

Meeting Summary – April 6, 2026

Attendance

- **Present:**
 - Michael Hayden – American Legion Delegate
 - Eric Kennedy – American Legion Alternate
 - Gary Reynolds – AMVETS Delegate
 - Robert White – VFW 1376 Delegate
 - Scott Burge – VFW 1376 Alternate
 - Kevin Gatewood – DAV Delegate, Chairman
 - Zach Brooks – Superintendent
 - **Absent:**
 - Joe Norris – AMVETS Alternate
 - Dave Nesbitt – DAV Alternate
 - Ryan Schertz – VFW 9153 Delegate
 - Benjamin Newborn – VFW 9153 Alternate
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Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from the last meeting were accepted.
 - Motion by Michael Hayden, seconded by Robert White; motion carried.
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Main Topics Discussed

1. Treasurer's Report and Financial Operations

Summary:

- Treasurer announced all checks are in and a deposit stamp is available for easy check processing.
- Current balances (as of one hour before meeting):
 - **Discretionary Account:** \$2,514.23
 - **Operating Account:** \$13,405.25
- Correction noted on prior checks: account numbers were swapped, and this has been fixed.
- The county must receive updated account information to properly direct funds.
 - Kevin Gatewood to coordinate with the county treasurer (Bob Watt).
- **Process for Claims & Reimbursements:**
 - Claims are submitted monthly to the county, who reimburses after approval at the end-of-month board meeting.
 - Operating account funds are held at a steady level; claims paid out and then reimbursed.
 - Rent and other major expenses follow this process.
- **Signatures and Oversight:**

- Checks require only one signature; three signers authorized for flexibility.
 - Zach Brooks (Superintendent) is responsible for fund disbursement per bylaws and state statute.
 - Operating account transactions are transparent and reconciled monthly.
 - **Interest-Bearing Accounts:**
 - Discussion if accounts can bear interest; currently, they do not.
 - Potential for future investment (e.g., CDs) if balances warrant.
 - **Treasurer's Report Approval:**
 - Full roll call vote taken per Robert's Rules of Order; report accepted.
 - **Payments and Claims:**
 - Inquiry into paying recent claims, specifically aid sought for an individual's electric bill.
 - Update provided: The individual received a payment plan and possible job; DAV and VFW had pledged limited support but VAC did not act presently.
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2. Disbursement of Aid & Oversight

Significant Depth:

- **Aid Process:**
 - Stringent vetting and one-time payment rules to prevent enabling repetitive requests.
 - Superintendent discretion for cases: up to \$10,000 per claim, within 138% of federal poverty guidelines.
 - Annual and lifetime claim limits discussed; further clarification on regulatory authority needed.
 - Aid is paid directly to vendors (e.g., utility company), never as cash to individuals.
 - Intake form is comprehensive (24 pages), covering financial, claims, and demographics data.
 - State's Attorney review is pending for intake forms and policies.
 - **Concerns Voiced:**
 - Strong discussion about enabling vs. assisting, with many present emphasizing the need for tough eligibility, transparency, and the avoidance of "enabling" poor behavior.
 - Need to confirm all applicants are vetted and meet eligibility; concerns about manipulative applications.
 - Some aid recipients allegedly returned with conflicting stories or inadequate documentation.
 - **Legal/Process Issues:**
 - HIPAA constraints limit certain data sharing with the board.
 - Oversight committee's authority is mostly over process, not individual case decisions.
 - Discussion about executive authority: Superintendent has substantial discretionary power as dictated by both statute and bylaw.
 - Concern that legislation is loosely written, allows high potential payouts, and could strain county relations/budget if not handled carefully.
 - The board's role clarified: primarily oversight and accountability, not day-to-day case management.
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3. Events, Outreach, and Publicity

20th Annual Kyle Price Ride

- Event is transitioning to Marine Corps-associated group management.
- May 25th is the main event: open to the public at the airport.
- Features dinner (for purchase), raffles, and social events.

- The Global Wall of Terror will be present.
- Enlistment Day recognition planned; initiative to establish it as a state/national holiday ongoing.

VAC Grand Opening and Open House

- Needs committee and date selection for a ribbon-cutting/open house.
- Target timeframe: Saturday, May 2nd, 1:00 PM, pending confirmation.
 - Coincides with VFW cemetery cleanup for possible broader attendance.
- Plans for refreshments (hot dogs, hamburgers), possible giveaways (pens, hats), and maximum attendance.
- Coordination needed regarding signage; temporary banner if permanent sign not ready.

