

**Montana Board of Veterans Affairs**  
**-Meeting Minutes-**  
**January 23, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Tele-conference**

**Present:**

Chairman Peter Olson  
Voting Member Ron Milam  
Voting Member Mike Stone  
Voting Member Dick Juvik  
Non-Voting Member Joren Underdahl  
Non-Voting Member Marvin Weatherwax, Jr.

Non-Voting Member Tova Reddick  
Non-Voting Member Jason Smith  
Non-Voting Member Thomas Finch  
Non-Voting Member Gen. Matthew Quinn  
Non-Voting Member Anson Nygaard  
Non-Voting Member Denny Lenoir

**Absent:**

Vice-Chairman Clancy Sivertsen  
Voting Member Casey Jourdan  
Voting Member Shawn Backbone

Voting Member Brenda York  
Non-Voting Member Mike Waters

**Staff:**

Kelly Ackerman, Administrator  
Taryn Phillips, Administrative Support

Curt Aasved, Cemetery Program Manager

**Guests:**

Gary White, Adjutant, American Legion  
Col. Lee Hyslop, Special Forces Association

Curt Nelson

**Welcome**

The board meeting began at 14:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call, introductions, and a welcome from Chairman Peter Olson.

**Discussion Topics:**

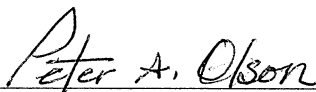
- Approval of Minutes:  
One change to the previous meeting minutes; in the issues / comments / concerns section, the website for the SW Montana Veterans' home was [www.swmbh.mt.gov](http://www.swmbh.mt.gov). The correct website is [www.swmvh.mt.gov](http://www.swmvh.mt.gov).  
Mike Stone moved to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting; motion was seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
- MSVC – Hire a third groundskeeper:  
Administrator Ackerman has posted a position for a full-time groundskeeper at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery. Position will close on January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- NCA Guidelines:  
Curt Aasved explained the new NCA guidelines which will affect the concrete headstone collars. Ron Milam moved, and motion was seconded to eliminate concrete collars in all three Montana State Veteran Cemeteries in the future sections. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

- **Investigation:**  
The investigation of the terminated employee was concluded, and no grievance or misconduct was found.
- **NCA Grant:**  
Grant for the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery (EMSVC) was awarded. MVAD is waiting for the grant money to go through the funding steps to start drawing from the grant. EMSVC will be breaking ground in approximately April 2020 and expected to be finished before the end of this calendar year.
- **Great Falls Office:**  
The MVAD Great Falls office is moving to a new office space to add a fourth VSO. The office is in the same building, but on a different floor. The lease amount will increase minimally in 2021. The fourth VSO position has been posted and will close on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January. The move will begin on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Newsletter:**  
MVAD is starting a newsletter to keep board members updated between board meetings. These newsletters will include projects MVAD has worked on, highlights of employees, highlights on the board members, upcoming events and board meeting information. The newsletters will be emailed quarterly and posted on the MVAD website.
- **DMA/MVAD Strategic Planning Process:**  
MVAD conducted a survey to stakeholders in December 2019. MVAD only had a 20% response rate, so another survey was sent to obtain more information. Following the receipt of that information, MVAD will build a strategic plan to develop core goals and objectives.
- **MVAD Budget Overview:**  
The budget for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 2019-June 2020) is right on track. MVAD still has 63% of budget remaining for FY20.
- **VFW Statistics:**  
According to a recent VFW announcement, Fort Harrison was #1 in increased veteran services for fiscal year 2019 increasing services by 36.62%.
- **VHA Update:**  
Tova Reddick presented the update for VHA.

**Public Comment:** No public comment

**Next Meeting:** May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Great Falls. Location in Great Falls is to be determined.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



Peter Olson, Chairman



Taryn Phillips, Recorder