

IOWA COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.

Ford Memorial Conference Room

Iowa Veterans Home

Marshalltown, Iowa

PRESENT: Todd Jacobus, Chairperson, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Becky Dirks Haugsted, Member, Commission of Veterans Affairs
Darlene McMartin, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Kate Myers, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Bill Wallace, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Mickey Williams, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

EXCUSED: Dan Gannon, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Francis McAllister, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Larry Spencer, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

STAFF: Jodi Tymeson, Executive Director, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
David Worley, Commandant, Iowa Veterans Home
Greg Wright, Business Manager, Iowa Veterans Home
Nancy Morford, Admin. Assist., Commandant's Office, Iowa Veterans Home
Mari Mielke, Secretary, Iowa Depart. of Veterans Affairs
Shauna Callaway, Deputy Director, Iowa Veterans Home
Penny Cutler-Bermudez, Acting Director, Employee Svs,
Iowa Veterans Home

GUESTS: Amy Beller, Senator Harkin's Office
Lisa Christie, VA Central Iowa Health Care System
Lisa Breun, VA Regional Office
Elizabeth Ledvina, Tama County Veterans Affairs
Jill Jennings, House Republican Caucus Staff
Laurel Phipps, Health & Human Services Commission
John Hintz, Fayette County Veterans Affairs
Col. Ben Corell, Iowa National Guard
Sondra Van Der Pol, Iowa National Guard
Erin Davison-Rippey, State Public Policy Group
Jennifer Furler, State Public Policy Group

cc: Jeff Boeying, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office
Ted Stopulos, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Barbara Galloway, Assistant Attorney, Attorney General's Office
Sandra Hurtado-Peters, Department of Management
Sue Lerdal, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Jenny Lawrence, Auditor's Office
Jessica Holmes, DAS
Steve Ainger, DAS
David Worley, Commandant, IVH
Nancy Morford, Administrative Assistant, IVH
John Derner, Adjutant, The American Legion
Senator Daryl Beall, Chair, Senate VA Committee
Senator James Seymour, RM, Senate VA Committee
Representative Ray Zirkelbach, Chair, House VA Committee
David Davis, Director, VA Regional Office
Elizabeth Ledvina, President, IACCVA
Jerry Meek, Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Tom Ashworth, Senate Republican Caucus Staff
Julie Simon, Senate Democratic Caucus Staff
Jill Jennings, House Republican Caucus Staff
Reggie Richardson, President, The Retired Officers Association
Larry Jatho, Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans
Barry Sharp, Director, VACIHCS, Iowa City
Don Cooper, Director, VACIHCS, Des Moines
Ron Healy, Iowa UAW Veterans Committee
Jon Schneider, President, Paralyzed Veterans of America
Representative Jerry Kearns, RM, House VA Committee
Zeke Furlong, House Democratic Research Staff

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE "UNAPPROVED" UNTIL ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

APPROVED: Todd m Jacobus DATE: 11 Jan 2012

Todd Jacobus, Chairperson, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Todd Jacobus, Chairperson, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs.
- Pledge of Allegiance/
Moment of Silence: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Jacobus requested a moment of silence for our departed veterans, POW's, those missing in action (MIAs) and those on active duty at this time.
- Roll Call: Roll call of Commission members was completed by the Meeting Secretary. A quorum was present.
- Welcome/Intro. of
Guests: Chairperson Jacobus welcomed everyone in attendance. A round table of introductions was held.
- Approval of Minutes: Corrections/additions/deletions to the minutes of the 7/13/11 meeting and the Trust Fund Applications meeting were called for. Commissioner McMartin moved to approve the 7/13/11 minutes and the Trust Fund Applications with no changes. Second by Commissioner Dirks Haugsted. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote was not taken. Approved unanimously. Minutes of 7/13/11 and Trust Fund Applications meetings approved.
- Corrections/additions/deletions to the minutes of the 9/7/11 conference call of the Trust Fund applications were called for. Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the 9/7/11 conference call minutes as distributed. Second by Commissioner Williams. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote was not taken. Approved unanimously. Minutes of conference call of 9/7/11 approved.
- Chairperson Jacobus invited Sondra Van Der Pol and Shalee Torrence from Camp Dodge to brief attendees on the program they coordinate for the Iowa National Guard.
- Sondra Van Der Pol introduced herself. She is the Family Assistance Coordinator for the Iowa National Guard. They serve the families of the service member and the veteran of all branches of service. They are a resource and referral service. Families go to them letting them know what they need, and they either find the resources or refer them on. Sondra explained the new Joint Services Support (JSS) Portal. This portal brings the websites, or sub-portals, for six programs all under one umbrella, accessible with a single user name and password. The six programs on the website include: The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Family Program, Psychological Health Program, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and Warrior Support Program.

