



Sullivan County Veterans Committee

June 7, 2018 MINUTES
1:00 PM

Committee Members:

Mark McCarthy, Chair Joseph Perrello, Vice Chair Catherine Owens Nadia Rajsz Scott Samuelson

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mark McCarthy	Chair	Present	
Joseph Perrello	Vice Chair	Present	
Catherine Owens	Legislator	Present	
Nadia Rajsz	Legislator	Present	
Scott B. Samuelson	Legislator	Absent	

Pledge of Allegiance:

Opening Remarks - Mark McCarthy, Chairman:

Deputy County Manager Dan Depew addressed the Veterans and clarified all rumors that have been going around about the Veterans Service Agency moving to 518 Broadway. He also stated that his grandfather was a veteran and that his father is a veteran.

Mr. Alvarez echoed his comments.

Public Comment

The following Commanders expressed their opposition to moving the Veterans Service Agency to 518 Broadway, Monticello, NY:

1. Commander Al Etkin
2. Commander John Lacey

At this point Mrs. Rajsz left the meeting.

3. Commander Howie Goldsmith
4. Commander Rocky Ortega
5. Commander Gary Hill spoke about Memorial Day.

Commanders' Reports - Veterans Service Organizations:

Director's Report:

1. Veterans Service Agency June Agenda

- Handouts from Director Crotty:

May 15, 2018

Thank you for your call today regarding the inscription of spousal information of Government-furnished headstones and markers.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has no legal authority to include the spouse's date of birth and death on a Veteran's Government-furnished headstone or marker placed in a private cemetery. If the applicant would like the name of the Veteran's spouse inscribed on the headstone or marker, the applicant may request the inscription "SPOUSE OF [name of non-Veteran spouse]," "HUSBAND OF [name of non-Veteran spouse]" or "WIFE OF [name of non-Veteran spouse]."

In order to protect the physical integrity of the headstone or marker, as well as the inscription content, format, and structure, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) does not authorize the addition of inscriptions or emblems by any other entity after NCA inscribes the headstone or marker. There is no authority, regardless of past practice, to reserve space for future inscriptions or emblems by private or local contractors.

However, on Government headstones and markers furnished prior to December 2017, where space was reserved for a future inscription at private expense by a private or local contractor, the family may still have the spousal information inscribed privately at the appropriate time, in accordance with VA's practice when the marker was furnished. Please note that a replacement marker will not be furnished at Government expense if damaged by a local inscriber.

Thank you for your continued support of our Nation's Veterans.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY
POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR INDIGENT BURIALS**

WHEREAS, Sullivan County is required by New York State Social Services Law 141 to provide a burial for indigent people by allowing burial items to be itemized as follows; and
 WHEREAS, Sullivan County provides for a burial when a temporary assistance recipient or other indigent person, including an eligible veteran, dies leaving no funds or insurance sufficient to pay the costs and there are no relatives, friends, or other persons liable (pursuant to Section 161 of the Social Services Law) or willing to take responsibility for the burial expenses; and
 WHEREAS, if money is spent above the limits established herein, the burial will not be considered an indigent burial and Sullivan County is prohibited from providing any money to funeral directors for services rendered in such an instance.
 THIS policy for indigent burials in Sullivan County replaces Resolution NO. 150-12 and shall take effect June 1, 2018.
 Restrictions for burial/cremation services will be limited to Monday - Friday, 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. (no holidays)

General Policy:
 In accordance with New York State Social Services Law Section 141, indigent burials, prior to the occurrence, must be authorized by the County. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE HONORED.** Failure to obtain prior approval from the County will result in denial of payment. A member of the family or a representative will be required to complete a burial application and a face-to-face/phone interview with an agency representative in order to determine eligibility for an indigent burial. In cases of an unclaimed deceased who is deemed indigent in accordance with applicable law(s), as referenced herein, the County will act as representative to facilitate implementation of this policy.
 Sullivan County will pay up to \$1,800 towards a direct burial or \$1,200 for a direct cremation, but total direct burial expense must be no more than \$2,300 or \$1,200 for direct cremation expense. Final approval of an application is contingent on verifying need and in no case will approval be made if the indigent deceased or legally responsible relative has resources in excess of the indigent burial rate of \$1,800 or up to \$2,300 where no plot is available, or the cremation rate of \$1,200.
 In the case of available assets, Sullivan County approval and payment will be made for the burial/cremation cost LESS the available balances of these assets and/or pending resources which shall first be expended by the Estate of the indigent deceased or legally responsible relative. Any available assets of legally responsible individuals shall be applied towards indigent burials. Nothing in this policy shall bind the County to pay for an indigent burial first

