

Media Relations Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 PM

Members Present: Ann Gill, Dick Steele, John Roth, Jeremy Ly, Chris Balkema

Also Present: Ron Severson, Sandy Pommier, Shawn Hamilton

Guests: Ken Buck, Jerry Belt, Jack Peterson, Melvin Bartels, Wendall Johnson, Don McCollough, Elmo Younger, John Bush, Shawn Matheny, Rhode Bronk, Maxine Bronk, Sharon Johnson

Public Comment:

Ken Buck, Commander of the Morris American Legion Post 294 stood to speak on behalf of the other public attendees, about the Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Grundy County (VACGC). Buck expressed his frustration with the manner that the VACGC is run by Elton Monson and staff. Buck stated that the by-laws are continually being amended and the meeting dates are changed without proper notification to the posts therefore not allowing equal voting rights to the post commanders. Buck added that his frustration is not towards the County Board but he and other commanders would like to see changes made.

Commander Jerry Belt stated that he had visited with Kendall County's Superintendent, Ed Dixon and was very impressed with their system. Belt also added that Monson was in Bloomington at a conference, where he was told that the complaints were going to be addressed, and may be solved there.

Commander Bronk told the committee that Monson has refused registered mail sent by Bronk, including FOAI requests.

Gill added that she thought things were better with the VACGC and thanked all for attending and invited them to attend all meetings and urged them to call her personally with further concerns. Gill requested a copy of the by-laws to be distributed to all committee members.

Ly questioned if the complaints had been filed and if the open meetings act violation had been addressed and Susan Bates replied that the issues had been addressed.

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2011 meeting was made by Balkema, seconded by Roth. Motion carried.

Under New Business, Roth told the committee that he had been contacted by Jack Wheeler, a driver for the VACGC, that stated that he had been shorted in compensation for his services. The committee discussed the record auditing process of the VACGC and the difficulty in knowing how the office is being run. A discussion was held in regards to the cell phones and phone cards used by the staff and how they are budgeted for.

The claims were presented for the VACGC and were taken under advisement by a motion made by Roth, seconded by Balkema. Motion carried.

Gill told the committee that the county had been notified that the State VAC representative will no longer serving the county due to budgetary cut backs. Hamilton stated a press release will be done to make the public aware of the change.

Public Recognition:

Veterans discussed: Veteran and long time Board of Health member Dr. John Roth

Veteran and teacher/coach John Dzuras from Coal City

Also discussed was to recognize local vendors for their donated services to the county.

County Video/RFP:

Gill stated that she and Hamilton are working on completing the RFP for the video.

A motion to adjourn was made by Roth, seconded by Steele. Motion carried.