



Middle Township Veterans Advisory Board Agenda

Township Hall

33 Mechanic Street

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

E-Mail: Chairperson - mahardenlozier@aol.com

Phone: 609-602-9946 Fax: 609-536-2617

MEETING DATE/TIME: July 27, 2016, 7:00pm Sharp

LOCATION: Township Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: Welcome

Roll Call

Members Present:

Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone, Ed Dillio, Allyn Penkethman, Fred Trasatti, Jr., Bill Hawk, and Krystel Arana.

FLAG SALUTE

GUEST SPEAKER – None

DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH BOARD OBJECTIVES

OLD BUSINESS

Topics Discussed by Mayor Clark – June Meeting

Terms of Members – Follow-Up – Letters Resent to Mayor for Buero & DiPrinzio

Krystel Arana:

- *To create resolution setting attendance requirement.*
- *Members must have been present to at least 60% of the meetings held that year.*
- *Removal is certain if not in compliance.*
- *Currently accepting recommendations for prospective board members.*
- *Original applicant to be considered.*

Veterans Court – Maureen to Speak with Judge Dorothy Incarvito-Garrabrant

Krystel Arana:

- *Maureen to find out number of veterans being processed through Middle Township's Municipal Court system.*
- *Investigate if topic concerns Federal or State approval per Mayor Clark.*
- *Find out how to begin process.*
- *Main focus is to improve current system, if any, locally.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Asked if any services are presently being offered in Cape May County.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Had inquired to Judge Incarvito-Garrabrant about the matter at a school function and she stated that it is a lengthy process.*
- *Involves changing the constitution.*
- *Judge Pickering is fond of the idea but has concerns about people abusing the system.*
- *There needs to be a definite need for a distinct court system.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Requested elaboration on abusers of the system.*
- *Repeat offenders?*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Judge Pickering did not elaborate on concerns.*
- *Personal opinion; a person who has a chronic disorder and determining the real reason as to why they find themselves in court.*
- *For example, a veteran who breaks the law by drinking and driving and gets pulled over then uses the excuse that he or she is a veteran to try and elude the consequences.*

Krystel Arana:

- *Has observed flyers relating to the Veterans Court system outside of Municipal Court.*
- *To speak with Municipal Court Clerk regarding programs already set in place.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Not a get out of jail free card.*
- *Thought treatment was involved.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Many things to be taken into account.*
- *Veterans are given the benefit of the doubt.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Understands servicemen are returning with issues.*
- *No excuse for breaking the rules.*
- *No drinking and driving is the law.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Agrees they should still be responsible.*
- *Doctors to distinguish the difference.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Offered his services to escort anyone needing transportation.*

Homelessness of Veterans – County Level Assistance and Cape Hope

Krystel Arana:

- *Offer information for obtaining vouchers and county offered services.*
- *Committeemember Devico mentioned at the Regular Township Meeting held on July 18th that he would like to start focusing on the problem of homelessness.*
- *Sees this as the perfect opportunity to invite him to August's meeting to share ideas and collaborate on the issue.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Stated that he is committed to helping the cause.*

Krystel Arana:

- *Idea to utilize the yellow building located in Rio Grande that was used as an assisted living facility in the past as the primary location to house homeless veterans.*
- *Low-income based.*
- *Required to present identification as a listed veteran.*
- *Incentive to get registered.*
- *Establish a computer center in a designated room.*
- *Purpose of computer center would be work related; to educate veterans on how to search for work online as well as create resumes for positions sought, etc.*
- *The veterans would help maintain the building by performing duties relative to positions needed at the facility until they find work elsewhere.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Was home in the past to the assisted living center known as the Chapin House.*
- *About 42units.*
- *Owner of property still maintains the facility.*

Krystel Arana:

- *To speak with corresponding departments on the subject of obtaining grants offered by the state for such development.*
- *To reach out to state officials who will assist in helping the board make this a reality.*

Ally Penkethman:

- *Per agreement.*

The Reserved Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) – Mayor Supports the Program – In the Works at Middle Township High School

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Personally recommends topic be closed.*
- *Does not see the purpose of the board being involved.*
- *Something the school board is responsible for establishing.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Agrees with Allyn.*

Medical Care for Veterans – Mayor in Full Support of Access to Care Locally

Krystal Arana:

- *Mayor Clark fully supports gaining access to local medical care facilities.*
- *Hospital is working on improving their current program.*
- *Something the board could look into and work together with the hospital to help expand.*
- *To collect information and distribute.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Gave brief background of a navy veteran who set himself on fire.*
- *As a result, medical organizations have begun hiring more people at multiple facilities.*
- *Feels as if nothing has changed in Cape May County.*
- *States the higher ups say there are not enough veterans in the area.*

The Coast Guard has changed its rules of entry to the clinic located on base in many positive ways per testimonies of multiple board members.