Shalee could not be here today, but asked Sondra to let everyone know they need volunteers for the Family Readiness Group.

Dave Hampe is the Family Assistance Specialist for this area. She passed out brochures with information for contacting them and includes a short blurb on all of the different departments and offices.

Sondra also explained what Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) is and its purpose. It is a committee that brings all of the people together who work with veterans, service members and families. Their main purpose is to network. They have a large communication network, but need more members. Their next quarterly meeting is November 3 at the Iowa National Guard, Gold Star Museum, at Camp Dodge. ISFAC was put together by the Iowa National Guard and has greatly helped communications between veteran organizations and the full-time military.

It was suggested Sondra get information out to all county commissioners in every county.

Sondra explained they are there to help all branches of service, not just National Guard. They also help retirees, veterans, service families, etc. She also told about Military One Source, a resource anyone can tap into for help or information. They can get information on behavior health or financial assistance, etc. They have a personal financial counselor. Most of their programs are free.

Laurel Phipps explained he is a new member of the Health and Human Services Commission for the State of Iowa. He is learning there is a disconnect between Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services. Many are falling through the cracks. Sondra agreed.

Chairperson Jacobus thanked Sondra for coming.

Chairperson Jacobus introduced Col. Ben Corell, who is the Commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and just returned from Afghanistan. He has been deployed the better part of the last ten years. Chairperson Jacobus asked him to talk about his perspective of recently deployed soldiers.

Col. Ben Corell:

Col. Corell explained he is back in his civilian job, State Quartermaster for the State of Iowa, and he wears the uniform. By state statute, there are about three positions that are state employees for the Iowa National Guard, and he holds one of those. There's a lot going on. He just came from Afghanistan. You go from going 150 mile-an-hour every day with your

hands on all of the bells and whistles as a brigade commander, back to that transition to, in his case, back to worrying about real property, armories, the mix of civilian state employees, federal technicians, active Guard and Reserve, all those things that go on every day that you don't really get a view of.

When I speak, I may be focused on my Iowa National Guard soldiers, but I realize it is broader than that, so don't let me confuse you when I speak. I'm only speaking about Iowa National Guard men and women who deployed with me. I just finished up my fourth deployment into a combat zone. I'm really close to that experience yet. And that's another reason why I hesitated coming, because it's not only what you do every day, but it is a larger responsibility, especially when you are the commander. The passion that I have for my soldiers is really at this point, emotions are really at the surface so it is hard for me to come talk about it, right now, anyway. Give me six months. The farther that I move from that experience and everything that we did every day, the easier it will be for me to talk about it. But right now it is still pretty raw.

Col. Corell thanked the VA for everything they and their predecessors have done to take care of the less than one percent of our population that put on a uniform and pick up arms to defend our constitution and our way of life. When he looks back at all they have done to this point and the things that have been accomplished for and by you, our Legislature, our bodies, both the state and national level, there has been a lot of progress since 9/11. He believes that for the most part, especially the soldiers, the men and women he served with, are not going to raise their hand and say "I need help," unless they actually, truly have no other place to go. He explained we need communication and cross talk so people do not slip through the cracks. It starts at the county level with the county. They have to have that burning desire to help those veterans. Sometimes it is the volunteer that helps get them to an appointment somewhere, etc.

