missing by putting this on the County website, we also miss out on the marketing a search firm would provide; only those in this room, those who know about the posting, from an HR standpoint we need to ensure fairness

-Horne – would it be advisable to send a letter/open position to other VAC's?

-John Murray-agreed to send to other VSO's, stated he processed 200 applicants , used staff, to fill vacancy in his VAC, saved significant amount of money

-McNichol – did Blue/Benicke complete Superintendent job posting/description

-Blue – not as of yet

-McGlasson-suggested borrow job descriptions from other counties, McGlasson volunteered to help w/job description; McGlasson as HR professional, DOD experience and lawyer, volunteered to develop job description, posting

-Murray will supply Lake County Supt. job description, assist McGlasson

a) Motion to table to May 10 meeting: Williams, Blue; unanimous

B. Other Professional Services

ASA Wise: re: FOIA's, allegations of impropriety, suggestion to appoint investigative officer to recommend action to Board; has contacted 3 legal firms, suggests set special meeting soon to review resumes of firms

-Blue – can this special meeting be virtual

-ASA Wise – it can be done due to ongoing pandemic, must have physical quorum, voting members can be virtual

-ASA Wise – voting members to take copy of resumes of firms to review at end of meeting

-Koch – suggested Tues. Apr. 26, 6:00pm at WCVAC office, 2400 Glenwood

-Board agreed, no motion needed/called

VIII. Old Business

A. Financial Appeal nullified

McNichol advised appeal discussed at last meeting was pulled back, no appeal was filed

B. DCEO 2022 Appropriation \$250,000.00

a) Discussion

McNichol advised this grant is "capital only", no expiration date, w/office in transition no need to rush grant application; County Exec Office advised they will reach out to WCVAC staff when they are ready to apply; grant is \$250k for new office.

C. IGA with County Executive Office Update

McNichol advised ASA Wise, ASA Tatro made a few adjustments, took "County Exec" off, added "County Board", removed end date of County Exec term from IGA, otherwise unchanged.

-Horne – what is next steps

-McNichol advised Board already passed, it is not yet presented/signed by County Exec or County Board

-Discussion-ASA Wise advised County typically signs last, does not have to sign last.

-Horne - he will bring to Pres. Picciolo to sign, will be witness, does not need Notary.

IX. For Good of the Commission

- A. 1300 Copperfield (new office space)
McNichol – gym equip purchased and delivered/present
- B. Van Wraps
McNichol advised Joliet Township will use their dollars for both vans, will be completed by Image 360, they have a contract w/Will County
- C. Outreach
 - a) Every Tuesday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center – G. Wiza
 - b) Every Monday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center – A. Georgakopoulos
 - c) Every Thursday – Together We Stand, Peer Support Group @ VAC Office
 - d) Third Thursday – VAC at Peotone American Legion
 - e) Second Monday - VAC at Manhattan American Legion Breakfast
 - f) May 21,2022 – Beer & Bourbon Festival, Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build Fundraiser *Flyer Attached

ASA Wise requested we set schedule/list locations for Board meetings per OMA

-Koch advised will be placed on agenda for May 10 meeting.

McNichol advised due to size of conference room at 2400 Glenwood and potential CDC changes in recommendations, current meeting was moved to American Legion Post 13.

-Discussion- location may change, alternate, will reach out to various posts; Sutton stated AL 13 is available for May 10.

- X. Motion to Adjourn: Horne, Martinka; unanimous

**VAC Executive Committee Meeting
05/10/2022 @ 5PM
Plainfield AL 13
24741 W. Renwick Rd., Plainfield**