

**West Suburban Veterans' Services District – October 13, 2016**

**Location: Wellesley Town Hall, Great Hall**

**Present: Kate Fitzpatrick, Hans Larsen, and Donna VanderClock**

**Also present: Chris Coleman, Sarada Kalpee and Sally Rose**

**Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm. Business:**

**1. Citizen Speak**

None

**2. Minutes**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Larsen and seconded by Ms. Fitzpatrick, the Board voted (3-0) to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2016 meeting.

**3. FY 16 and FY17 Budget Status**

Mr. Larsen discussed the remaining balance in the budget for the CH 115 benefits. Mr. Coleman suggested a reminder or letter be sent out in December to avoid any gaps in benefit funding in January 2017. Ms. Rose made a point that the only issue with sending out something in December is recertification in January can result in a substantial change in overall benefits as there could be a change to SS or VA amounts based on COLA increases or other unforeseen things. Ms. Rose recommends waiting until the recertification is completed before finalizing the FY 18 budget. Mr. Coleman stated if the District waits until January then there is a potential to run out of money. Mr. Larsen asked Mr. Coleman if he would like to give some guidance on how much Needham would like to set aside. Mr. Coleman stated that the Board had previously agreed to paying every 6 months for half the CH 115 budget. Ms. Rose stated what she has done in the past is to take the previous 6 months and extrapolate that amount forward for the next 6 months. This can easily be done but communities may run out of funds depending on the recertification in January. Weston has 4 to 5 months of benefits left because there was a passing of one of the clients. Invoices will be emailed in December. Ms. Rose will teach Ms. Kalpee how that works.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick would like to submit Needham's budget for next year once they get guidance on the FY 18 budget. Mr. Larsen, Mrs. Rose and Ms. Kalpee need to discuss it offline and then circulate because of the carryforward from the prior year. The starting point for discussion would be 2.5% above the baseline without the carryforward offset. A specific FY18 budget proposal will be put forth at the January 26, 2017 Board meeting.

**4. Director's Update**

Mrs. Kalpee discussed the Veterans Fair in Needham on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> inside the Needham Town Hall to include pumpkin decorating and trick-or-treating. The goal is to incorporate families. As for

Veterans' Day, Mr. Spear will cover Wellesley, Rich Wohler and Ms. Kalpee are working on Weston's Veterans Day. The guest speaker for Weston will be a young lady that volunteers at the COA as her uncle is a MIA Korean Veteran. Rich Turner is taking care of the Wayland Veterans Day event. Ms. Kalpee will be in Needham for Veterans Day, with an appointment at one of the Needham Assisted Living Facilities to pin Veterans.

## **5. Old/New Business**

Mr. Coleman discussed possible tuition reimbursement or certificate programs at colleges for both Mr. Spear and Mrs. Kalpee to further their education. Mr. Larsen stated Wellesley does not have a tuition reimbursement program. However, an idea about putting money in the budget that would allow attendance at a Veterans Conference or something similar could be discussed.

Frequency of board meetings will remain on the quarterly track. Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. VanderClock stated they rather keep the meetings quarterly because they don't want any Veterans to ever feel the Town Managers are not apprised of any Veterans issues within their towns.

The Board agreed that the next meeting will be on Thursday, January, 26 at 4:00 p.m. in Wellesley's Great Hall.

At 4:45 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.