Col. Corell thanked everyone for what they are going to do. By your presence here today, this will continue. Within Iowa, somewhere around 15,000 Iowa National Guardsmen have been deployed into harms way since 9/11. If everyone from all branches of service, active duty, reserves, are included, that is a significant footprint of veterans within the State of Iowa who maybe do not need help today, but maybe in the future.

Jodi Tymeson, Executive Director, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, indicated there is legislation that requires the Department to provide the counties within a month with the name and address from the DD214's they receive in the office, veterans in their county. They are encouraging the county director to reach out to those veterans to let them know where the office is, when it is open, what they may be eligible for. Col. Corell indicated he is encouraging his soldiers to enroll in the VA system. Commissioner McMMartin explained in her county she receives 30 – 40 notifications a month and

sends a letter out to the veteran in her county with a district informational packet/pamphlet that tells what the benefits are, who to contact, etc.

Chairperson Jacobus thanked Col. Corell. He also explained Col. Corell has also taken his sons on his deployments. They are all awesome soldiers and an incredible family. It is really good to have the entire team from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team back.

VA Regional Office: Lisa Breun gave an update from the VA Regional Office. She explained she has been gone for 2 ½ years but is returning as a Director and is happy to be back.

Their leadership conference was held recently in St. Louis with Secretary Shinseki. His goal is outreach. There are so many programs available to veterans, the problem is getting the word out. So at the national level, the focus is on how do veterans go out and get registered under the e-benefits system.

So far this year, we have completed 6,700 comp claims. There are 4,500 pending. Average days pending are 166. There are about 2,000 appeals pending. Fifteen percent of the cases are appeals and less than 5 percent take their appeal all the way to the Board of Records. Lengthy discussion followed.

Lisa commented there are a little over 1,300 veterans they are working within the Voc Rehab program. There are two counselors in Davenport, two in Cedar Rapids, two in Des Moines and one in Sioux City. The counselors are there to help them and ultimately find jobs, get in school, help them to get in on-the-job training programs. So far this year they have helped 83 veterans.

VA CIHCS
Des Moines: Lisa Christie gave an update on the VA Central Iowa Health Care System in Des Moines. (Sec. Note: She was too far away from the microphones and could not hear her.)

Iowa Department of
Veterans Affairs Jodi Tymeson, Executive Director, Department of Veterans Affairs, gave an update.

Update: There is a backlog on the Veterans Trust Funds. Applications approved pending funding for \$75,973.83.

Jodi electronically sent the Commissioners "Report to the Governor and General Assembly as Required by Iowa Code Chapter 35A.14 and Iowa administrative Code Chapter [801]-7." It is also included in the packet passed out this morning.

This is for the program where \$10,000 was allocated to each county to help them meet the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 35B.6. Jodi reviewed the report and the findings.

Cemetery Update: The DOT provided two large signs have been placed and paid for by the American Legion post. These signs explain it is native prairie grass and not a weed patch.

There are two more monuments for the cemetery. They both were approved before our policy was put in place. One was from the United States Submarine Veterans. It was dedicated last Saturday. It is similar to the monument on the State Capitol grounds. On the back is a list of all of the submarines and the Iowans who have been lost in those submarines. The other monument is from the 3/5 Armored Calvary from Vietnam. The base is installed but the monument is not ready yet.

In your packet is a request from AMVETS to donate a carillon to the Veterans Cemetery. The packet includes pictures of what a carillon looks like and a narrative of the AMVETS National Carillon Program. The base and tablet measurements are not filled in, but this is a 40-ft. tower. They have told Jodi it does not have to be that tall. It can be shorter or mounted on a building. The carillon rings chimes to make music and runs on power so Jodi is uncomfortable spending taxpayer money on electricity to run it. AMVETS would raise money to purchase the carillon and the National would match it. National and the Iowa Dept. of AMVETS will also take care of the maintenance.

Jodi also expressed concerns regarding when the carillon would play music--could not have the chimes ringing during funeral services, no one there at night to hear them, and do not want them very loud. It was indicated it is digital and can be programmed. Jodi had indicated to AMVETS that a decision will not be made today.