Branding and Marketing

- New logo drafted, positive response.
 - Attention on building exterior/door signage; Natalie (building manager) to coordinate on sign placement.
 - Domain name purchased: VAC4JC.org (plus preliminary setup for .com and others for forwarding).
 - Website hosting approved as operational expense; login credentials to be shared for transition.
 - Facebook page ("VAC for Jefferson") established as outreach tool; further social media promotion planned.
 - Plan to use paid Facebook advertising to promote events/opening.
 - Discussion of promotional items (pens, hats, brochures, QR codes for information).
 - Ideal to purchase from local businesses or local college (e.g., Ren Lake College) for community benefit.
 - Bulk of promotional material spending to be managed conservatively with transparency and local preference.
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4. Policy and Legal Framework

- Meeting notices will follow the Open Meetings Act (48-hour notice, posting on an accessible location, e.g., courthouse door).
 - Annual calendar of meetings to be posted.
 - Public meetings confirmed necessary.
 - **Regular Meeting Schedule Set:**
 - Monthly on the **third Wednesday at 6:00 PM**, effective May 2026.
 - Meetings generally held at the current office; contingency for overflow moved to American Legion.
 - **Appeals Process for Denied Assistance:**
 - Written policy in place for appeals to the board and (if unresolved) to the State's Attorney or county legal counsel.
 - **Discussion of Aid to Out-of-County Applicants:**
 - Presently required for non-residents, but concern expressed about abuse and precedent from other counties (e.g., cases from out-of-state veterans seeking local aid).
 - **Superintendent Reporting/Transparency:**
 - Board members requested copies of finalized intake/policy forms once State's Attorney reviews them.
 - Interest in seeing policies from other counties to compare family-size-based aid and limits.
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Action Items

1. **Kevin Gatewood** to relay updated account information to county treasurer (Bob Watt).

2. **Zach Brooks** to meet with the county treasurer and county clerk to clarify expense and claims procedure.
 3. **Zach Brooks** to provide finalized intake and aid disbursement forms to the board after State's Attorney review.
 4. **Schedule and Promote Grand Opening:**
 - *Target:* May 2, 2026, at 1:00 PM, pending final confirmation.
 - Coordinate with all parties for event logistics, signage, and publicity.
 - Temporary event banner if permanent signage not ready in time.
 5. **Develop Promotional Materials:**
 - Start with pens and brochures with QR codes; research and source locally if possible.
 - Reach out to Ren Lake College or local vendors.
 6. **Post Public Meeting Schedule:**
 - Annual calendar to be posted per Open Meetings Act (48 hours in advance, publicly accessible location).
 7. **Michael Hayden** to provide Facebook page link to group for wide dissemination.
 8. **Investigate regular branding needs:**
 - Secure logo-based shirts/uniforms for superintendent and staff; arrange logo printing.
 - Begin compiling price quotes for signs, shirts, pens, and related promotional items.
 9. **Set up website and manage domains:**
 - Transfer domain and hosting control to VAC as soon as possible.
 - Add QR codes to promotional material, website, offices, and outreach fliers.
 10. **Distribute Event Information:**
 - Publicize the Kyle Price Ride and Enlistment Day initiatives on social media and via brochures.
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Follow-Up

- **Signs/Branding:** Quick decision to be made within April to ensure readiness for May grand opening.
 - **Promotional/Marketing Items:** Price quotes, sourcing vendors, and draft materials ready for next meeting.
 - **Final Confirmation of Grand Opening:** Confirm May 2nd at 1:00 PM and advertise.
 - **Next Regular Meeting:** Third Wednesday in May, 6:00 PM.
 - **Distribution of Final Policies/Forms:** Zach Brooks to distribute after State's Attorney review.
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Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.
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Additional Notes

- Strong emphasis was placed on caution in spending, transparency for taxpayers, and strict vetting of aid recipients.
- Board agreed superintendent has wide discretion within the legal/regulatory framework, with oversight but not micromanagement by the committee.
- Acknowledgement of legislative challenges and the evolving nature of VAC's procedures and legal context.
- The need for ongoing adjustment and responsive policy development, especially in the first 1–2 years, was highlighted.

- Broad support for increased outreach, community awareness, and branding to better serve area veterans and the public.
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Transcript

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (0:04)

We already got it, man.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (0:05)

It's already made it. Oh. All right, I guess we're going to call the meeting to order. Does anybody want to pledge allegiance or we just take that off?

