

# Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County

## Executive Board Meeting

May 11, 2010

Chairman Joe Kersten called the meeting to order at 1642. The meeting took place at the County Government Center 667 Ware Rd, Woodstock IL. Members present were: Joe Kersten, Gerald Raske, Ray Rigsby, James Koch, and County Board Rep Ed Dvorak. Also present were Secretary Mike Wisniewski, Superintendent Mike Iwanicki, and Guests DVOP Michael Ruffner, Focus Partners rep Fred AuWerter.

The meeting was call to order to hear a presentation on the Focus Partners LLC Training program by the Focus Partners Rep., Fred AuWerter. The Executive Board members were provided with information packets by Fred AuWerter.

The Focus Partners LLC is offering a 4 week course of instruction for qualifying as a “Weatherization Installer” or “Building Efficiency Technician”. Once qualified by the course, the trainee will be able to diagnose buildings energy usage efficiency and us the information to install weatherization upgrades to improve the building’s energy usage efficiency.

The presentation covered the course content, the skill set provided by the course to the student, any equipment provided to the student, and the three certifications earned by passing the course.

Other topics covered during the presentation were the course cost per student, \$3900 tuition and fees, location of the classrooms and benefits given to the companies who hire course graduates.

A lengthy questioning period by the Board members on the course followed the presentation by Fred AuWerter.

Trainee candidates would not be selected by the executive Board that would be done by the IDES Veterans Representative Mike Ruffner. IDES Veterans Rep Mike Ruffner also attended this meeting and provided some background information.

- 1) This course in not yet approved for use under the GI Bill or IVG.
- 2) To get future funding from the state or Federal agencies the Focus Partners LLC need to get certification as soon as possible

The two guests, Mike Ruffner and Fred AuWerter, were then excused from the meeting so the Executive Board could review the facts presented and decide on a course of action on the matter.

Other facts pertaining to the matter;

- 1) VAC budget had \$17,600 of dental matching funds that were not used and the Superintendent wanted to use these funds to pay tuition.
- 2) VAC dental matching funds do not exist anymore as the VAC was permitted to release the \$17,600 in April.
- 3) VAC wants to provide tuition for 7 veterans to attend the Weatherization course at the cost of \$27,300. The VAC would provide funds from the VAC Assistance fund.
- 4) VAC Assistance does not cover veteran's education / job retraining as other agencies normally cover veterans education.
- 5) The VAC budget is not being used up as expected after the first five months and the VAC Superintendent proposed using the surplus to pay the tuitions.

The Executive Board then discussed the matter and came up with a proposal. The proposal says: Should the Chair want to pass a voice vote to tap into the VAC Assistance Fund to expend funds to send seven veterans to attend the Focus Partners LLC Weatherization program Course of Instruction. Funds to be used would not exceed \$27,300.

The Executive Board then requested an amendment to the proposal as follows: The Executive Board recommends that the proposal be presented to the VAC Delegation at the next VAC General Meeting.

The Chair called for a vote on the proposal by the Executive Board, the results were one yea, and four nays.

The Executive Board agrees that the proposal cannot be funded by the Commission at this time.

The Executive Board meeting adjourned at 1810.

Respectfully Submitted

*Michael F. Wisniewski*

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Electronically Signed