

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 10, 2025
CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302
8:30 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Kelly.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
David Kelly	Chippewa County	District 14	Present	
Lee Hennick	Chippewa County	District 15	Present	
Phillip Sarazen	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
CW King	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Richard VanderMolen	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	

Others present: Peter Johnston, Veteran Service Officer; Rainy Foiles, Veterans Services Specialist

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

None

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion [VanderMolen/Hennick] to approve. All Supervisors present voting Aye. Motion Carried.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Richard VanderMolen, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Lee Hennick, District 15
AYES:	Kelly, Hennick, Sarazen, King, VanderMolen

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Veterans Service Commission - Regular Meeting - Jul 8, 2024 8:30 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - May 12, 2025

5. REPORTS

A. General Reports

- Update on Wisconsin Veteran's Home @ Chippewa Falls
 Citizen Rep Sarazen, Director of Maintenance gave an update on the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls stated that they are currently at capacity. Inspection for State can be expected from December-May and Federal is typically done this month.

Veterans Service Commission

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

March 10, 2025
8:30 AM

Supervisor Hennick questioned if they are going to make the facility bigger. Sarazen stated there has been some talk about another home being built in LaCrosse or Superior before an expansion is completed here. There is a waiting list, but most of them on that list are like veterans that are not ready to receive nursing home care. Each time a bed opens, they go down the list and they could get to several applicants before someone is ready to come in. Anyone who declines stays on the list where they are currently at. Hospital admittance takes priority over the list.

B. Veteran's Service Officer's Report

1. Discuss Veteran Relief Fund

Peter Johnston, Veteran Service Officer, stated that there has not been any requests yet that meet the requirements for the funds. We are starting off the year with \$2,000 and with gas/food cards from last year. We typically see more request for those than we do eviction or power shutoff notices. If the request is over \$500 we do contact Chair Kelly but before that happens we also have other resources that we can pull from such as VFW Unmet Needs, VORP [Veterans Outreach Recovery Program], etc.

Citizen Rep VanderMolen stated that there are funds available at the state level through American Legion to add to your resources.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

None

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

Motion [Hennick/VanderMolen] to approve. All Supervisors present voting Aye. Motion Carried. Adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lee Hennick, District 15
SECONDER:	Richard VanderMolen, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Kelly, Hennick, Sarazen, King, VanderMolen

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 8, 2024
CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302
8:30 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
David Kelly	Chippewa County	District 14	Present	
Lee Hennick	Chippewa County	District 15	Present	
Phillip Sarazen	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
CW King	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Absent	
Richard VanderMolen	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Re-Election of Chair

Peter Johnston, Veterans Service Officer, opened up nominations for Chair. Supervisor Hennick nominated Supervisor Kelly for Chair. No other nominations.

Motion (Hennick/VanderMolen) to approve. Carried by Roll Call. All Supervisors present voting Aye.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lee Hennick, District 15
SECONDER:	Richard VanderMolen, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Kelly, Hennick, Sarazen, VanderMolen
ABSENT:	King

2. Re-election of Vice Chair

Peter Johnston, Veterans Service Officer, opened nominations for Vice-Chair. Supervisor Kelly nominated Supervisor Hennick for Vice-Chair. No other nominations.

Motion (Kelly/VanderMolen) to approve. Carried by Roll Call. All Supervisors present voting Aye.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Kelly, District 14
SECONDER:	Richard VanderMolen, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Kelly, Hennick, Sarazen, VanderMolen
ABSENT:	King

3. Establish regular meeting date and time

Peter Johnston, Veterans Service Officer opened discussion for future meeting dates and times. There were no options recommended so it was decided to keep with the same regular meeting dates and times

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 8, 2024 8:30 AM (Consent Agenda)

Veterans Service Commission

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

July 8, 2024
8:30 AM

as the second Monday of every other month at 8:30 am. Supervisor Hennick requested to be informed if meetings are canceled. Johnston stated that there is an email sent to the commission members if there were no requests submitted and the meeting is to be canceled. He stated they have to have at least one meeting a year and the others will be on a needed basis if a request is submitted that needs commission approval.

Motion (Kelly/VanderMolen) to approve. Carried by Roll call. All Supervisors present voting Aye.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Kelly, District 14
SECONDER:	Richard VanderMolen, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Kelly, Hennick, Sarazen, VanderMolen
ABSENT:	King

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (VanderMolen/Sarazen) to approve. All Supervisors present voting Aye. Motion Carried.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Richard VanderMolen, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Phillip Sarazen, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Kelly, Hennick, Sarazen, VanderMolen
ABSENT:	King

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Veterans Service Commission - Regular Meeting - May 13, 2024 8:30 AM

6. REPORTS

A. General Reports

1. Update on Wisconsin Veteran's Home @ Chippewa Falls

Phillip Sarazen, Director of Maintenance gave an update on the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. He stated with a recent death there are now 2 openings that will be filled by the end of the week.

Supervisor Hennick questioned if they are going to make this facility any bigger and Sarazen stated most likely not as the current 72 bed facility is a good number to maintain between patients and staff. Opening other facilities like the Chippewa Falls home in the LaCrosse and Duluth area would be a more favorable option as it would be easier to maintain as well as giving more options for family to be closer to another facility.

Supervisor Hennick asked if there was a need for beds. Sarazen stated there are currently 300-400 on the waiting list, however not all of them are active to be admitted. Each time a bed opens, they go down the list and they could get to 45 or 50 applicants in before having someone ready to come in. Anyone who declines stays where they are on the list but if an applicant is currently in the hospital and not on the list and applies will take number one priority.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 8, 2024 8:30 AM (Consent Agenda)

Veterans Service Commission

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

July 8, 2024
8:30 AM

B. Veteran's Service Officer's Report

1. Discuss Veteran's Relief Fund

Peter Johnston, Veterans Service Officer, stated there has not been any changes or requests to the Veterans Relief Fund.

Supervisor Hennick asked if the office had been notified of the Romeis Apartments situation and the displacement of a few veterans. Johnston stated that they were and got them in contact with the Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin. Hennick questioned if they would be eligible for any funds through our office and Johnston stated yes if they contact us we would be able to help with what we can.

Richard VolderMolen informed Johnston on a veteran that was transported from Stanley to Madison for a lung transplant and wanted to know of any assistance to family for travel expenses. Johnston suggested the Unmet Needs program and to get into contact with the Dane County Veterans Service office as well as any local VFW's in their area.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

Motion (VanderMolen/Hennick) to adjourn. Carried by Roll Call. All Supervisors present voting Aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 am.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Richard VanderMolen, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Lee Hennick, District 15
AYES:	Kelly, Hennick, Sarazen, VanderMolen
ABSENT:	King

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 8, 2024 8:30 AM (Consent Agenda)

STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
UPDATE ON WISCONSIN VETERAN'S HOME @ CHIPPEWA FALLS

The Wisconsin Veterans Home @ Chippewa Falls is a 72-bed skilled nursing facility, designed to have two “neighborhoods” each having two 18-bed households. An oral update on current activities and projects.

**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
DISCUSS VETERAN RELIEF FUND**

5.B.1

An oral update on the current balance and review types of recent requests.