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (0:21)

We have no flag.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (0:22)

No. We'll take that off of our flag.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (0:24)

Do we all agree that we pledge allegiance to this country? Yes, we do. There you go. That's good enough.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (0:30)

And we also do it monthly at our Trident's organization meetings.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (0:34)

Agreed.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (0:36)

Alright.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (0:36)

Every morning.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (0:39)

Do you want to do the roll call?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (0:41)

Sure.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (0:41)

Who's here?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (0:43)

All right, American Legion Delegate Michael Hayden.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (0:46)

I'm here.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (0:47)

American Legion Alternate Eric Kennedy. Here. AMVETS Delegate Gary Reynolds.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (0:52)

Here.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (0:53)

AMVETS Alternate Joe Norris is absent. DAV Delegate Kevin Gatewood. Here. DAV Alternate Dave Nesbitt is absent. Delegate, VFW Delegate Robert White from Post 1376 is here. VFW 1376 Alternate Scott Burge. Here.

VFW Post 9153 Ryan Schertz is absent. VFW Alternate Benjamin Newborn is absent. Superintendent Zach Brooks.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:23)

Here.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:25)

The roll has been called, sir. All right,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:26)

great. You printed a few of those out in minutes? Yeah,

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:31)

I printed a couple.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:32)

I printed enough for everybody to have one set if you guys want to look at them. Also, I don't know if you noticed, when I sent the text out, I put a link to go to all the minutes where you can look at them online if it's convenient for you. Okay, so we'll bypass manual reading of the minutes. Treasurer's report.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:55)

Well, first, we need a motion to accept the last minutes. Minutes,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:59)

yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (2:00)

If you do, I shall move. All right.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (2:03)

Michael Hinn makes a motion. Robert White will second.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (2:05)

Okay. All in favor?

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (2:08)

Aye.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (2:09)

All right. Treasurer's report. I'll be happy to give you one. Out in the lobby is a second set of checks. So we've got all checks in. I also had made up a deposit stamp. You could give us checks and stamp for deposit only. It's out there. As of an hour ago, our discretionary account has a balance of \$2,514.23. And our operating account... Has a balance of \$13,405.25. Excellent. One thing we had to do, which is on me, when I ordered the checks, I put the wrong name with the wrong number. So instead of reprinting checks, I went over and swapped. So we just swapped account numbers. So if you see that in the minutes, that's what that's all about, and that's fixed. The only thing I'm going to need to do, Kevin, if you've got a contact at the county, I need to give them the new account information. So when they transfer money, they put it in the right account.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (3:19)

Okay.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (3:19)

That's the only thing left we have to do.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (3:20)

All you've got to do is get a hold of the treasurer, Bob Watt, and if you need contact info, I can share it with you after the meeting.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (3:26)

I can find it. Bob Watt. I'll do it.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (3:28)

Yes, sir. The way we are doing this now because of what we've done with him, any claims that come through, we turn it into monthly claims to the county. We hold that money just in case we need it or if we're paying rent or any other expenses. It's basically front money. You still turn in the claim or Zach's going to have to get reimbursed. So that money should pretty much just stay at that level forever. Which is fine too. Which is fine too.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (4:07)

And we'll pay rent out of that?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (4:09)

Yeah, but the minute you pay the rent out of those funds, you're going to turn a claim into the county and they're going to reimburse those funds.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (4:17)

Is that how it's going to happen with everything?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (4:20)

All transactions? Yes, sir. And that's why we have to have these monthly meetings. That's why we have to have a full accounting of all... Well, for the operating account.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (4:29)

Right.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (4:29)

Discretionary account? That's up to us.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (4:32)

Yeah, I just want to know about the operating account and make sure that we still get our money, you know, paying out.

Board Member (unspecified) (4:39)

They'll run that through a fiscal committee and then the last Monday of the month is when they approve bills by the whole board.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (4:45)

Right.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (4:46)

And we need to get a hold of, I don't know if James Malone is supposed to be their emissary, but they really need to have somebody here. I talked to Fisher Overstreet today and I said, you guys haven't been coming to this meeting. And I told you when we got this set up, we're going to be transparent as transparents can get. And if they don't show up, that's not being transparent, but that's not on us.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (5:06)

Exactly. We haven't been really telling them we're having meetings.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (5:09)

Well, that's what I was going to tell you. We need to confirm 100% who the emissary is and get them in your... texting.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (5:15)

And then we need to discern when we're going to have a meeting. It's going to be the first Tuesday last Friday.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (5:20)

He's ready to go on a rampage, man. He wants to know every month, date and time.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (5:25)

My calendar gets so full so quick.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (5:28)

Well, same with me. You know, if I know it's going to be the third Monday or whatever, I can program that. But unlike you guys that are retired, I'm working.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (5:37)

I'm working.

