

## Price County Veterans Service Commission Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 16, 2025

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Price County Courthouse Boardroom; 126 Cherry St. Phillips, WI 54555

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Meredith Hueckman, Price County Clerk.

### **Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Benjamin Greiner, Richard Lapp, Debra Metzker, Douglas Moquin, David Schmidt, Mitchell Surman, Elaine Doll

**Also Present:** Elden Shier, Price County Veteran's Service Officer (VSO)

**Members Absent:** Brittany DeVries

### **Items for Discussion and Possible Action**

**1. Elect Chairman:**

Motion Surman/Greiner to cast a unanimous ballot for Douglas Moquin for Price County Veterans Service Commission Chairman. Motion Carried.

**2. Elect Vice Chairman:**

Motion Moquin/Lapp to cast a unanimous ballot for Mitchell Surman for Price County Veterans Service Commission Chairman. Motion Carried.

**3. Public Comment and Communications:** Elden Shier introduced himself as the new Price County Veteran's Service Officer (VSO).

**4. Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2025:**

Motion Geiner/Surman to approve the minutes from April 16, 2025. Motion carried.

**5. Review Bylaws and Commission Roles and Responsibilities:**

Motion Greiner/Lapp to approve the amendments to the Price County Veterans Service Commission By-Laws. Motion carried.

**6. Commission Membership and Attendance:** The commission discussed vacancies and the process for appointing new members as outlined in the bylaws.

**7. Veteran's Services Officer Orientation/Meet-and-Greet:** Shier has completed all training and accreditation and is taking the necessary steps for his role as the new VSO.

**8. Park Falls Vietnam Monument:** The Park Falls Vietnam Monument has been down in storage for approximately a year and the commission expresses interest in putting it back up. There was discussion over reinstalling the Park Falls Vietnam Monument in its original location at Old Abe Monument Park in Park Falls, or at the Park Falls Public Library. There was also discussion about advertising the location of the monument, especially if it changes from its original location. Discussion over who is responsible for reinstalling the monument, and where. It was suggested to send a letter to Park Falls city hall addressing the issue.

Motion Lapp/Surman to send a letter to the Park Falls City Administrator indicating the Veterans Service Commission's desire to determine where the Park Falls Vietnam Monument will be located and to install it as soon as possible. The commission is willing to find the resources to reinstall it if needed. Motion carried.

**9. Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter in Phillips:** No action was taken, but this item was requested to be put on the next agenda.

**10. Transportation Van:** More research about how the process works was suggested, and whether or not Price County could collaborate with a DAV from another county to provide transportation van services to veterans. The DAV provides handicapped accessible transportation to veterans including driving them to medical appointments.

11. **Event Reports:** The Price County Veterans Outreach Event & Price County Benefits Expo is on July 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Phillips Armory.
12. **County Veterans Service Office Updates:** Gas cards are more popular than food cards for Veterans. An annual cap per veteran for gas cards was suggested to distribute them fairly. A member from legion post 182 asked if the Price County Veteran's Service Commission would like to be added to their donation list. Women's Auxiliary 122 is disbanding, and they donated \$2,250 to Price County Veterans. Flambeau Riders ATV/UTV club would like to add Price County Veterans to their donation list. VSO is looking for ideas from the Veterans Service Commission to better utilize donations to assist Veterans. Motion Greiner/Schmidt to cap gas cards to one per veteran, per quarter, as suggested by our Veteran's Service Officer (VSO). Motion carried.
13. **Commissioner Reports:** Discussed adding another commissioner to the group to represent the county relative to their age, gender, branch of military they served in, and geographically where they live. Looking for someone to serve from the Prentice/Ogema area. Discussed minimal access to quality behavioral health care in the area as an important area to keep in mind. Additionally, two large state mental health facilities shut down due to lack of funding. State budget highlights included: A new kitchen at the King Veteran Home; \$6 million for the design work for a new Veterans Museum on the Capitol Square in Madison; CVSOs and TVSOs will receive a five percent increase in pay; and an additional \$100,000 for the County Transportation Grant program which helps veterans living in counties not served by Wisconsin Department of Disabled American Veterans. State budget losses included: The Veteran Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) expansion was not funded; reducing the VORP map from 16 to 11 regions on August 1; and adequate funding was not received for the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program (VHRP).
14. **Next meeting Date:** November 19, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
15. **Future Agenda Items:** Updates on creating a Disabled American Veterans Chapter in Phillips, The Transportation Van, and the Park falls Veteran's Memorial.
16. **Adjourn:**  
Motion Schmidt/Surman to adjourn at 5:12 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Meredith Hueckman, County Clerk