

**Chippewa County
Veterans Service Commission
Regular Meeting
November 10, 2025
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
8:30 AM**

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 08:30 a.m. by Chair Kelly.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:
David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Richard VanderMolen
Members Absent:
Philip Sarazen, CW King
Others Present: Peter Johnston, Veteran Service Officer; Rainy Foiles, Veteran Services Specialist; Andy Albarado, County Administrator

3. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard

(Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker.)

None

4. Consent Agenda

(Unless separation of an item is requested, all items will be adopted under one motion.)

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (3 - 0)
Mover:	Richard VanderMolen
Second:	Lee Hennick
Ayes:	David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Richard VanderMolen
Nays:	None
Absent:	Philip Sarazen, CW King

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes - March 10, 2025
3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - January 12, 2026

5. Reports

1. Discuss Wisconsin Veteran's Home @ Chippewa Falls

Foiles reported that Sarazen was unable to attend today because the Veterans Home is holding its Veterans Day Program, which includes the dedication of benches in the new pavilion area near the community room chapel. One of the benches honors the Home's first and only Commandant, Mark Wilson, who passed away this spring. The facility is currently at full capacity, with a turnaround time of 3–4 days after a resident leaves. The recent shutdown has not affected their operations.

2. Discuss Veteran Relief Fund

Johnston reported that there have been a few requests for assistance, but none significant enough to require commission approval. He noted that additional resources

are available through organizations such as the VFW, Unmet Needs, and the Veterans Outreach Recovery Program (VORP). Citizen Representative VanderMolen inquired whether there are separate funds available to assist those affected by the shutdown. Johnston explained that in such cases, support is drawn from the partner organizations they work closely with.

3. Discuss Veteran's Day Activities

Johnston reported that the Patriotic Council will be holding several programs today and tomorrow, with the courthouse event scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Supervisor Hennick asked whether a list of available Veterans Day freebies was available. Johnston noted that he has a list that has been shared on Facebook. Citizen Representative VanderMolen mentioned Red Robin, Festival Foods, and Hy-Vee as participating businesses, and Supervisor Kelly added Pizza Del Re to the list.

4. Discuss Outreach Opportunities

Johnston reported that he continues to participate in outreach activities, having visited Boyd, Stanley, Cadott, Cornell, and Bloomer. He is currently coordinating another joint event with the Eau Claire Veterans Office. The previous event was held at the Eau Claire Armory near the airport, a location that was convenient for both counties. This year's event is planned for the Sonnentag Complex as it is a bigger venue. Johnston added that while he will continue attending outreach meetings, the most effective form of outreach remains word-of-mouth communication among veterans.

5. Discuss Office Dashboard

Johnston reported that the new Office Dashboard is being used by several courthouse departments. For our office, it includes data from national and VA websites, along with local records that depend on accurate entry.

6. Update on Agenda Management Software and Notifications

Foiles and Johnston informed Citizen Representative VanderMolen that individuals must now create an account, sign in, and request to receive notifications of meeting agendas. Foiles noted that instructions for this process were emailed to all members and was attached to the agenda on the website. Johnston recommended checking the county website prior to each meeting, as any cancellations would also be communicated by email.

6. Business Items

None

7. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

Supervisor Kelly reported to get any future items to the office.

8. Adjourn

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (3 - 0)

Mover:	Richard VanderMolen
Seconded:	Lee Hennick
Ayes:	David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Richard VanderMolen
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Philip Sarazen, CW King

Adjourned at 9:12 a.m.