Board Member (unspecified) (5:39)

I think when you're retired, you're going to have more dates on your calendar filled in.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (5:43)

I don't know. So we can set up an actual date.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (5:46)

Well, if we could do that tonight, that'd be good. Okay.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (5:49)

I've also set up an online QuickBooks account that's now linked to our two checking accounts, and they're both there. The checks I've got, we're going to print them out. I have to figure out how to write the check. I know how to print it, figure out how to write it. Zach and I work on that, okay?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (6:08)

And plus, we don't have to have two signatures on them. You got signed up to sign them on the bank, right, as a signer?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (6:16)

I haven't done anything.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (6:17)

Well, we'll do that. Yeah,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (6:19)

I sent that to you a week ago.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (6:21)

They're two-line checks. We discussed that before, that we'd want two signatures. But that's on us, not the bank.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (6:27)

Yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (6:28)

So if we wanted to sign just one check, Yeah,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (6:30)

we'll just have Zach sign checks. He's going to be the one.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (6:33)

You need to be a signer. He needs to be a signer, and he needs to be a signer. You're getting all the statements. so you can reconcile them each month to make sure that we keep him honest, which he will be, but we have to do our job. What we're talking about,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (6:44)

we don't have to have two or three signatures. No, agreed. Right. No,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (6:48)

agreed. Yeah. Because he can write all the checks he wants because he's going to know immediately.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (6:54)

One person required. That's it. Yeah, we have three people authorized in case that's not available.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (6:59)

That's it.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (6:59)

Did I carry it through? Yeah, right now, even you, I think. Did you?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (7:06)

I think I did, but I don't care. I don't want anything to do with that. You guys handle it. It's your job.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (7:12)

Nobody can distribute funds other than me, and I've got that as an answer. The only person that can distribute it and it's actually in the code.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (7:24)

That's actually on a bylaw, isn't it?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (7:26)

Well, it's in the state one. The only one that can distribute is the superintendent and, well, I'll get into that later, but yeah, as far as distributing funds, the only one that can is the superintendent.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (7:39)

Yeah, that makes perfect sense. Right. That's it, we now have checks in both accounts. I donated those. We've got a printer, I donated that. So that doesn't come out of our monies. As far as Zach's salary... We still get dinged for that, but the county's paying, correct? Okay,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (8:04)

so that comes out of our budget. Yeah, just to clarify a couple of things on the budget and money and so forth. All this is going to run through the county. We ask for the front money because we have to spend money. Well, then we'll turn in the claims, they'll approve them, and they'll reimburse. If they say, no, we're not paying them, we're not going to be drawn down too far unless he's like super busy giving out money, but the goal is to not give out. Any money, it's to find the resources to help them. But every once in a while, we will. We find people that need money. The county's supposed to pay for all that. Now, in terms of our budget, everybody just came up, what is the number, Zach? It's like 2.8% or something on the proper,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (8:43)

or 0.028.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (8:46)

Something crazy, right? That's the guideline. I don't think we'll use anywhere near that. But even if we exceeded that, they have to pay it. So... We're not really handcuffed to this. That's why there's been problems in other counties, because the rules aren't really set up exactly. Ideally, you know, he's our employee. We can hire and fire his position. County board has no rule in that or rule in that, but yet they're paying for his salary and all his benefits. Very bizarre.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (9:18)

But we don't have to worry about that, which makes me very happy.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (9:21)

Exactly. No, no, no. Understood. I'm just saying the relationship of this thing is very unconventional and doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (9:29)

Well, I'm glad it doesn't. And I'm glad it works this way.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (9:32)

Well, they'll work with us and we'll work with them. So that. That's what's important.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (9:36)

Right, exactly.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (9:36)

So we're going to do like a monthly, like Zach, when he writes out checks for things at the end of the month, is he going to turn in one?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (9:44)

Zach needs to get with the treasurer and the county clerk and go through the process of how to turn in his expenses. And he'll report those to Mike so that he can do up the reconciliation or whatever the claims. And that way everything's transparent. Agreed, Zach?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (10:04)

Yeah, I mean that's the only one that I really won't ever touch is the discretionary one.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (10:09)

Right.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (10:10)

So that one's, that one you all have full hindsight over. But yeah, again, whenever we get into the new stuff,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (10:19)

I'll cover all that.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (10:22)

Okay, beyond that, Treasury report, I think that's all I've got.

Board Member (unspecified) (10:26)

I just wanted to ask, are those interest-bearing accounts? I didn't know if they could be or not. No, they're not.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (10:31)

No, they're not.

Board Member (unspecified) (10:32)

I didn't think they were, but I just wanted to ask.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (10:33)

Now, the question is...

