

**PIERCE COUNTY WISCONSIN  
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE  
412 W. KINNE STREET, P.O. BOX 146  
ELLSWORTH, WI 54011  
715-273-6753 FAX: 715-273-6754**



**DAVID R. TILL**  
Director of Veterans' Services  
Pierce County Veterans' Service Officer

**VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**December 9, 2019**

**PIERCE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING – VETERANS' SERVICES OFFICE**

- Call to Order** Jim Ottman called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
- Attendance** Present were Jim Ottman, Merlin Blaisdell, Richard Decosta, David Till CVSO, and Tami MacGregor. Quorum reached. Lawrence Bechel, though currently not on Commission, was invited but could not attend due to inclement weather today. It was further discussed that we would continue to invite all to the scheduled meetings.
- Previous Minutes** Minutes of the August 1, 2019, Veterans Service Commission meeting were reviewed by the Committee. Motion made by Jim Ottman to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Merlin Blaisdell. Motion carried.
- Review of Funds & Action Item** CVSO gave a summary of all expenditures and donations for year to date including summary and discussion of those donations and expenditures made. A comprehensive benefits review for the Veteran is always part of the process. Fuel only cards and local grocery/gas vouchers are given to assist with immediate needs. Discussion took place by the Committee to purchase some gift cards to support needy Pierce County Veterans during the Christmas season. Motion was made by Merlin Blaisdell to purchase Wal Mart gift cards (10 @ \$100 each, total of \$1000; and Holiday Gas Cards (30 @ \$50 each, total of \$1500), seconded by Richard Decosta; all ayes. Motion unanimously carried. It was agreed that these would be used in gift baskets in support of needy Pierce County Veteran families.

- Meeting dates** Group agreed to continue the scheduling of regular meetings, with additional meetings as necessary.
- Other Business** Brief review/discussion ensued of options regarding replacement of Pierce County Veterans Transportation Program van. Personnel changes were also discussed including departure of Dave Till, CVSO (he will be leaving January 3, 2020.)
- Adjourn** Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm on motion of Merlin Blaisdell, seconded by Richard Decosta; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Till, Executive Secretary

<b>Pierce County Veterans Services Commission</b> <b>MEETING AGENDA</b> <b>Monday, December 9, 2019 at 3 p.m.</b> <b>Pierce County Veterans Services Office, located in the Pierce County Office</b> <b>Building - Room 30</b> <b>412 W. Kinne St., Ellsworth, WI</b>		
#	Action	Presenter
1	Call meeting to order	James Ottman, Chair
2	Establish Quorum and Adopt Agenda	James Ottman, Chair
3	Approve Minutes from 8-1-19 Meeting	Commission
4	Review, Discuss and take action as needed regarding monetary amounts/limits requiring approval	CVSO/Commission
5	Summary of Commission Funds/ Review of Expenditures to date	CVSO
6	Review, Discuss and take action as needed regarding purchase of gas/gift cards to use in gift baskets for needy families this Christmas	CVSO/Commission
7	Review of office activities including Veterans Transportation Program/Van	CVSO/Commission
8	Review and discussion of Pierce County Veterans Service Commission Officers/Terms/Length/Cycles	CVSO/Commission
9	Future Agenda Items/Future Meeting Date	CVSO/Commission
10	Adjourn	Chair
Questions regarding this agenda may be made to David Till or Tami MacGregor at 715-273-6753.		

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**DAVID R. TILL  
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE**

**PIERCE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019 – 11:00 AM  
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE, PIERCE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

- Call to Order** Vice Chair Paul Shingledecker called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.
- Roll Call** Members present were Jeff Holst, Paul Shingledecker, David Till, Director of Veterans Services and Tami MacGregor, Veterans Services Benefits Specialist. Quorum reached. A motion was made by Paul Shingledecker to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Jeff Holst and accepted as written. Motion carried.
- Previous Minutes** The Minutes of July 25, 2019 were reviewed. Motion was made by Paul Shingledecker to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Jeff Holst and accepted as written. Motion carried.
- PC Veterans Van** Committee review and discussion with David Till, CVSO, of continuing the process to obtain a new Pierce County Veterans Transportation Van. This office has applied for the Operation Roundup Grant through Pierce Pepin and received \$1000, and another application for the grant will be submitted this week to augment donations. The Committee had previously suggested sending letters to local organizations (Legions, VFW) to request funds and we have received some donations from local Veterans organizations. CVSO has been getting estimates including cost of add-ons. Motion for approval for funding was completed through Finance and Personnel Committee. On Wednesday, 11-6-19 a deer hit damaged our existing van. As it will be traded in we are in the process of getting estimates to repair the damage.

