

Veteran Services Advisory Board

Date: September 9, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:09 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

3. Quorum Call of Members in Attendance

Quorum established later in the meeting after revisiting attendance

Members:

John Murdoch, Chair

George Cooper

Fred Judkins

Eric Sickler

Wayne Wooten

Alachua County Staff:

Claudia Tuck

Candie Nixon

JP Dunn

Kenneth Boggs

Leslie McCurdy

Julian Ancion

4. Call for Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting(s)

Feb 2024 Minutes: Wooden made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Cooper second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

Jun 2024 Minutes: Sickler made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Cooper second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

5. Old Business

Resolution Update - Resolution 2022-38 (establishes the Veteran Services Advisory Board (VSAB)) recommended for update to reflect agencies who no longer participate or are defunct.

The resolution is with the county attorneys for their review. Board nominations are still being accepted with one going before the board this month.

6. New Business

6.1 New Veteran Services Director

CAPT JP Dunn, USN Ret. is the new Veteran Services Director. Mr. Dunn introduced himself, relayed his 30-year Naval service history, and thanked the Advisory Board for their continued support.

6.2 Severance Pay Legislation

Murdoch brought up concerns about veterans being released from their service branch with severance pay.

38 CFR 3.700 prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from paying compensation to a Veteran who also received certain separation benefits from the Department of Defense (DoD). These benefits include:

- readjustment pay under former 10 U.S.C. 687 and 3814a
- non-disability severance pay under 10 U.S.C. 1174(h)(2)
- separation pay under 10 U.S.C. 1174
- Reservists' Involuntary Separation Pay (RISP)
- Special Separation Benefit (SSB) under 10 U.S.C. 1174a
- Voluntary Separation Pay (VSP) under 10 U.S.C. 1175a, and
- disability severance pay under 10 U.S.C. 1212(c).

Per the CFR, a veteran awarded VA disability compensation would be required to pay back any severance pay before receiving VA disability pay.

Murdoch encouraged the staff to engage with Rep. Kat Cammack's, FL03, office regarding this situation. Veterans with these specific circumstances were identified and can be provided as case examples.

Wooden made a motion to approve the staff order as presented; Cooper seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.3 Tax-Exempt Payback for Veterans Legislation

Murdoch brought forward a concern regarding veterans who apply for federal jobs and once hired are required to pay back taxes of combat zone tax exclusion pay.

The staff was unfamiliar with the provision noted but will research and report findings at the next VSAB.

Cooper made a motion to approve the staff order as presented; Wooden seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.4 Veterans Day Planning

Veteran Services Director gave an overview and update of the Veterans Day Celebration planning. Local school bands have been identified for music and University of Florida Drill Teams have been requested for flag detail and potential demonstration. County risk management is coordinating with planning staff to ensure parachute and helicopter static displays are properly approved, insured, and executed.

Alachua County Parks has requested a concurrent ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Kids Park at Veterans Park. The ribbon cutting will be held at 9:00am and will not interfere with the Veterans Day Celebration.

7. Citizen Comments

Mr. Eric Sickler may be unable to attend the November session due to medical necessity. Claudia Tuck suggested Mr. Sickler may participate via Zoom and be able to vote and count for quorum if approved by the board.

Cooper made a motion to approve Zoom attendance; Wooden seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

8. Adjournment and Thank You for Coming

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42.

9. Next Meeting will be: 14 October 2024