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (10:35)

Discretionary.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (10:35)

Can they be discretionary? discretion he can the other one can't because county funds it well it's taxpayer money so yeah um so that's a good question if we can do not that you're gonna make a lot of money on three thousand bucks but we're not gonna sit at three thousand though man yeah let's hope not let me look into that and see what we can do good question i mean for my personal account i get three percent so you know better than poking out at the stick you got that right well there may be a point when

Board Member (unspecified) (11:06)

There's a considerable amount of money we may want to put it into a

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (11:09)

CD or something like that.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (11:11)

Well,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (11:11)

we've done that at the post, but we have a couple like that. So, yeah, exactly. You're absolutely right. I'll see what we can do. I'll look into that.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (11:18)

Awesome.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (11:19)

Other than that, that's it for my report.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (11:21)

Motion to approve.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (11:23)

Motion to approve his report.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (11:25)

That's okay.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (11:26)

Do we approve the treasurer's?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (11:30)

Are you getting confused with that VFW thing?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (11:32)

Well, I'm just an honest question because they say we don't, and it makes sense.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (11:36)

Who said we don't have to approve it?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (11:38)

Because we haven't seen it to audit it. And if we approve the, like you said, if we approve the treasurers, we're saying we've audited it.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (11:46)

No, there's not a report. And that would be fine. I've got no issue with that.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (11:50)

No.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (11:50)

We don't have a lot to audit. Here's the statement right here. Okay, we can go with that in 30 seconds.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (11:57)

Look, very good point, very good point. But no, we have to accept the treasurer's report. We didn't audit it. We just accept it based on what he presented. Now, if he lied to us, we're going to file charges. If he didn't lie to us, we're good. So. Gary made the motion. Who's seconding?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (12:14)

I thought you did. He's seconding.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (12:15)

Okay, that's fine. Robert White makes the motion.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (12:17)

We have a motion to second on favor of approving the Treasurer's Board of the State.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (12:22)

All right. Robert's Rules of Order says you've got to do a roll call vote when you're spending money. I'm sorry.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (12:31)

So we're going to roll call.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (12:33)

Anytime you're talking money, discussing money, spending money.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (12:35)

It should be a roll call.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (12:36)

You got to do a roll call vote. That's Robert's Rules of Order. And that's not this Robert. That's somebody else named Robert. Although the state's attorney did think they were mine at one point. That was funny.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (12:47)

So we say the names and they say, yeah, your name.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (12:50)

Yeah, you're going to say roll call vote. And if you want me to call them off, Kevin, that's fine. Or you can call them off. It's up to you.

Board Member (unspecified) (12:56)

You've got one of three answers.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (12:58)

Yeah, if you want to do the roll call on that too.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (13:03)

Okay, so you call for the roll call as chairman. You call the roll call. Okay, let's see. Gary Reynolds? Aye. Robert White says aye. Eric Kennedy.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (13:16)

Aye.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (13:16)

Scott Burge.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (13:17)

Aye.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (13:18)

Michael Hayden.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (13:19)

I abstain. I'm the treasurer. Yeah.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (13:22)

Yeah. Fair. And then Chairman Kevin Gatewood. Yay.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (13:26)

All right,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (13:29)

there you go,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (13:29)

you got your vote carried.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (13:30)

Is anybody having bills, things we need to pay,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (13:35)

now that we're- Now that we're in an operation.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (13:38)

What happened with the gentleman that needed money to pay his electric bill? Did we fund any money for that?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (13:47)

No. I'll give an update on that.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (13:50)

He never approached me.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (13:53)

Right. I'll give an update. You want me to tell you now?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (13:57)

That's fine. Weigh the rules. Go.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (13:59)

Basically the first day I talked to the DAV, we kind of, between me and the commander and the treasurer, we'll get together and say we can do this much because we got it set up where we can do it. like \$500 for somebody and then as I let everybody know Robert White said what 300 or something for whatever the VFW committed to yeah right and we didn't really do anything for VAC just waiting to see. And so he contacted AMRA and told him his situation. So they're giving him a month extension. He says if they get a payment plan for him, he should be able to do it. And he thinks he's about to get a job. So hopefully things will change. So I was still going to get him 300 from the DAV. Except the VFW, what you guys want to do, he's probably still needs it and I don't think we need to do anything for the VAC right now. right now because he says that he thinks he can handle most of everything, but he's behind the wheel.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (15:06)

This brings up a point that I want to discuss that we can open up for discussion. I saw that, and my personal opinion is it's bullshit. His excuse was, so I read, unemployment screw-up, working at Hardee's. Hardee's been closed for a year and a half. There's no unemployment, okay?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (15:29)

If that's the gentleman you're talking about, it's no.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (15:33)

So, a year and a half, his career path is working at Hardee's. He can get a job anywhere in town tomorrow.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (15:42)