**Dept. Personnel**

As David Till, Director of Veterans Services has resigned (last day is 01/04/20) the Committee discussed the soon to be vacant CVSO position for the Veterans Service Office. As Benefits Specialist is accredited and can assist veterans with VA claims she will manage the office during the period of time needed to hire a CVSO, without any disruption in service to our Pierce County Veterans. The issue was raised regarding the 2020 CVSO Grant coming due in January 2020 and must be signed by a CVSO. It was mutually agreed that would be completed before departure of David Till.

**Office Update**

Currently we have one VA Work Study Student. There is an additional UWRF student that has contacted our office to begin the application process. These positions are funded through the VA and our office is an approved work site as Benefits Specialist applied through the VA Work Study Program to become a Work Study Site Manager and oversees these students. The Outreach programs were reviewed and will be expected to continue, including the Veteran's Paddle/Canoe trip through the National Parks Service and future Rivers of Recovery activities of which our office is a sponsor. WDVA Grants (both CVSO and Transportation), use of PIV cards for VA remote access and Direct Upload and Direct Submit of claims, attendance of National CVSOA Conference this coming year in Atlanta, Georgia and upcoming Spring CVSOA Conference in Keshena were other topics addressed and reviewed.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Jeff Holst, seconded by Paul Shingledecker, to adjourn at 11:35 a.m.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Till  
Pierce County Veterans' Service Officer  
Director of Veterans' Services

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**DAVID R. TILL**  
 Director of Veterans' Services  
 Pierce County Veterans' Service Officer

**PIERCE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
 MEETING AGENDA  
 Monday, December 9, 2019 - 11:00 A.M.**

**VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE, ROOM 30  
 PIERCE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

<b>#</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<b>1.</b>	Call to order	Chair
<b>2.</b>	Establish Quorum and Adopt Agenda	Chair
<b>3.</b>	Approve minutes of the July 25, 2019 meeting	CVSO/Members
<b>4.</b>	Update: Pierce County Veterans Transportation Program Van/Estimates	CVSO/Members
<b>5.</b>	Update: Department Personnel	CVSO/Members
<b>6.</b>	CVSO update of office activities to include: Operation Roundup Application 2, Veterans Outreach, VA Systems Update, 2020 Fall Conference CVSOA-WI, NACVSO Conference 2020, VA Work Study Program	CVSO
<b>7.</b>	Adjourn	CVSO/Members

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**DAVID R. TILL**  
Director of Veterans' Services  
Pierce County Veterans' Service Officer

**VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**August 1, 2019**

**PIERCE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING – VETERANS' SERVICES OFFICE**

- Call to Order** James Ottman called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.
- Attendance** Present were Jim Ottman, Merlin Blaisdell, Dick Decosta, David Till CVSO and Tami MacGregor. Quorum reached. NOTE: Lawrence Bechel is currently not on Commission, but invited and present.
- Previous Minutes** Minutes of the November 28, 2018, Veterans Service Commission meeting were reviewed by the Committee. Motion made by Dick Decosta to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Merlin Blaisdell. Motion carried.
- Action Item/RR** Rivers of Recovery Veterans Program scheduled for August 13-16, 2019. Jeff Butler of National Parks Service has previously connected us with this as well as the previous Veterans Paddle events. It was agreed that these events are great opportunities to help our veterans. Motion made by Dick Decosta to assist with funding of this August program and seconded by Merlin Blaisdell; all ayes, motion unanimously carried. .
- Review of Funds** CVSO gave a summary of all expenditures and donations for year to date including summary and discussion of those donations and expenditures made. A comprehensive benefits review for the Veteran is always part of the process. The office also utilizes "fuel only" cards and local grocery/gas vouchers to assist with immediate needs. Discussion took place by the Committee on limits on monetary amounts. As funds have been generous coming in, all agreed that the \$500 limit which has been currently in place will continue. The Christmas gift

card/gift baskets given were very helpful to our needy Veterans and their families and will be discussing this at the next meeting in early December. Process with the gift cards was discussed.

**Meeting dates** Group agreed to continue the scheduling of regular meetings, with additional meetings as necessary.

**Other Business** Brief review/discussion ensued of options regarding replacement of Pierce County Veterans Transportation Program van.

