



CITRUS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
Citrus County Resource Center
2804 Marc Knighton Court
Lecanto, FL 34461

AGENDA

Chairman Richard Floyd
Vice Chairman Tom O'Brien
Member Joseph Reale

Member Walter Osburn
Arlena Newson

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Roll Call

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Minutes January 13, 2022

Approve Minutes January 13, 2022

E. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Veterans to give the Pledge of Allegiance at BOCC meeting**
- 2. ADHOC looking for ways to improve parade/support from City, Citrus High etc**
- 3. Suspension of Central office and Travel Board hearing for Jan**
- 4. NEADS service dogs www.neads.org**
- 5. Veterans Village update**

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. VSO Updates

- A. Swear in Arlean Newson and Bud Osborn**
- B. Jan-Feb 624 veterans and families served**
- C. Influx of financial support from needy veterans; Inverness Moose lodge has stepped with assistance**
- D. VA Home Loan discussion with Diane Perkins and Dawn Pagan**
- E. Currently there are 22,796 Florida veterans with an appeal in the process as Feb 2022**

G. ADJOURNMENT

**Citrus County Resource Center
2804 Marc Knighton Court
Lecanto, FL 34461**

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Veterans Services Advisory Board with respect to any matter considered at this public meeting or hearing, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Any person requiring reasonable accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the County Administrator's Office, 110 N. Apopka Ave, Inverness, FL 34450, (352) 341-6560, at least two days before the meeting. If you are hearing or speech



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

FROM:	Mariselle Rodriguez, Community Services Director				
SUBJECT:	Minutes January 13, 2022				
AGENDA DATE:	March 10, 2022				
<u>BRIEF OVERVIEW:</u>					
<< BRIEF OVERVIEW HERE >>					
<u>BUDGET IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:</u>					
Account No.	Account Title	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	Encumbrances	Available Balance
					\$0
<u>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</u>					
Approve Minutes January 13, 2022					



CITRUS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES – January 13, 2022

Citrus County Veterans Services Advisory Board met in regular session on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. in the Citrus County Resource Center, located at 2804 Marc Knighton Court, Lecanto, FL. 34461.

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS' ROLL CALL

Attendees	Title	Status
Tom O'Brien	Chairman	Present
Bill Merryman	Vice Chairman	Present
Walter "Bud" Osborn	Member	Present
Greg Pelletier	Member	Not Present
Arlena Newson	Member	Present

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Quorum met.

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Mariselle Rodriguez, Community Services Director
 Philp Watson, CVSO Manager, CCRC
 Damian Culley, VSO Sub-Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Bud Osborn to approve Agenda. Motion seconded, approved, carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bud Osborn to approve Minutes from previous meeting on 7/8/21. Motion seconded, approved, carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- Looking for Veterans to give the Pledge of Allegiance at BOCC meeting – Many veterans have stepped up but others from different areas, services, years of services are welcome to lead. Board mentions the question of why BOCC Board meeting are held during the day while people work and same time as school board meets.
- VA Buses – Buses through the VA clinic themselves are starting back up and taking veterans to appoints. Clarification is made that they are discussing the ones that belong to the VA clinic itself not the county transit buses. County Transit Services buses do have specific days they go to 3 separate VA Clinic/Hospitals.

3. Website for Veterans – Bill Merryman discusses a website that is to include all ADHOC's and all other types of events, gatherings, etc., that veterans can log into and get information on. Phil states the website is called Veteransofcitruscounty.com. Bill mentions that in the future The Chronicle will not be having as many articles regarding veterans' activities as in the past. This website would be necessary to get the word out to veterans and organizations.
4. Golf Tournament – Veterans Foundation tournament past. District VFW for Citrus County is having a golf Tournament, April 16, 2022, at Citrus Hills Golf Course. Further details to be released. Questions contact Bill Merryman.
5. COVID deaths and FEMA funding for burials – FEMA is paying up to \$9,000 reimbursement for COVID related deaths listed on death certificates. The VA will pay \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses if not hospitalized nor not service related at time of death. If it is a service-related death the VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses.
6. Veterans Village update – Phil Watson gives update on the Veterans Village that they are still approximately a year out. Funding issues, geological issues, materials as now labor and materials have gone up from when originally budgeted. Phil explains how he has been going around the county trying to educate veterans on what is and what is not covered by the different organizations, VA disability claims, Aid and Attendance, etc. Veterans Village is an ALS which will fall under a 501CS which will get donations and fundings. It is a very big project that already has been in the works for over 5 years.

NEW BUSINESS

VSO Updates

1. VSO Updates
 - A. New website for veterans is looking for ways to improve, suggestions, etc. If Board members or any others don't know where to send said suggestions, give them to Phil and he will get them to the proper recipient.
 - B. Suspension of travel hearings due to COVID pushed back to until January 31st but subject to change. All hearings scheduled for after January 31st should remain the same.
 - C. County VSO office has flyers and literature of an organization just North of the county that helps veterans obtain services dogs if needed. It is a private organization nothing to do with the VA.
 - D. County VSO office since start of December 2021, has seen approximately 358 veterans and families. A few outreaches were done. Phil attended 1 in Homosassa put together by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans that Jimmie T. Smith runs. Event dealt with Community Care and VA medical. Mark Acker from the Lecanto VA Clinic was present also and assisted with many who needed information.
 - E. Paychecks for Patriots sponsored by CareerSource is a job fair attended yearly by County VSO. Last 2 years was virtual.
 - F. Purple Hearts Reach Across America held back in October 2021. Veterans Services had a booth along with other organizations getting the word out of what the county VSO's can help them with and inform veterans.
 - G. American Legion in Crystal River had an event hosted by MOA regarding the Veterans Village back at the end of September 2021. A retired physician that is on their board was in attendance. Phil attended as Folks with the Veterans Village don't quite under Aid and Attendance and how it works. Large group of veterans will

not qualify due to the law if served between 1975 through 1990 will not be eligible for Aid and Attendance. Phil spoke with Peter Kranker and not much has changed. Due to COVID labor pieces and materials have gone up and they still do not have secure financing.

ADJOURNMENT

***Motion** by Tom O'Brien to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Walter "Bud" Osborn. Meeting adjourned.*

Next meeting – March 10, 2022, at 3:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Lisette A. Serrano
Recording Secretary