

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 20, 2022**  
**10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:02 a.m.**

**2. Chairman's Statement**

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, the notice requirements have satisfied. Meeting dates are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Notices of this meeting will be posted on two municipal public notice bulletin boards, published on the website for the Borough of Bergenfield and the website for the Veterans Advisory Committee and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. In case of an emergency, exits are to the rear at your left and to your right the main entrance. Please turn off all cell phones.

**3. Roll Call**

| <b>Roll Call</b>              | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Excused</b> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Edgar Garcia, Member          | X              |               |                |
| Thomas Lang, Member           |                |               | X              |
| Rafael Marte, Council Liaison | X              |               |                |
| Richard Morf, Member          | X              |               |                |
| Willie Moree Jr, Member       | X              |               |                |
| John Opatovsky, Vice Chairman |                | X             |                |
| Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin      |                |               | X              |
| Alexandra Rodriguez, Member   |                | X             |                |
| Fred Sahlberg, Member         |                |               | X              |
| Wilfred Selby, Member         | X              |               |                |
| Joseph Sokol, Member          |                | X             |                |
| John Smith, Chairman          | X              |               |                |
| Benjamin Whaley, Member       | X              |               | X              |
| Amos White, Member            |                |               |                |
| Warren Williams, Secretary    | X              |               |                |

**4. Flag Salute**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Committee Chairman John Smith

**5. Invocation (Chaplin)**

The Invocation given by Committee Member Benjamin Whaley

## **6. Agenda Changes (Additions/Deletion or Revisions)**

Agenda Revisions: **Motion Offered** by Committee Chairman John Smith and **Second** by Committee Member Thomas Lang, to move Rebecca Miller-Pringle (VA Home Loan Update) Presentation to be given for any committee business started. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

## **7. Approval of Minutes (July 2022)**

**Motion Offered** by Committee Member Benjamin Whaley and **Second** by Committee Member Richard Morf to approve the minutes for July 16, 2022, regular committee meeting minutes and publish to the committee's website. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

## **8. Treasury Report (August 2022)**

Committee Member Warren Williams updated the committee with the monthly treasury report for the period of July 16, 2022, through August 20, 2022. No change or funds added to the committee's treasury. Current balance of funds available is \$1,710.32. **Motion Offered** by Committee Member Willie Moree and **Second** by Committee Member Richard Morf to approve the committee's treasury report for the period of July 16, 2022, through August 20, 2022, report. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

## **9. Presentation/ Correspondence**

### **A. Welcome New Member (Edgar Garcia)**

Committee Chairman John Smith and Committee Secretary Warren Williams, welcome Edgar Garcia as a new member to the Bergenfield Veterans Advisory Committee. Committee Edgar Garcia was presented a BVETAC Committee shirt and BVETAC Challenge Coin and was given the veteran's oath of commitment and support to our veterans.

### **B. Rebecca Miller-Pringle (VA Home Loan Update)**

Ms. Rebecca Miller-Pringle from Keller Williams Real Estate and the Commander of the North Bergen VFW Post and Mr. Lucas Reyes from Home at Last presented the committee how VA Home Loan are being misunderstood by home sellers and some real estate agents telling veterans how our veterans are being discriminated against. VA home loans being used by veterans is 1 percent of VA loan used. The information given by Ms. Rebecca Miller-Pringle and Mr. Lucas Reyes really give all committee members a real-life true waking fact how our veterans are being turn away to use their VA Home loan benefits.

## **10. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Review Draft Copy of By-Laws**

Committee Secretary Warren Williams presented to the committee members. The draft copy of the Committee By-Laws. All committee members revised the draft copy and suggested that the meeting schedule be revise that there will be no committee meeting during the months of July and August,

**Motion Offered** by Committee Member Fred Sahlberg and **Second** by Committee Member Benjamin Whaley, to approve the revise By-Laws and there will be no committee meeting during month of July and August, due to the fact if the summer vacation time frame, when some committee members may be away on a family vacation All present voting in favor, and none oppose.

## **11. Good of the Order**

A. Annual VFW Auxiliary Pig Roast (September 10, 2022)

B. 9/11 Ceremony (September 12, 2022)

C. POW/MIA Recondition Day Missing Man Table Ceremony (September 16, 2022)

D. Planning for Veterans Day Ceremony (November 11, 2022)

## **12. New Business**

### **A. Pre-Planning for Memorial Day (May 29,2023)**

Committee Chairman John Smith presented a suggestion to Councilman Rafael Marte, Committee Liaison and Councilman Marc Pascual to ask the mayor and governing Council to approve that the full-time firefighters be part of the 2023 Memorial Day Parade and to approve that the full-time professionals

be given their holiday pay status. Councilman Marte with bring this suggestion to the Mayor and Council. Committee Secretary Warren Williams informed the committee members that the planning for 2023 Memorial Day ceremony and parade planning and preparation will start in January 2023, do to fact that some organizations or group with need some form of written request submitted 90 days prior of the event (Memorial Day activities).

### **13. Verbal Communications**

No public communications at this time

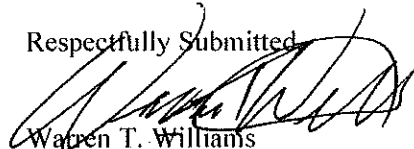
### **14. Committee Comments**

Committee Meeting for Saturday, September 17, 2022, is cancelled due to the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony on Friday Evening, September 16, 2022.

### **15. Adjournment**

**Motion Offered** by Committee Member Benjamin Whaley and **Second** by Committee Member Richard Morf to adjourn the meeting. The next schedule committee meeting will be on Saturday, October 15th, 2022, time-10:00AM, at the VFW Post. There being no further business to come before the Veterans Committee. This meeting was adjourned at 11:33AM.

Respectfully Submitted



Warren T. Williams  
Sgt Major (Retired), USA  
Committee Secretary