

Veterans Council Minutes

Thursday 4 APRIL 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 1904 hrs. with Pledge of Allegiance @ Town Hall.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Jack Rayburn, Janine Suchecki, Scott McMillan, Hank Maude, Joe Sweeney, Frank Curtis, Jack Darrow, MaryAnn Blackmur, Joe Gragg

Excused: Jay Ippolitto, Tom Burbank, Keith Jermyn

Absent:

3. **OFFICER REPORTS :**

a) Review Veterans Council 5 March 2019 Meeting Minutes: Minutes Approved.

b) TREASURER Report February 2019 (Jack Rayburn): February 2019 Financial report reviewed and approved. Veterans Council Benefit Fund: \$5,753.87 Veterans In Need Trust Fund \$31,674.56

c) VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER Report (Keith Jermyn):

1. Half Staffing 2 Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker ordered the US Flag and Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag be lowered to half staff at all state buildings:

*25 MAR 2019 at all fire stations and the Town Hall in memory of Donald E. Milley - retired Hingham Firefighter and EMT, as well as an electronic engineer, working for the micro spring Company and the Apollo project. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he held a very high clearance in radio maintenance in occupied Berlin.

2. Saturday 30 March at all Fire Stations and the Town Hall in memory of Rick wake - a community activist in Roslindale, Grand Marshall in Roslindale Day Parade, and member of the Scottish Rite, Aleppo Shrinners, and Project Lodge. Served in the National Guard. Former Building Inspector for the Town of Hingham and City of Boston.

3. NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED: 25 (5 Single Veterans, 12 Surviving Spouses, 4 (8) Couples

Benefits Expended: \$15,752.86 (Ordinary Benefits, Fuel, Doctors, Medications, Hospitals, Dental, Misc)

4. Consolidated Flag Purchase Program 2019: 2/27

Purchases	- \$0
Reimbursements	- \$734.50
Points	- 154.50

5. Historical Commission filming at Hingham Shipyard (HSY) on 11 APR from 1000-1400hrs RE: WWII.

6. REP Murphy & staff instrumental in returning the colors to Hingham 1058th Armory.

7. US Army Vet cremated remains are in my office; will need an Honor Guard for Burial at Bourne National Cemetery, No Next of kin (N-O-K) local...we pick the dates - so majority rules (Min 3 Rifles).

8. Warrant Articles to be voted : Monday 22 APR 2019 2 Town Meeting -HHS Gym.

9. Donate to Wild Hearts Horses for Heroes...A therapeutic Equestrian Program - Non profit, charitable 501 (c) (3) organization. wild Hearts Horses for Heroes programming is offered free of charge to military veterans and their families. Last year donation = \$250.) A motion was made by the Council to fund \$250 wild Hearts Horses for Heroes should Keith desire to

continue support.

\$25 covers the expenses for one bag of grain to feed our therapy horses.

\$150 supports one month of horse shoes for one of our therapy horses.

\$500 supports the grain/supplements of one of our therapy horses.

- \$1,000 supports basic veterinary care of one of our therapy horses for a year.
- \$2,500 supports on U.S. Military Veteran client for 10 weeks.
- \$5,000 supports hay for two of our therapy horses for a year
- \$10,000 supports complete care of one of our therapy horses for a year.
- \$25,000 supports full Spring and Fall "Healing through Horsemanship" programs.

Correspondence / Other items

d) PAO Report (Janine Suchecki): Nothing to Report at this time.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Review and update Veterans Services Calendar of Annual Events for 2019:

b) Memorial Day Flags at cemeteries - Assignments for Hingham Cemeteries are identified in the Veteran's Service Dept/Veterans Council Annual Calendar. It includes Veteran Council members and Volunteers to include the Second Parish Church, Pack 41 Boy Scouts, Hingham High Veterans Appreciation Club, and the HHS Girls Softball team.

c) Hingham Harbor POW/MIA Memorial relocation: Janine read the email concerning Keith's request for a Council Member to volunteer as a sub chair on the relocation. Whitney wharf is the potential relocation site. Joe Gragg volunteered as Veterans Council lead on this effort.

d) Memorial Day Principal Speaker update: Speaker is Hingham Resident Roger Knight, Former Director of the Veteran Outreach at Home Base.

e) Memorial Day - Planned location of event: Hingham Town Hall decided as the location. Some concern with the relocation from the Hingham Common. There are residual effects from the VFW to this decision. Recommend that big events sponsored by the Veterans be thought through and discussed prior to relocating because there are impacts. Maryann Blackmur mentioned the possibility of "Best Chevrolet" providing a vehicle to transport Veterans to and from GAR Hall.

f) Battle of Grape Island Update: Janine Suchecki - Bottom Line is the event planning is on track. Approximately \$2500 donated to support the event. Special Guest Speaker: Andersson Perry, who has researched the Battle of Grape Island. Veteran of the Year, Jim Claypoole will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev Kelch (sp) will conduct the invocation and Bonard Fage will do the Sound System. Date scheduled for 19 May at 1300hrs. The location is at Hingham Harbor Band Stand

g) American Legion-Update: Commander Scott McMillan: Next meeting scheduled for 8 April 2019.

h) VFW Update: Commander Frank Curtis: Elections for VFW leadership positions is scheduled in May. VFW fund raising Poppy Drive planned for Memorial and Veterans day. Military Vehicles supporting 4 July parade will need funding. The current estimate is approximately \$800. MaryAnn mentioned that the 4th of July committee has funding and should cover this cost. MaryAnn and Frank will discuss further off line.

i) Linden Ponds Veterans' Association (LPVA) Update: Hank Maude: Linden Ponds supplied 7 clients meals at the Lincoln apartments. Both Jack Darrow and Hank Maude distributed the meals. Linden Ponds has coordinated Master Chief Thomas O'Conner Jr. as guest speaker for Memorial day. Linden Ponds Field of Flags fund raiser is in the works. They are hoping to beat last years 1200 flags. Lastly Linden Ponds has three \$1000.00 scholarships for Hingham High School students.

- f) Update/discussion snow shoveling plan for veterans in distress. Release of Liability forms required. Discussion to extend to year round support to include assistance with yard work and trash removal. Will discuss this topic in greater detail during MAY meeting.
- h) Blue Star Family Update: (MaryAnn Blackmur). MaryAnn has established a email site: HinghamBlueStar@gmail.com Additionally she has made contact with numerous families and plans to post service members updates with families permission in the Hingham Journal.
- i) 10TH Annual HHS Sophomore History Day - G.A.R. HALL scheduled for 30 April 2019. Approximately 300 HHS sophomore students attend. MaryAnn will coordinate with Keith to have Harbor Media record the event for historical purposes.
- j) Peace Officers Memorial Day is scheduled for 15 May 1300 hrs in front of the Hingham Police Station.
- k) Herbert L. Loring re-dedication 14/15 June at South Fire Station - Scott McMillan will coordinate with the Fire Chief to set a specific date. Once date is established final details for this re-dedication will be discussed. The Veterans Council desires continuing future re-dedications for Hingham's Veterans.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS / SUGGESTIONS / UPDATES:

MEETING ADJOURNED 2025 hrs.

Respectfully submitted - Joe Sweeney