



**Blount County Veterans Affairs
QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 30, 2019**

Veterans Committee Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm by Chairman Mike Kennedy.

Roll Call:

Members present: Brian Robbins (Blount County Commissioner), Roger Lowe (American Legion Post 13), Mike Kennedy (Disabled American Veterans Chapter 76), Denise Weston (At-Large), Johnny Titlow (AMVETS Post 22), Joe McCulley (Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10855)

Members Excused: Robin Ferschke (Gold Star Mother)

Members absent: Lloyd Hansen (VFW Post 5154) Ed Shore (Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 1814)

Guests:

Nathan Weinbaum read the minutes from the April 10, 2019 quarterly Veterans Committee Meeting. Roger Lowe made a motion to approve. Second by Denise Weston. Motion Passed.

Highlights

- Lance Corporal Oscar Robert Parrott Memorial Bridge

Old Business:

- Update on Bridge on William Blount Drive (TN-335) over railroad tracks the Donald C. Coulter Memorial Bridge. It passed TN Legislature in 2019 and signed by Governor. Motion made by Brian Robbins to have dedication of Donald C. Coulter Memorial Bridge during United Veterans of Blount County Veterans Day program on November 11, 2019. Second by Denise Weston. Motion passed.
- Plaque for Committee to Restore the War Dead Memorial

New Business:

- VSO discussed 2018/2019 budget.
- VSO discussed VA expenditures to Blount County Veterans which totaled \$47,073,000.00 in 2018.
- Motion made by Brian Robbins to name bridge on Blockhouse Road over North Fork Crooked Creek the Seaman, Second Class Elmer Howard Russell Memorial Bridge. He was killed in action during WWII on the submarine, USS Pickerel (SS-177). Second by Roger Lowe. Motion passed and will need approval by Blount County Commission.

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Brian Robbins has requested to sponsor this item at the Blount County Commission and Joe McCulley has requested to co-sponsor.

- VSO discussed listening tour by Tennessee Department of Veterans Services Commissioner, Courtney Rogers, who visited the Blount County Veterans Affairs office to meet with county Veterans Service Officers from Knox, Anderson, Sevier, Campbell, Jefferson, Loudon, and Monroe counties.

Public Input not on the Agenda:

Roger Lowe invited everyone to 100 year celebration of Maryville American Legion Post 13 on Saturday, August 3rd from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Announcements and Statements:

No further business.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.