Agreed. Did you see his DD-214? Yeah,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (15:47)

I've got one. Did not see.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (15:48)

Okay. This guy, the level of society, this dude's barely off the ground. That's why. He's not a good steward of his money. I don't think he's a bad person. He's just not that bright. That's why he was working at Harden's. He wasn't a manager or anything.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (16:04)

And here, again. We're here to assist people.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (16:09)

Agreed.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (16:10)

Not to enable them.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (16:12)

And that's why we have our rules. We do it once. He doesn't get to come back and feed again.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (16:16)

And do we vet that out, okay? I'm not saying the guy doesn't deserve it, doesn't need it. I'm just saying. Have we vetted these guys out? It's in the bylaws.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (16:25)

It's superintendent discretion. It's at 10 times. There's more. I've went in more in depth with it. It's up to 10 times a year, \$10,000 limit. Wow. He quit.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (16:45)

Oh, he didn't get laid off. He quit.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (16:48)

So that's another story.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (16:50)

Yes.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (16:50)

That's not a story. It's, I've seen the court report.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (16:56)

Court report?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (16:58)

For unemployment.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (16:59)

Oh, gotcha.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (17:00)

He took it. Then went all the way, then went to court for it. I've seen the actual report for it. He quit.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (17:10)

So in a scenario like that, Mr. Superintendent, guy comes in, similar situation, you've got authority up to a certain amount to spend without regard of letting us know. How do you handle that?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (17:21)

Well, there's... If they meet the guidelines for it, 138% of the stuff that's out of my hands is 138% of the poverty line for the families. And I've got all the printouts in there. But anything above 138%, the superintendent has discretion on to say, okay, these are extenuating circumstances. Okay, this is what we're going to do.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (17:48)

138% of what?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (17:50)

The federal poverty.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (17:53)

Explain, I'm not understanding.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (17:57)

This is legislation. No,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (17:58)

no, I understand this.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (17:59)

Yeah, yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (17:59)

But 138%

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (18:02)

of the... They can make...

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (18:04)

They can make up to 138% of whatever the poverty line is this month.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (18:08)

And that quality.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (18:09)

Okay, I got it.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (18:10)

So, back to this specific situation. Because I agree with what he's saying, and now you've introduced more facts that we didn't have here before. So, how would you handle that situation if he showed up tomorrow, brand new scenario, same circumstance?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (18:26)

If he was above it, I wouldn't. Because I've got multiple reports of him saying different things and then or a report to the superintendent that he's doing it So it would be just like it is annotated in my system. Currently it would be annotated whenever he comes in says, well, you didn't give it to me, but you gave it to them. Yes, and this is why.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (18:48)

Okay. But in this particular situation, you would deny unless he was below the poverty line.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (18:53)

Yeah.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (18:54)

So if he was below the poverty line, then what action would you take?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (18:58)

He meets...

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (18:58)

the criteria so i have to include no no i get that but what are you doing are you paying off all its electric or what are you paying it would be paid to up to the budget for it and whatever it needed for and like i said it's like whatever billy presented to you that you could pay him to the property line now do you pay it to him or you pay it to him to the company piece of company That was my next question.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (19:26)

Yeah. Because I, you know... Amen. I'm, I'm, I'm, this is, this is my money, taxpayer money. Yeah, absolutely. And we're custodians. We have to make sure we spend it properly and not enable people.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (19:37)

So the thing is, is you're going to get pissed off about it. And I'm, do you think it'd be on the record for this or it can be? I don't, it is what it is. But the people that benefit from this program are the, are mostly the people that don't pay into the program.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (19:54)

Agreed. And they usually don't belong to any service organizations or anything else. This is the least of these. This is what we're dealing with.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (20:01)

I understand that.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (20:02)

Because you won't see me showing up here begging for money.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (20:04)

I could use a new driveway.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (20:06)

Agreed. Right? Yeah. I'm going to do it again.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (20:09)

And I don't mind. I'd give you the shirt off my back.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (20:12)

Sure.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (20:12)

You don't have to return it.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (20:14)

Yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (20:14)

I'm not going to enable you to keep making the same bad choices, same bad decisions, your same wrong priorities, and come back later wanting more money from me. And I see it at the Legion once a month. Oh, I'm trying to see my dad. He's dying. Your dad's been dead for 30 years. You want me to pay for your vacation? Out the door. Okay. And, you know, I just want to make sure we're not enablers here.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (20:41)

Sure.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (20:41)

And we give money to people that need it and can use it and want to benefit from it and improve their lives. They don't have to keep begging all the time. That's what we're here for. We're not enablers. Okay. Plain and simple.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (20:55)