Internment update: There have been 957 internments in the last three years—868 from Iowa and 32 states represented. There are 27 veteran in memory markers on the memorial walk. There are currently 5,706 applications on file. We are continuously doing outreach to let veterans and their families know about the cemetery.

Jodi reviewed events she will be attending. She will be going to Dubuque on Friday, September 24, to the Tri-State All the Way Home Conference. October 18 will be the Fall School for County Commissioners in Carroll. November 8 will be an event called, "Hiring our Heroes." It is put on by the Iowa Workforce Development. On Veterans Day there will be an 8:00 a.m. ceremony at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery and another ceremony at 11:00 a.m. at Hy-Vee Hall. January 18 will be the Veterans Day at the Capitol.

Listed on the "Report to Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs" handout is a list of all of the accounts managed by the Department with the balance in each. In response to a question about the \$88,000 funds left from FY11, this money stays in this fund, but is only authorized to be spent for county training.

Included in the packet provided by Jodi was a "IDVA 2012 Budget Snapshot." IDVA is a little short but they are looking at ways to streamline and save money. They are in process of closing the federal grant. The leftover dollars can be used for sod, mulch, tree rings, chemicals to get rid of the iron in the water, etc. Jodi expressed concern that when the grant is closed, the dollars for those items listed will not be there.

Jodi is working on another federal grant to build a second set of Columbarium walls. We will also ask for more single grave liners to be put in the ground.

A question was asked whether vendors have been complaining that they have not been paid. This was regarding Trust Fund applications that were approved, the vendors did the work (for work that needed to be completed right away) but there hasn't been enough funds to cover. Jodi stated she has not heard of any complaints.

In response to a question on what we can do if counties are not in compliance, Jodi indicated she is not sure if there is anything we can do. Her only responsibility is to report to the Governor and the Legislature and it is the county's responsibility to comply with the law. Jodi has sent a letter to the county boards of supervisors outlining the requirements. Jodi will send a copy to the Commissioners.

Discussion followed on the Veterans Trust Fund Committee, when meetings/conference calls are held and who gets e-mails of the applications.

An unknown person announced the Central Iowa Military Retiree Council held a military retiree appreciation day on August 19 and Jodi represented the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and made a presentation to the retirees. He commended her for the presentation and for the work she did. The feedback received from the retirees was outstanding.

Iowa Veterans Home Update: Commandant David Worley gave the Iowa Veterans Home Update.

David attended the traveling Vietnam Wall in West Des Moines at Resthaven Cemetery last weekend and gave an update. Commissioner Dan Gannon gave a speech, the American Legion performed a five star ceremony. Commissioner Spencer recognized POWs. General Tymeson performed the closing ceremony. David thanked everyone who was involved. There was a lot of work involved in getting it setup and running from Tuesday through Sunday night. There are 58,264 names on the wall. From Tuesday until Sunday afternoon every name was read. All of the things people left at the wall will be put in a vault and buried at the Vietnam Memorial at Resthaven Cemetery.

Break: Lunch break was taken from 11:50 a.m. – 12:47 p.m.

IVH Update (cont'd) David continued his report. Greg Wright is our CFO and will be presenting our budget today. David stated he has never met a more financial-astute guy in State Government. He knows exactly what he is doing. He works with Diana Steiner, Budget Analyst.

Budget: Greg handed out "Iowa Veterans Home Financial Report." Greg reviewed Columns A, B and C. Column A is budget activity through June 30, 2011. Column B is our budget for the current FY12 and Column C is the budget we hope you will approve today for FY13. The FY13 budget must be loaded into the system by October 1. The Governor reviews all departmental requests and then meets with each department and releases his own budget sometime in January. The Legislature generally uses the Governor's recommendations as a starting point in crafting the next year's budget.

Greg reviewed a few major revenues and expenditures. He put descriptions in red font of what is contained in some of the budget lines that are not so obvious because of the state-wide classification system terminology.

