

West Suburban Veterans District – November 3, 2021

Location: Weston Town Hall

Present: Chris Coleman, Kate Fitzpatrick, Leon Gaumond, and Meghan Jop

Also present: Nancy Blanchard, John Bugbee, and Sarada Kalpee

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 12:17pm.

Business:

1. Citizen Speak

None

2. Minutes

The Board voted (3-0-0) to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting.

3. Director's Update

Meghan asked the Board to vote to approve Sarada's Military Retirement Funds for FY 21 for \$5,654.25 & FY22 for \$356.59. The FY21 amount of \$5,654.25 will be taken out of the remaining FY21 funds, before the remainder, excluding Westwood which did not contribute to the FY21 budget, is returned to each town's CH 115 account. The FY22 amount of \$356.59 will come out of the FY22 Retirement Assessment. The FY21 Carryforward Allocation is as follows: Needham \$16,161, Wayland \$7,270 Weston \$6,300, and Wellesley \$15,655 for a total of \$45,385.

Nancy and Sarada discussed plans for Veteran's Day in each of the five communities: In Needham the ceremony will be organized by Bill Topham and this will be his last year handling it, in Westwood Nancy is communicating with Michelle Miller and with the American Legion to finalize plans, in Weston Don Bumpus and a selected committee is planning the program, in Wayland Rich Turner is handling the ceremony and in Wellesley Joe Oliveri is running the program.

Westwood is officially a Purple Heart Community, the last one for the district. Sarada will be ordering Purple Heart community entryway signs for Westwood and Wellesley. She needs to find out from the DPW how many town border entries are in each town.

For Outreach, the COA publishes when the VSO's are in Weston. Having a breakfast with Veterans is a possibility, date and time TBD.

In Wayland several Vietnam Veteran's will be going to Gillette Stadium and will get pins on the field. Paul Rufo is in charge of the arrangements for this event.

In Westwood a Veteran's Day breakfast will be held on Nov 5th for Veteran's and family members. Lina, the COA Director requested Sarada and Nancy to be there.

In Needham, a WWII Veteran was deployed prior to receiving his High School Diploma. Needham High School is planning a ceremony to officially hand this Veteran his diploma and to express their gratitude for his service.

In Wellesley Sarada spoke with Greg Wilson, the COA Assistant Director, and a breakfast will be planned for some future date.

Meghan raised the issue of Office hours in the 5 towns. When Sarada was deployed Nancy was acting as the WSVD Director and was working 35 hours a week. Originally it was planned that when Sarada returned to work Nancy would reduce her weekly hours to 25. But the Board felt that the amount of work between the five towns necessitates each working 35 hours a week. Sarada commented on the vacation and sick time that she and Nancy need to use up before the end of the FY, or else they lose it. Sarada said that they have walk-ins in both Weston and Wayland. Nancy is handling the scheduled appointments as Sarada handles home visits and walk-ins.

Meghan discussed the FY23 budget. Sally presented two versions of the FY22 budget as the one was the approved amount for Nancy's salary of \$55,924 and the other showed her FY22 salary of \$62,757 which includes Nancy working full time. Meghan said that Wellesley is working on a 2.5% increase for 50 and 60 series employees for FY23. Sally will distribute an updated FY23 budget showing a 2.5% increase to the Personal Services line items. The Board voted to approve the FY23 budget with the 2.5% increase and Nancy working 35 hours a week.

4. Old/New Business

The Board was discussing stipends being paid for Graves and Ceremonial Officers. According to MGL CH 115 section 9 you must be a Veteran and a resident of the community. Wellesley pays Joe Oliveri \$2,500, Needham pays their Graves and Ceremonial Officer \$2,500.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2nd at 4:00 p.m. at the Weston TH
The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.