But unfortunately to Mr. Brooks' points here, there are certain circumstances where we might be looking like we're doing that, but that's because of the rules. And I agree with you 100%, but I understand him 100%.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (21:10)

And I got it. This is Illinois, where we're a welfare state and a sanctuary state, and we're not expected to work.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (21:18)

No.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (21:19)

Okay? So I understand the rules. I do.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (21:21)

Yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (21:22)

Whether they're right or wrong is another question, okay?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (21:25)

Definitely.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (21:25)

And I just don't want to have people walking in here because, well, I want a few bucks today. Let's just enable me to go, you know. And the guy that got thrown out of rehab that we gave a hotel room to. You get thrown out of rehab because you don't play by the rules. You're still drinking, you're still shooting. Which means, why are we putting you up in a hotel? To enable you to drink and shoot.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (21:48)

Who was that?

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (21:48)

That was a while back.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (21:51)

Is that the guy we put up at the Royal Inn for two nights?

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (21:53)

Yeah,

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (21:53)

that wasn't... I talked to his... I talked to his medical team. I don't know where your information is necessarily.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (22:05)

We don't know if you're doing drugs. We can't assume that. Well, that's why we need to ask. Well, I mean, this is... He did.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (22:13)

He reached out to his medical team.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (22:15)

Okay, then when you do that, I got it, and that's fine. That's your job, and we want you to do that. But then we've got to know. You know, I get a text, guy got thrown out of rehab, we're giving him money.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (22:26)

We didn't give him money, though.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (22:27)

Well, put him up in the hotel. We didn't give him money, but we spent money.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (22:30)

I'm not sure of anybody that wants to be put up in that hotel, but I understand.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (22:33)

I wouldn't either, but that's not the point. That's not the point. But then we need to have the full story, because, again, on the money guy, I got a report to the county, and the county is holding me responsible for taxpayer dough. Gotcha. And I've got to be able to tell them, yeah, I got kicked out of rehab, but here's the real reason, and it's not really his fault. But it's not.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (22:58)

on your head when it comes to it like I said you all there's certain people on the on the committee that have financial liability but your all's is pretty much limited to the financial liability mine's limited actual prison time Your liability is very, very limited in any of that. Plus, when you get into that, it also comes in to HIPAA because I'm technically a part of the VBA.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (23:39)

I got it, yeah.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (23:40)

Nobody else in this room is. So I can get privileged information.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (23:48)

He's not allowed to share.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (23:49)

That we can't have. I understand that. Okay. But, again, then you have to tell us. You know, yeah, it's legit. I checked this out. Here's why. Well, you don't have to tell us why. But I checked it out. It's legit. I got that. Okay. But just getting a text saying the guy got kicked out of rehab and we put him in a hotel is not enough for me.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (24:11)

Who said he got kicked out of rehab? He didn't get kicked out of rehab.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (24:13)

That's why I don't have the text.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (24:15)

No, he was. Shelter. Shelter.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (24:18)

I got rehab. But see,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (24:19)

that's the other problem. Just because you get a text doesn't mean that's true either.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (24:23)

Yeah, his was the homeless shelter was closing because it was there for the freezing temperatures and it was warming up, so they closed. Where's that at? It was...

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (24:35)

Is it Family Life or... Yeah,

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (24:37)

it's Warming Center. It's right across the street.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (24:40)

Okay. All right,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (24:42)

well, that's fine.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (24:42)

I got it. Bottom line is, Zach gets paid for that. He's the one that has to figure, determine it. All we do is set limits, like how much a month or how much per person. We got to have a limit, and then he can use his discretion. And if we need to be giving to people, if that guy was the only guy that asked for anything this month, give them to him. We're supposed to be using this money to help out veterans. So we just set limits. We haven't really done that yet.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (25:12)

We haven't done any of that. I was going to ask, did you, for any of these people, did you ask if they're on other state or federal assistance?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (25:18)

Yeah, that's part of the...

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (25:20)

I just wanted to make sure, because in guidelines I've got from other counties, they ask that, and they also set a limit. Joe Dean comes in here, like you said, month after month. Well, guess what? Your limit is going to be assistance is going to be \$5,000. That's it. That's what you're going to get.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (25:39)

You can't do that though because it opens the organization for legal action because that's not... It's discrimination.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (25:51)

How is it discrimination?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (25:52)

Because you're discriminating against everything from their... It could be their family size.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (25:58)

Well, okay, I understand that, their family size.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (26:01)

It could be just addiction.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (26:06)

But there has to be some kind of limit. Very.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (26:09)

That's the financial limit. That's how...