In Column A Appropriation, when FY11 was closed out, the final Appropriation was \$9.6 million. Late in Session we were instructed upon the Governor's signature that whatever was unspent in the office supply line, 50 percent would revert, which resulted in us reverting \$17,000. Governor Culver initiated a one-time early out retirement program for state employees. State agencies were required to contribute to the cost of the program. Our contribution for FY11 was \$679,000. Our net Appropriation for FY11 was \$8.9 million.

IVH is a net budgeting agency. There are less than a handful of agencies that are a net budgeting agency. The concept of net budgeting is that the legislature appropriates fewer funds while the state agency generates the majority of its revenues and also absorbs the risk of meeting revenue targets and funding other operational costs that arise during the year. Our State Appropriation for FY11 represents 12 percent of our total resources budget. The remaining resources budget

represents self-generated revenues. Under the Receipts section, revenues included in Federal Support 201R, are VA per diem, drugs, CBOC, Medicare Part B.

Greg listed his phone number and e-mail address on the last page, along with Diana Steiner, Budget Analyst. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail.

Total resources for FY11 were \$75,166,082. On page 2, biggest line item expenditure is salaries. Eighty-one percent of our operating budget is salaries, which includes SERIP and SLIP for retirees. SERIP and SLIP payments for retirees continue out until 2015. State agencies did not receive a separate appropriation for these program costs. The other expenditures are self-explanatory.

On page 3 in Column A, the yellow highlighted number represents the balance carried forward into FY12. We ended FY11 in the black and we had more resources than we had expenditures, of \$2.9 million. In FY11 we had unlimited carry forward authority. During the last Legislative Session, they changed that and they put into statute that for FY11 and FY12 IVH could only carry forward half a million dollars. IVH will transfer to Iowa Department of Human Services on or before October 15 \$2,447,911.

Greg then reviewed Column B, which represents our proposed budget for FY12. State agencies were requested to submit a status quo budget, but we were allowed to request additional funding to staff the opening of one of the new buildings in FY12. At the time we submitted our budget, we anticipated that the Fox building would be the first to be opened. In the interim, we were notified that both buildings would need to be finished before the federal VA would certify the project. Once the buildings are ready to be occupied, the Iowa Veterans Home must move a minimum of 21 residents and notify the federal VA by letter that we are ready for the survey. We have been told that once the federal VA is notified that we are ready for a survey, that a team will be dispatched within ten days. Until the survey is completed and certified, IVH loses the federal per diem for those 21 residents. We budgeted that the survey would start in February and we would have the new buildings fully populated by March. Since the new buildings won't be ready until later in FY12, we believe we can meet the challenge within our current resources and we did not ask for any additional funds for FY12.

Greg then reviewed Column C, which is our FY13 request, which we are hoping you will approve. The Legislature appropriated 50 percent of the previous year's state allotment. State agencies were instructed to add back the balance to continue maintaining a status quo budget. We have spent a lot of time reviewing staffing patterns for the new buildings

and now believe we can absorb these into our projected 2013 resource budget. We are not asking for any additional funds for FY13 operating budget.

Commissioner McMartin made a motion to approve the IVH FY13 budget. Second by Commissioner Wallace. Commissioner Dirks Haugsted commended Greg that this was the cleanest budget layout she has seen. Commissioner McMartin agreed. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote taken: Commissioner Dirks Haugsted: yes; Commissioner McMartin: yes; Commissioner Myers: yes; Commissioner Wallace: yes; Commissioner Williams: yes; Chairperson Jacobus: yes. Motion carried. FY13 budget for IVH approved.

The next Appropriation is for Capitals. The Governor asked state agencies to submit a five-year capital plan. Greg started out with the top sheet entitled, "Replace Boilers & Steam Distribution." We submitted this to VA Washington D.C. last year. It was awarded and went out for bid earlier this year. The lowest compliant bid exceeded our project resources budget. All bids were rejected. This project seeks to replace one of our boilers (#4) as well as retrofit and update existing controls on two other boilers and update our steam distribution system. IVH met earlier this month with DOM and discussed what we planned to present today. We were told that DOM was not certain if there would be enough resources to fund the project in FY13, but they were hopeful. We are requesting that the entire project be funded, \$975,919 so that we can proceed and once the federal funds are released to IVH, they would be transferred back to the state general fund.