**Adjourn** Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm on motion of Merlin Blaisdell, seconded by Dick Decosta; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Till, Executive Secretary

**Pierce County Veterans Services Commission  
MEETING AGENDA  
Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 12:00 Noon  
Pierce County Veterans Services Office, located in the Pierce County Office  
Building - Room 30  
412 W. Kinne St., Ellsworth, WI**

#	Action	Presenter
1	Call meeting to order	James Ottman, Chair
2	Establish Quorum and Adopt Agenda	James Ottman, Chair
3	Approve Minutes from 11-28-18 Meeting	Commission
4	Review, Discuss and take action as needed regarding monetary amounts/limits requiring approval	CVSO/Commission
5	Discuss and take action on Rivers of Recovery Program – August 13-16 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	CVSO
6	Summary of Commission Funds/ Review of Expenditures to date, and pending veteran requests	CVSO/Commission
7	Future agenda items	CVSO/Commission
8	Next meeting date	CVSO/Commission
9	Adjourn	Chair

Questions regarding this agenda may be made to David Till or Tami MacGregor at 715-273-6753.

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**DAVID R. TILL  
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE**

**PIERCE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019 – 10:00 AM  
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE, PIERCE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

- Call to Order** Chair Dean Bergseng called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
- Roll Call** Members present were Dean Bergseng, Paul Shingledecker, David Till, Director of Veterans' Services and Tami MacGregor, Veterans Services Benefits Specialist. Quorum reached. A motion was made by Dean Bergseng to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Paul Shingledecker and accepted as written. Motion carried.
- Previous Minutes** The Minutes of May 1, 2019, were reviewed. Motion was made by Paul Shingledecker to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Dean Bergseng and accepted as written. Motion carried.
- PC Veterans' Van** Committee review and discussion with Dave Till, CVSO, of continuing the process to obtain a new Pierce County Veterans Transportation Van. This office has applied for the Operation Roundup Grant through Pierce Pepin and received \$1000, and another application for the grant will be submitted again in December. The Committee had previously suggested sending letters to local organizations (Legions, VFW) to request funds, and we have received some donations from local Veterans' organizations. CVSO has been getting estimates including cost of add ons, and estimates reflect an approximate total of \$53,000. Motion made by Paul Shingledecker, seconded by Dean Bergseng to submit motion for approval to request up to \$50,000 through Finance and Personnel Committee; all ayes and motion carried. The office will again apply for Operation Roundup in December.
- Temporary Staff** Committee discussed Temporary Staff position for the Veterans Service Office (up to 800 hours), to assist with staffing the office when CVSO and Benefits

Specialist are attending mandatory trainings and conferences outside of the office to maintain their accreditation. This employee would be trained in basic office practices and also trained to refer veterans to the VBA or VHA sources as questions arise. Motion to approve made by Paul Shingledecker, seconded by Dean Bergseng to submit motion for approval for temporary staff position through Finance and Personnel Committee through the 2020 Budget as a line item; all ayes and motion carried.

**Office Update**

Currently we are accepting VA Work Study Students. These positions are funded through the VA and our participants have graduated. The Outreach programs were reviewed including the Full Thunder Moon Veteran's Paddle/Canoe trip through the National Parks Service. Also noted was the Rivers of Recovery trip scheduled for August 13-16, 2019. WDVA Grants (both CVSO and Transportation), use of PIV cards for VA remote access and Direct Upload of Claims, attendance of National CVSOA Conference this year in Cleveland, Ohio and upcoming Fall CVSOA Conference in Madison were other topics addressed and reviewed. Pierce County Veterans 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament took place on June 14, 2019, and was again a successful event and beautiful day spent with our Pierce County Veterans along with family and friends.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Dean Bergseng, seconded by Paul Shingledecker, to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Till  
Pierce County Veterans' Service Officer  
Director of Veterans' Services

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 Director of Veterans' Services  
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**PIERCE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
 MEETING AGENDA  
 THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019 - 10:00 A.M.**

**VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE, ROOM 30  
 PIERCE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

<b>#</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<b>1.</b>	Call to order	Chair
<b>2.</b>	Establish Quorum and Adopt Agenda	Chair
<b>3.</b>	Approve minutes of the May 1, 2019 meeting	CVSO/Members
<b>4.</b>	Review and take action: Pierce County Veterans Transportation Program Van	CVSO/Members
<b>5.</b>	Review and take action: Temporary Employee/Staff	CVSO/Members
<b>6.</b>	Review and take action: 2020 Budget Review and Discussion	CVSO/Members
<b>7.</b>	CVSO update of office activities to include: Veterans Outreach, VA Systems Update, 2019 Fall Conference CVSOA-WI, NACVSO Conference 2020, VA Work Study Program, Full Thunder Moon Veterans Paddle 7-16-19, 8th Annual Pierce County Veterans Golf Tournament	CVSO
<b>8.</b>	Adjourn	CVSO/Members