3. Employment Opportunities - Resorts World Catskills - Ken Spino
4. Report of Meeting with New York State Division of Veteran's Affairs
5. Comments on Memorial Day Activities
6. New VA Regulations on Veteran's Government-furnished grave marker
 - Transportation Director Ruth Ann Hayden gave an update on veterans' transportation.:

Resolution:

1. Calling for Support of NYS Senate Bill S 8210.

RESULT:	CARRIED AT COMMITTEE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 6/14/2018 10:00 AM
MOVER:	Catherine Owens, Legislator	
SECONDER:	Joseph Perrello, Vice Chair	
AYES:	McCarthy, Perrello, Owens	
ABSENT:	Rajs, Samuelson	

Reports:

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Perrello moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Owens. The Veterans Committee was adjourned at 2:01PM.



Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency

SULLIVAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

PO BOX 5012

AddressCity, AddressState, AddressPostal

Veterans Service Agency Report June 7, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.

1. Veterans transported to V.A. Medical Centers:

	<u>Albany</u>	<u>Castle Point</u>
March	33	112
April	36	167

2. Veterans/Dependents buried in Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery through April 30, 2018:

Veterans Buried Alone.1036

Dependents. 113

Veterans/Spouses. 504

Total Burials in Veterans Cemetery. . . .1653

3. Contacts:
- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| March. 220 | New Vets
March.8 |
| April. 228 | April.1 |

Applications:

March.99

April. 103

4. Homeless Veterans:

March.9

April.9



**COMBINED: LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM,
CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS
AND RESOLUTION COVER MEMO**

To: Veterans Committee

Fr: Joshua Potosek, County Manager

Re: Calling for Support of NYS Senate Bill S 8210

Date: June 7, 2018

Purpose of Resolution:

Calling For Support of New York State Senate Bill S 8210 Requesting the State Director of Veterans' Service Agency Increase Payment of Allocated Funds for Local Veterans' Service Agencies, Including Cayuga County Veteran Services Agency.

Is subject of Resolution mandated? Explain:
No

Does Resolution require expenditure of funds? No

If "Yes", provide the following information

Amount to be authorized by Resolution:

Are funds already budgeted?

If "Yes" specify appropriation code(s):

If "No", specify proposed source of funds:

Estimated Cost Breakdown by Source

County:

Grant(s):

State:

Other:

Federal Government:

(Specify):

Specify Compliance with Procurement Procedures:

N/A

Person(s) responsible for monitoring contract (Title): Joshua Potosek County Manager

**CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF NEW YORK STATE SENATE BILL S 8210
REQUESTING THE STATE DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICE AGENCY
INCREASE PAYMENT OF ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR LOCAL VETERANS'
SERVICE AGENCIES, INCLUDING SULLIVAN COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES
AGENCY.**

WHEREAS, currently New York State Director of Veterans' Service Agency, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, makes annual payments to Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency in the amount equal to fifty per centum of maintenance and operation of the county veterans' service agency totaling \$8,529 annually; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Senate Bill S 8210 is requesting an amendment to Subdivision 1 of Section 359 of the Executive Law, as amended by Chapter 196 of the Laws of 2009, be further amended; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S 8210 would remove the restriction of fifty per centum of expenditures for maintenance and operation of the County Veterans Service Agency in counties like Sullivan and would cap the allotment at \$20,000.00 for similarly situated counties; and

WHEREAS by lifting this restriction additional funds would be made available to the Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency and to other veterans' services agencies throughout the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, although this would not cover all expenses, an increase would assist in expenditures for maintenance and operation, thereby providing further services to Sullivan County Veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature fully support New York State Senate Bill S 8210 and urges the New York State Senate, New York State Assembly, and the Governor to support the amendment to Section 359 of the Executive Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Sullivan County Legislature is hereby authorized to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator John J. Bonacic, Assemblywoman Aileen Gunter, Assemblyman Brian Miller, the New York State Association of Counties, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.