The other document before you is the Five Year Capital Plan. In FY14 we have two projects: replace sidewalks and repair other concrete areas that have cracked and heaved. The second request for FY14 is the replacement of existing door closures and update automatic doors around the campus. We have a lot of mobies and wheelchairs that run into the doors.

In FY15 we are requesting to finish the ADA upgrade in our cottages. We only have one cottage that is ADA compliant. We have family members that come to visit that need ADA compliant accommodations. In FY16, we are looking to upgrade the Sheeler electrical system. We thought we could address that through the renovation of Sheeler, but that project has been canceled. We don't see this as an immediate need, so we deferred this request until FY16.

In FY17, we are requesting that the Sheeler building air handler unit be replaced at a projected cost of \$500,000. Our total five-year capital request totals \$2,800,119.

Commissioner Dirks Haugsted made a motion to approve the IVH Five Year Capital Plan 2013 – 2017. Second by Commissioner Williams. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote taken: Commissioner Dirks Haugsted: yes;

Commissioner McMartin: yes; Commissioner Myers: yes; Commissioner Wallace: yes; Commissioner Williams: yes; Chairperson Jacobus: yes. Motion carried. IVH Five Year Capital Plan for 2013 – 2017 approved.

Commandant Worley continued the IVH update. Resident census is 604 today. David briefed attendees on construction projects going on. He explained what he did not like in the phases that had already been approved. They were removed from the list and IVH submitted two other projects. He showed a power point presentation of the projects.

The operation of Heinz Hall has been changed. Instead of having residents in there that will stay forever, it will have two programs, both for residential. One will be more of a well-elderly program for residents who do not need nursing home care now, but they can't quite take care of themselves at home and they do not have a lot of family around. We will keep them in Heinz Hall and eventually they will move into nursing level of care. The other program will be a short-term rehab program for about 15 veterans who are struggling with substance abuse and other things. David explained the program.

The Commandant explained he hired a deputy director, Shauna Callaway, and what her duties will be.

David continued to explain the construction project and the plan for moving into the new buildings. After we move approximately 30 residents into the new buildings, we are commissioned by the state. Then we send a letter to the VA, who will be at IVH within ten working days from the date of receipt of the letter for the inspection. At that time, they will inspect the whole facility.

We currently have just over 300 Medicaid-eligible residents. About 50 percent of our residents are on Medicaid.

SPPG Update: Jennifer Furler, SPPG, gave an overview of the Mental Health Task Force. There are two Mental Health First Aid trainings scheduled for October in Iowa City and Des Moines. SPPG is doing outreach, logistics, and paying for materials through our Commission work. The Iowa National Guard is conducting the training with three of their certified instructors. SPPG has another meeting of the mental health work group scheduled for September 29 to discuss a pilot project with primary care clinics. Jennifer noted that their contract expired August 16, 2011, but SPPG continues to work in good faith to maintain momentum. Discussion followed regarding renewing of the contract and procedures."Jennifer commented that their contract expired August 8, 2011. Discussion followed regarding renewing of the contract and procedures.

New Business: Jodi reviewed recommended changes to the Veterans Trust Fund. The recommendations were passed out. Mari will put
Administrative Rules these changes in the correct format and mail to Commission Members. Jodi asked for approval of the context of the
Veterans Trust Fund: changes.

Jodi reviewed the changes in detail and gave explanations of why they are needed.

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the Veterans Trust Fund Administrative Rules. Second by Commissioner Williams. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote taken: Commissioner Dirks Haugsted: yes; Commissioner McMartin: yes; Commissioner Myers: yes; Commissioner Wallace: yes; Commissioner Williams: yes; Chairperson Jacobus: yes. Motion carried. Changes to Veterans Trust Fund Administrative Rules were approved.

