

West Suburban Veterans District – June 10, 2015

Location: Wellesley Town Hall, Great Hall

Present: Chris Coleman, Hans Larsen, and Donna VanderClock

Also present: Matt Ching and Sally Rose (Kate Fitzpatrick, John Senchyshyn and Stanley Spear were absent)

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.

Business:

1. Citizen Speak

None

2. Minutes

The Board voted (3-0-0) to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2015 meeting.

3. Director's Update

Mr. Larsen and Ms. Rose provided a brief update on Mr. Spear's health. He moved recently from the Clark House in Westwood to the Golden Living Center in Norwood. He is hoping to have surgery on his left hip in mid August and regain sufficient strength to be able to return to work in mid September. As Mr. Larsen stated these dates may be overly optimistic and Mr. Spear could be out for much longer. Mr. Larsen explained that as of June 21st Mr. Spear will be going on Wellesley's LTD policy, and therefore, will no longer be on the WSVD payroll.

Realizing that with Mr. Spear's absence it is too much to ask Mr. Ching to continue to cover 4 communities, Mr. Larsen reached out to Mr. Dick Dillon, the former Wellesley VSO, to seek his assistance on an interim basis. Mr. Dillon said he is more than willing to help with the public Veteran displays such as Memorial Day, Flag Day, September 11th, Veterans' Day, etc., but, due to his health, he is unable to work in the Wellesley office. Mr. Larsen and Mr. Ching will continue to find a suitable VSO replacement to assist with meeting the myriad needs of the District's veterans.

Mr. Larsen and Ms. Rose reviewed the Chapter 115 benefit status of all member towns. All communities look to be in good shape for the remaining few weeks of FY15. With regard to the FY16 budget, in July two invoices will be mailed out to each town. One invoice will be the annual assessment charged to each community for District costs. The second invoice will be for Chapter 115 benefits during the period July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015.

In early May when Mr. Ching and Mr. Larsen met with Mr. Francisco Urena, they delivered the WSVD recertification request letter. This request was subsequently approved.

The Board discussed each town's status in terms of becoming a Purple Heart Community. Wayland has done so and at the June 8th BOS meeting they announced that they were now a designated Purple Heart Community. Needham has a draft application and a recommendation to become a Purple Heart Community is going to be made at the next selectmen's meeting on June

23rd. Wellesley plans to submit an application shortly. Each community needs to order Purple Heart flags to be flown each year on August 7th.

Given the ongoing absence of Mr. Spear, the Board agreed to suspend evening office hours in Wayland and Weston. Ms. Rose will remove the information from the WSVD website and contact MaryAnn DiNapoli in Wayland and Kara Fleming in Weston to have them remove any notices pertaining to the evening office hours. Mr. Ching will continue to make accommodations to meet with veterans and their families at convenient times.

The Board revisited the issue of tracking software. Mr. Glenn Barber from Salesforce.com contacted Ms. Rose to determine if the District has any further interest in their product. In their recent meeting with Secretary Urena, Mr. Ching and Mr. Larsen discussed the potential value of tracking software to all Massachusetts VSOs. The Secretary said that at the moment the state has no funds available for such an outlay. Mr. Coleman suggested discussing this need with Geoff Beckwith, MMA Director. The Board also discussed the possibility of applying for some type of regionalization or Metrowest grant.

Mr. Ching expressed his strong desire to attend the VSO Training in Annapolis in August. He is currently waitlisted for the conference. On June 16th and 17th he will be attending the Annual Meeting of the MVSOA in West Yarmouth.

4. Old/New Business

Mr. Ching shared two items, a certificate and a photograph, which he had received from Daniel Patterson, a Wayland resident who is currently serving as a First Sergeant in the 182nd ASMC stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan. The certificate, signed by Daniel Patterson and Joseph Puliafico, the 182nd ASMC Commander with Operation Resolute Support, states that the enclosed American Flag was proudly flown over the Hamid Karzai International Airport, in Kabul, Afghanistan on May 25, 2015. A group photograph of the 182nd ASMC was enclosed and Mr. Ching pointed out which uniformed individual was Mr. Daniel Patterson. The certificate and photograph will be framed and displayed in the Veteran's Office in Wayland.

The date of the next meeting was set as September 22nd at 4:00 pm.

5. Executive Session

At 4:45 the Board was polled. All polled aye to go into executive session to discuss negotiations with non-union personnel.

(See Executive Session minutes attached.)

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In light of the continued absence of Mr. Spear, the Board discussed the payment of additional, temporary compensation to Mr. Ching. Mr. Larsen indicated the FY15 budget could accommodate a modest additional cost. **The Board voted (3-0-0) to authorize Mr. Larsen to make appropriate arrangements.** Mr. Larsen committed to keep the other members of the Board apprised of these arrangements.

At 5:00 the meeting was adjourned.