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**DAVID R. TILL  
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE**

**PIERCE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019 – 11:00 AM  
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE, PIERCE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

- Call to Order** Chair Dean Bergseng called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- Roll Call** Members present were Jeff Holst, Dean Bergseng, Paul Shingledecker, David Till, Director of Veterans' Services, Jason Matthys, Administrative Coordinator, and Tami MacGregor, Veterans Services Benefits Specialist. Quorum reached. A motion was made by Dean Bergseng to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Paul Shingledecker and accepted as written. Motion carried.
- Previous Meeting Minutes** The Minutes of November 13, 2018, were reviewed. Motion was made by Jeff Holst to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Paul Shingledecker and accepted as written. Motion carried.
- Closed Session per §19.85(1)(c) WI Stats. Review** Motion by Jeff Holst, seconded by Paul Shingledecker for closed session at 11:05 a.m. Committee and Administrative Coordinator review of CVSO goals and accomplishments. Motion by Dean Bergseng, seconded by Paul Shingledecker to come out of closed session at 11:55 a.m. Motion by Jeff Holst, seconded by Dean Bergseng, to grant step increase if one is due. Motion unanimously carried, with all members in favor.
- PC Veterans' Van** Committee review and discussion with Dave Till, CVSO of continuing the process of search for a new Pierce County Veterans Transportation van. Alternatives were discussed with proposed product lines and that trade of this vehicle is not lucrative. This office has applied for the Operation Roundup Grant through Pierce Pepin and received \$1000. An application for the grant could also be submitted again the first of the year. CVSO is in the process of getting prices,

including the cost of add ons. Motion made by Paul Shingledecker, seconded by Jeff Holst to obtain estimates; all ayes and motion carried. The Transportation Program features were discussed and explained. A suggestion was made by the Committee to send letters to local organizations (Legions, VFW) to request funds.

**PC Veterans Memorial**

General discussion of care of Veterans Memorial, with major concern how to handle issue of snow and salt. County groundskeepers provide the weeding and general care, and further communication will take place with them regarding the clearing of snow in winter months.

**Office Update**

Currently we are accepting VA Work Study Students. These positions are funded through the VA and our participants have graduated. The Outreach programs were reviewed including the organization of a Veteran's Paddle/Canoe trip through the National Parks Service, depending on Federal funding. Also noted was the Rivers of Recovery trip scheduled for August 13-16, 2019. WDVA Grants (both CVS0 and Transportation), use of PIV cards for VA remote access and Direct Upload of Claims, attendance of National CVS0A Conference this year in Cleveland, Ohio and Spring CVS0A Conference in Racine were other topics addressed and reviewed. Also discussed was staffing of office when CVS0 and Benefits Specialist are attending training. The possible hiring of an additional Temporary Employee position was reviewed and discussed. This employee would likely be under 1100 hour amount, and would be trained to refer veterans to the VBA or VHA sources for as questions arise. General plan was discussed to put this into a 2020 budgetary line item. Pierce County Veterans 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament will take place on June 14, 2019.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Paul Shingledecker, seconded by Jeff Holst, to adjourn at 12:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Till  
Pierce County Veterans' Service Officer  
Director of Veterans' Services

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**DAVID R. TILL**  
 Director of Veterans' Services  
 Pierce County Veterans' Service Officer

**PIERCE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
 MEETING AGENDA  
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019 - 11:00 A.M.**

**VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE, ROOM 30  
 PIERCE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

<b>#</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<b>1.</b>	Call to order	Chair
<b>2.</b>	Establish Quorum and Adopt Agenda	Chair
<b>3.</b>	Approve minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting	CVSO/Members
<b>4.</b>	Committee will convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(c) WI Stats for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility: CVSO annual evaluation	Closed Session: CVSO Annual Evaluation
<b>5.</b>	Committee will return to open session and take action on closed session item, if required	Open Session
<b>6.</b>	Review Item: Pierce County Veterans' Transportation Program Van	CVSO/Members
<b>7.</b>	Review Item: Pierce County Veterans' Memorial	CVSO/Members
<b>8.</b>	CVSO update of office activities to include: Pierce County Veterans Treatment Court/ Veterans Mentor Program, Veterans Outreach, WDVA Grants Discussion, VA Systems Update, 2019 Spring Conference CVSOA-WI, NACVSO Conference 2019, VA Work Study Program, 8th Annual Pierce County Veterans Golf Tournament	CVSO
<b>9.</b>	Adjourn	CVSO/Members