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Cape Regional has merged services with the VA.*
- *Choice program is not functioning the way it was designed.*
- *Believes the current hospital administration is misusing the money given to them by Congress for veteran programs to pay salaries.*
- *Find out which one of the legislatures is backing the program that doesn't require veterans to drive out of the county in search of medical assistance and ask them for guidance.*

Krystal Arana:

- *Asked if anyone knew anything about the program at the hospital.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *They say they'll treat a veteran and then they'll do everything in their power regarding payment of the bill.*
- *Applied for the Choice Program in November, completed the process in February and to this day they still haven't paid the hospital for services done.*
- *Fears he will be added to a collection agency soon.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Believes it is all about the money.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Informed the board on his healthcare plan.*
- *Retired.*
- *Medicare pays 100% of hospital bills and 80% of Doctors bills.*
- *Questions why there isn't a similar program for veterans.*
- *Agrees with Bill that it is mainly about the money.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Provided Krystel with a fact sheet pertaining to the Choice Program and its initiative.*
- *It's a matter of institutions implementing the program.*

Veterans Registering with Cape May County – Maureen to Contact Board of Elections about Setting Up at Voting Sites. Mayor Recommended Middle Township's Library and Senior Center be Utilized.

Krystel Arana:

- *Not entirely sure Board of Elections would allow such promotion of the board at voting sites.*
- *Election nights are very serious regarding rules and regulations.*
- *Board will have to wait until the meeting being held in August for Maureen's update.*
- *The library and senior center would be more welcoming to such event.*
- *Board members would rotate working events depending on how many will be held.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Asked how registration events would be accomplished due to the fact that the veteran has to have his picture taken to be placed on the identification card.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Incorporate with event being held in November.*
- *Have someone from County Clerk's office assist the board with the process.*
- *Two-hour window.*

Suicide Prevention

Krystel Arana:

- *Raise awareness.*
- *Provide information for suicide prevention hotlines and professional assistance.*
- *Research coping mechanisms and helpful tips for coping with thoughts of suicide to be placed on website page.*

Veterans Returning Home from Deployment – Contact Mayor Clark to have Fire Departments Participate in Welcome Home Escort

Krystel Arana:

- *The Mayor stated he would be able to rally the troops given enough time and notice.*
- *Board could put together flyers inviting people to join the event.*

Fundraising – Beef and Beer – \$640 Shared Equally with the American Legion Post #198 and DAV Chapter 44

Krystel Arana:

- *Maureen planning on hosting another Beef and Beer event in the winter when there isn't as much activity going on.*
- *Possibly after Veterans Day.*

Brochure with Consolidated Veterans Information – Information Received from Fred – Still Retyping

Pamphlet Created by Krystel – Shared with Mayor Clark

Krystel Arana:

- *Noticed a number was not provided for a suicide prevention hotline and will be adding one.*

Dates for Veterans and Families Information Event

Allyn Penkethman:

- *No dates as of yet.*

Krystel Arana:

- *Feels board should begin organizing event and putting information together.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Incorporate veteran registration with fall event.*

Establish Committee for “Flag Star” Project

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Has collected about 300 stars.*

Krystel Arana:

- *Proposed distributing at nursing homes and hospital.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Mike Vallone looking into identifying veterans at the hospital.*

Homelessness

va.gov

<http://www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp>

Conferences and Stand-Downs

STAND-DOWN – September 23, 2016 – Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Casey McCollum (215)823-5800 Ext. 3680 – casey.mccollum@va.gov

James Maher (888) 865-8387 – standdownsj@gmail.com

Bill Hawk:

- *Event being held between 8:30am – 1:00pm.*
- *Charities give out blankets and other supplies.*
- *Money raised at the event is used to help homeless veterans.*
- *Maureen’s purpose is to have someone from the board in attendance for observation.*
- *Probably to hold a similar event in Cape May*

Burke Motor Car, Truck & Cycle Show – July 9 – Update

Krystal Arana:

- *Francey could not be in attendance but asked me to give an update.*
- *Per her email, Burke Motor Group raised \$5,200.00 at this year's car show held on July 9th for the DAV.*

Discussion of New Jersey's Youth Challenge Academy – Mentor Program

Ed Dillio:

- *Thought board decided not to move forward with this topic.*
- *It's above our influence.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Recommends information be forwarded to anyone who the program would be useful to.*

Retirement of Flag Ceremony – Postponed Until the Fall

Krystal Arana:

- *To be discussed at a later date closer to when event will be held.*
- *Board working on a handful of things at the moment.*

Citizens/Veterans Advisory Council (CVAC) – Veterans Board Representation at their Meetings

Ed Dillio:

- *To attend organization's meeting in the near future.*

Any Other Unfinished Old Business

VA Mobile Unit – Date in Future - Bill Hawk to Keep Board Posted

Bill Hawk:

- *Events to be held from 10:00am – 2:00pm.*
- *August 9 & 23: Atlantic City County Building, Atlantic Avenue in Atlantic City.*
- *August 24: American Legion Post 524, Bay Avenue in Ocean City.*
- *September 6: Wildwood American Legion Post 184, Atlantic Avenue in Wildwood.*
- *September 13 & 27: Atlantic City County Building, Atlantic Avenue in Atlantic City.*
- *September 20: Stockton College, Parking Lot 5.*
- *September 28: American Legion Post 524, Bay Avenue in Ocean City.*
- *September 29: Genesis Court House Center, Cape May Court House.*
- *Knowledgeable officers to advise veterans according to individual problems and what course of action to take.*

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Hawk:

- *Would like to plan an event to thank the police department for the safety they provide to the residents of Middle Township.*
- *Could be held at the American Legion Post.*

Next Meeting Date

Wednesday August 24, 2016

QUESTIONS N/A

ADJOURN 8:27pm

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Minutes – Krystel Arana

Time Keeper – Allyn Penkethman Penkethman