



**EDUCATION, VETERANS AND AGING SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes – October 17, 2017**

**Call to Order.** Chair Richard called the meeting of the Education, Veterans and Aging Services Committee to order at 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, in Conference Room N-2, fifth floor, Courthouse East.

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisors Pleasant, Richard, Owens, Zajac and Schulz.

**Committee Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Members Present:** Josh Smith, County Administrator; Randy Terronez and Nick Osborne, Assistants to the County Administrator; Joyce Lubben, Council on Aging Director; and John Solis, Veteran Service Officer.

**Others Present:** Supervisor Podzilni; Robert Harlow, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

**Approval of Agenda.** Supervisor Pleasant moved approval of the agenda, second by Supervisor Owens.

Supervisor Schulz said she thought the trishaws would be on this agenda. Chair Richard said the County does not have the trishaws yet and there is no policy written at this time. Supervisor Schulz asked for them to be on the next agenda.

ADOPTED.

**Approval of Minutes – September 28, 2017.** Supervisor Owens moved approval of the minutes from September 28, 2017 as presented, second by Supervisor Zajac. ADOPTED.

**Citizen Participation, Communications, Announcements, Information.** Supervisor Schulz handed out copies of “Managing Diabetes? Healthy eating is the first step!” a diabetes wellness program available through the Second Harvest organization. She said this is the flyer she had handed out at the last County Board meeting and if anyone wanted additional copies she had some available.

**Transfers.** None.

**Review of Payments.** The Committee accepted the report. Copies of the August payments to Fagan Truck and Trailer were handed out to the Committee and Ms. Lubben answered questions that were raised at the last meeting.

**Resolution.**

**Amending the 2017 Veterans Services Budget to Increase the Veterans Donation Trust Budget**

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017 does hereby amend the Adopted 2017 Rock County Veterans Services budget as follows:

...”

Supervisor Zajac moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Owens.  
ADOPTED.

**Budget Review.**

**Council on Aging** Mr. Smith said there have been ups and downs in the client contributions to the Congregate and Home Delivered Meal Programs and it appears to be continuing on a downward trend in 2017. Mr. Smith said, in 2018, we will be eliminating the contract with Senior Services, which provided for a benefit specialist to northern Rock County. This position was partially funded by private funds. Providing these services in-house will allow for the County to plan for the provision of services now before we lose the funds, and be able to provide services county-wide. Mr. Smith said the funds Council on Aging provided to RSVP, for their volunteer mileage and insurance, was not used to support the Council on Aging programs. He said, in 2018, these funds will be used to reimburse the Council on Aging volunteers' mileage. Mr. Smith said Rock County will continue to fund RSVP 2018 operations at the same level as 2017 in the Community Agency Initiatives account, which offer this reduction will still account for about 22% of their budget.

Ms. Lubben said the Benefit Specialist would operate out of their office, which is on the bus route, and will also go out to various locations in the County.

Supervisor Schulz asked how RSVP has been effected. Mr. Harlow said they have not heard back from United Way or the Federal Government at this time. He added that they will pull from congregate meals. He added that his office will most likely have to cut positions.

Ms. Lubben said they would have like to have their Health Promotion Coordinator go full time but will now be losing her in the Spring.

**Veterans Service Office.** Mr. Smith said the 2018 budget for Veterans Services is pretty much a cost to continue. He said the State of Wisconsin is changing some of the restrictions they had on their grant program, which will make it easier for the Veterans Services Office to use the funding. Mr. Smith said another change the State made is that staff now only need attend one conference, which saves a little over \$1,500. Mr. Smith said the Office will need to submit forms electronically, to the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs, so they will need to purchase scanners, which should be able to be done using savings from the 2017 budget. Mr. Smith said he is recommending moving the Office's lease at the Eclipse Center from

Facilities Management to the Veterans Office as part of an effort to better reflect where costs are incurred.

Supervisor Owens said Veterans not only do things in Wisconsin, but also use organizations in Illinois. He said he feels the state designation needs to be less stringent. Mr. Solis said his office does refer veterans to other offices where a claim needs to be filed. He added that, though they do not have a close relationship with the Chicago office, they do have a good working relationship with the Machesney Park office.

**Heritage Rock County.** Mr. Smith said this is now under Finance Budget for Community Agency Initiatives so all contributions would be located in one area. He has recommended funding at the same level as 2017.

**Retired Senior Volunteer Program.** Mr. Smith said this is also under the Finance Budget for Community Agency Initiatives and he has also recommended funding at the same level as 2017.

Mr. Harlow said there will be about \$5,700 less in the transportation account, which means some people will not be able to get a ride. He added that the \$5,300 cut for congregate meals will mean they will need to get out of this area.

Supervisor Zajac left at 3:40 P.M.

Supervisor Schulz asked if he had any other options. Mr. Harlow replied he did not.

**Committee Requests and Motions.**

**Federal Funding Update – Retired Senior Volunteer Program – Robert Harlow** Mr. Harlow said he did not have anything new to add to what they have already talked about. He added that they (RSVP) will need to wait to see what happens in December with the State. He added that their year runs from April to March. Mr. Harlow added that they are at the same funding level with the State as they were in 2003.

**Adjournment.** Supervisor Owens moved adjournment at 3:49 P.M., second by Supervisor Pleasant. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bondehagen  
Confidential Administrative Assistant

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.**