

Media Relations Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM

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

Member Absent: Jeremy Ly

Also Present: Board Chairman Ron Severson, Secretary Sandy Pommier, VACGC Elton Monson and Kathy Doran, Assistant States Attorney Susan Bates, Guests from the various Grundy County posts, Jerry Belt, Wendell Johnson, Elmo R Younger, Glenn Gavril, Joe, Trippirdi, Douglas Martin, Ken Buck

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2011 meeting was made by Balkema, seconded by Roth. Motion carried.

A motion to take the VACGC October claims under advisement was made by Balkema, seconded by Steele. Motion carried.

A motion to take the VACGC November claims under advisement was made by Roth, seconded by Steele. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Douglas Martin, Commander Minooka American Legion Post told the committee that he feels the VACGC should be reformed due to all posts not being represented.

Jerry Belt, Commander Morris VFW Post #649 expressed his concerns about all posts not having equal voting privileges.

VACGC Petition:

Committee Chair Ann Gill read the petition as presented. The petition, if passed by the County Board, would cease the current operation of the VAC and recognize and fund the newly formed VAC consisting of the six largest veterans Post/Detachments, as signed on the petition. They are as follows:

Morris American Legion Post 294

Grundy County Marine Corps League

Morris Disabled American Veterans #86

Morris VFW Post #649

Coal City American Legion Post #796

Minooka American Legion Post

Ken Buck, Commander Morris American Legion Post 294 spoke to say that the main intent of this action was to allow all posts to equally participate. Buck added that he had drafted new by-laws.

Gill entertained comments from the committee on the matter. Steele agreed that all posts should be equally represented. Roth asked Monson if all members would be allowed to vote at the next election. Monson replied, after conferring with Ms. Doran, by saying to contact his attorney.

Gill asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss litigation. Motion by Balkema, seconded by Roth. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

At 9:23 AM, a motion was made by Steele, seconded by Balkema to return to open session. Motion carried.

Gill asked for a motion to move forward with the preparation of the resolution to be acted on by the County Board to dissolve the current Veterans Assistance Commission of Grundy County (VACGC) and approve the formation of a new VACGC in which enables all posts to vote. Gill also added that many family members are veterans and her decision to vote for the change was to better serve all veterans. A motion was made by Balkema, seconded by Roth to recommend the resolution as stated above to the County Board for approval. Roth once again asked Monson if he intended to allow all posts to vote; his reply was the same. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Recognition:**

Steele stated that John Dzuris, teacher and veteran will be recognized in December. Gill stated that the Barn Quilt people will also be recognized as well as Grundy County employees.

Gill also told the committee that the RFP for the county video will be presented at the next meeting.

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