

McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

VAC Executive Board Meeting of April 21, 2010

Chairman, Joe Kersten called the meeting to order at 2048. The meeting was called to examine a proposal by VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki to transfer some unused funds from the 4236 line item from the VAC Budget (actually the unused matching dental budget from the 2008 VAC Budget of \$17,600.00) plus 'surplus' or unused funds from the 2010 Budget. These funds were not to exceed \$76,000.00 to train up to nineteen veterans in four week long classes for jobs such as "weatherization Installers". In this case, the next class would form up on Monday, April 21st and the class requires at least ten students (the VAC would place 7 veterans in the class) and the projected cost per student would run approximately \$3,900.00. (The VAC cost would be \$27,300.00 for seven seats)

VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki reported that the VAC budget was running well under projected expenses for veteran assistance and other line items up to April and the "surplus" could fund the education of veterans at these four week classes for up to nineteen veterans this fiscal year. He also noted, however, that he believes that it is very unlikely that the VAC will end up significantly under budget.

Ted Anderson suggested that the VAC could sponsor three veterans for the April class for weatherization installers; however, the VAC Superintendant said the minimum class size is 10. The Workforce Network has 3 students and Mike Ruffner has 7 interested students.

Ray Rigsby than suggested the VAC should reconsider transferring VAC funds into the educational line item as the lower than expected use of VAC assistance may be to the extension of unemployment benefits by the federal government until June 5th, however the federal government may not pass the legislation to extend unemployment benefits until the end of the year. If that bill does not pass, the VAC will see a large surge in veteran assistance requests after June. That increase in veteran benefit requests will deplete the allocated funds quickly and make funds for these four week retraining classes unavailable after the June time period.

Ted Anderson and Ray Rigsby than suggested further action on this funding request is tabled until the Executive Committee can: 1) get more information on the course content especially OSHA lessons and first aid training and 2) the projected convening dates of the next couple of class cycles.

The Executive Committee will reconvene once the requested information is supplied to it by the VAC Superintendant and the Executive Committee can study the proposal. The next Executive Committee meeting is TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 2128.

Submitted by,

Michael Wisniewski

Michael Wisniewski, VAC Secretary