

Title: Veteran's Services Advisory Board

19 Sep 2019



From: Veteran's Agent

Subject: Meeting Minutes

1. The fifty-seventh meeting of the Veteran's Services Advisory Board (VSAB) was called to order at 6:00 p.m., 19 September 2019, in the Selectmen's office.

2. Members in attendance were:

Mr. Ray Janke
Mr. Vincent Viglione
Mr. Bill Bowen
Mr. Michael Edreich

Ms. Jan Jourdain
Mr. Robert Vigneault
Mr. Bill McClure

Members Absent were:

Mr. Larry Raines
Selectman Ed Boscher

Mr. Joe Currier

3. Old Business:

a. Mr. Janke and the committee reviewed this past May 2019 Memorial Day event. It was a successful day to include the use of the new PA system on the Town Common. **(CLOSED)**

4. New Business:

- a. Mr. Janke introduced new VSAB member Mr. Michael Edreich, USAF Veteran.
- b. The committee reviewed the program and planning for the upcoming November 2019 Veteran's Day activities in town. Several minor changes were made to the time table. A chaplain issue is being worked. The guest speaker will be Major Mandy Ritter, Westover Air Reserve Base representative. **(OPEN)**
- c. Due to Mr. Janke's retirement upcoming in October 2019, the Town of Palmer's three town Veteran's service district and the Northampton Central Hampshire Veteran's District with 13 towns, have reached out to the Town of Belchertown. They have suggested merging Belchertown into their district agencies. At the request of the Belchertown Town Administrator, this subject was requested to be on our agenda for open discussion with a pro and con point paper to be submitted to the Select-board. As an aside, it was the VSAB's understanding that the select-board liaison to our committee would be present, however he was not. The committee discussed this merging at length to include the justification and authority for Belchertown's need to keep in place our present system and also reviewed M.G.L. 115 with respect to authorizing the towns' Veteran's Service Agent position. A point paper with our comments will be prepared and will be given to the Town Administrator by Monday morning, 23 September 2019. **(OPEN)**

5. **Public Input/Concerns/Comments:** None

6. **Good of the VSAB:**

- a. VA Loans
- b. Airport Screening
- c. Veteran Farming
- d. Disabled Vet loan cancellation.

7. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. All documents that were provided during the meeting will be attached to the original minutes on file in the Town Clerk's office. Due to Mr. Janke's pending October 2019 retirement, the date of the next VSAB is to be announced.

Vincent Viglione
VSAB Recording Secretary

Approved



Ray Janke
Veteran's Service Agent
Co-Chairperson

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Administrator
Board of Selectman
Committee members