Administrative Rules Jodi explained changes to this program are needed to clarify and better align the rules with the actual law and the intent of
Injured Veteran Grant the law. Jodi reviewed the changes in detail with explanations of why they are needed. Discussion followed.
Program:

Commissioner McMartin made a motion to approve recommended changes to the Administrative Rules to clarify the Injured Veterans Grant Program, then revisit possible legislative changes. Second by Commissioner Myers. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote taken: Commissioner Dirks Haugsted: yes; Commissioner McMartin: yes; Commissioner Myers: yes; Commissioner Wallace: yes; Commissioner Williams: yes; Chairperson Jacobus: yes. Motion carried. Changes to Injured Veteran Grant Program approved.

Administrative Rules Jodi explained there are currently no administrative rules for the fund. She reviewed rules she would recommend if the
Veterans License Commission believes there should be some rules.
Plate Fee Fund:

Commissioner Dirks Haugsted made a motion to approve Veterans License Plate Fee Fund Administrative Rules. Second by Commissioner Williams. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote taken: Commissioner Dirks Haugsted: yes; Commissioner McMartin: yes; Commissioner Myers: yes; Commissioner Wallace: yes; Commissioner Williams: yes; Chairperson Jacobus: yes. Motion carried.

Overview of Jodi passed out a draft of "2012 Veterans Legislative Agenda." This was drafted as a result of the Roundtable held August
Dept.'s Roundtable 3, 2011. Veterans organizations, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs, Iowa Veterans Home, Iowa Veterans Home and

Discussion of
Legislative Issues
From August 3:

Iowa Association of County Commission of Veterans Affairs were all represented. These issues were agreed to by everyone at the Roundtable. Jodi is tweaking it as she receives input for those that were in attendance. Jodi reviewed each topic and discussion was held.

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to forward the 2012 Veterans Legislative Agenda. Second by Commissioner Dirks Haugsted. Lengthy discussion followed. Commissioner Wallace called for the question. There is a motion on the floor to accept these. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote taken: Commissioner Dirks Haugsted: yes; Commissioner McMartin: yes; Commissioner Myers: yes; Commissioner Wallace: yes; Commissioner Williams: yes; Chairperson Jacobus: yes. Motion carried. 2012 Veterans Legislative Agenda approved to forward.

Chairperson Jacobus commended Jodi on bringing all of these groups together on August 3. It was an awesome and excellent endeavor and very positive with great exchanges of information.

Chairperson Jacobus received a call from a concerned veteran who said there are people who are trying to do away with the Iowa Veterans Council, including commissioners who think there is no value in the Iowa Veterans Council. The Chairperson stated there are great discussions that take place at IVC meetings.

Commission
Subcommittees:

Chairperson Jacobus sent an e-mail to the chairs of the nine Commission subcommittees asking for feedback of what we want, what do we expect, in terms of feedback from the different committees. Consensus was to not provide a report at these meetings. But he thought the Commissioners should communicate with each other in terms of what is going on to keep everyone informed, here's what the issues we are working on, progress being made. Discussion followed. David stated he will start sending written monthly reports to Commissioner Gannon, the IVH Liaison. Discussion followed on the Commission members keeping each other informed between the quarterly meetings.

Veterans Day on the
Hill:

Chairperson Jacobus announced Veterans Day on the Hill will be held January 18, 2012. Lisa Purvis was in charge of that last year, so we need to make plans. Lengthy discussion followed on who did what last year, what did not work and who will help this year.

Chairperson Jacobus commented that Commissioner Gannon thanked everyone for everything they did to make the Vietnam Wall display a success. He thanked Commissioner Gannon and Commissioner Spencer for all of the work they put into this. Fourteen thousand people went through the display.

- Public Comment: None.
- Announcement: David announced the Dack dayroom project is now finished. All dayrooms on each floor in the Dack building have been remodeled.
- Next Meeting: The next Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs meeting will be held Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa.
- ADJOURNMENT: With no other business to come before the group, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

nlm
comm mtg