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (26:12)

There is, and he has rules, and look.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (26:14)

Right.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (26:16)

He looks at things a lot differently than I do, so sometimes we don't connect on understanding this, but I very much trust this man to know the rules. No, no, no. There's no question about that. The intake forms, all that stuff. But I'm with you. We're going to get text messages. Why are you guys doing this? Why are you doing that? First off, if you ain't a veteran, mind your damn business. But since you're a taxpayer, we can share certain amounts, but we can't share everything. Even if we got privy to some of that HIPAA, we can't share that. We would put ourselves at risk.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (26:46)

The intake forms I currently have are, I think it's 24 pages.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (26:50)

Boo I've never seen the intake form.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (26:53)

That's because you ain't here to ask for money. Okay,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (26:56)

I need a new driveway. Can I have a form, please?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (26:59)

But yeah, it's 24 pages. Currently, it's not dressed up, everything, but it's 24 pages right now.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (27:07)

That's a bit excessive, but obviously that asks a lot of questions.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (27:11)

Yeah, I mean, it's everything from the demographics to some of them can be limited. If you're not coming from claims, that's going to take out eight or so pages of it. If you're not coming from financial, that's the majority of it, and that's to cover the legal basis. And I still have to get the state's attorney to look at it, but most of it is the financial stuff to cover. Everything to see if they put something, I've got it right now where I've got it as iron clad as I can without having more insight on it. But if they put something on there that comes back as false, it's on them. They put it on paper. So that's covering the organization of, I've got it in writing right here.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (27:59)

Misrepresentation.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (27:59)

We're not going to get involved with every decision on everybody. He's got an office, they come into his office, give him the information, it's his discretion. He's the one with the tools and the login look at stuff. That's his job. All we need to do is like set limits because we have to deal with the budget that we have and whatever we had in our budget for funds directly to veterans what I think we should do is we should whatever that number is divided by 12 that's the monthly amount and maybe the previous month can roll over in the next month or we can just set it monthly don't worry about that man you have an amount from the county

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (28:42)

we're never going to touch I mean seriously you don't and again we're going to pay these up front they're going

to reimburse in the rear. In the arrears, not in the rear.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (28:52)

Let's keep it open for the first year. Yeah, because when you...

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (28:55)

This is how it goes. Exactly.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (28:56)

Right, I know.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (28:57)

And I would say that we need to do it for two years because it's going to become more and more, you know, how do I get help? How do I... Go to the VAC. What's the VAC? And they're going to have to explain that. Tell them where it's at and all that. We're probably... Man, I would guess we're five years out from being solid on all this stuff where you can say, yeah, we average about three grand a month or whatever.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (29:17)

At least a year. And they, you know... Yeah. It's just be open for one or two years and just play with it and see who comes.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (29:27)

There you go. And, you know, when Zach hits weird issues, he's going to share it with us, I'm sure.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (29:33)

Well, Zach, once you get everything approved by the state's attorney, I'd like a copy so I can look at it.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (29:40)

I'd like to see it, too. I've never seen it.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (29:43)

I'd look at the policies for different counties. Some of them do limit it up to a certain amount. Most of them limit it up to how many is in your family, for food, for rent, for utilities. One person doesn't need as much as a guy with four kids and a wife.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (30:03)

No,

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (30:04)

no, I got that. You're absolutely right.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (30:05)

I've talked to a couple of it, and this, again, would be a new business, but I have to get a final say for the state's attorney. The way it is right now, we're one of the only ones in the state that currently have a limit on the superintendent. And, again, I've talked to several of them. One, all executive authority is vested in the superintendent. Two, the reason that's another one that I have to involve the state's attorney on is two of the presidents have said that it is possibly a violation of the OMA. Because anything that we have to come and get approved. would have to be on the agenda. Anything on the agenda will be public knowledge. So if I'm coming to you with this person is wanting so much.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (31:08)

Okay, agreed. Two things, two things. So again, Robert's rules of order, we have to acknowledge that you're right. So if you're going to come to a meeting, and say, hey, we need to talk about these claims, obviously those claims do not need to be as part of the general record.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (31:26)

Not just the disbursement of funds. That has to be part of the agenda.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (31:32)

And what?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (31:36)

Anything regarding budget has to be on the agenda. No,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (31:42)

no, no, that's fine. It can be. And it can be discussed in here in executive session. It does not have to be released publicly. Trust me, I'm well aware of this.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (31:52)

Yeah, according to two of the presidents.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (31:55)

What presidents?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (31:56)

The IAC, VAC.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (32:01)

Okay, you've got two presidents in the state of Illinois?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (32:04)

There's... Oh boy.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (32:09)

Yeah, and I know one of them.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (32:12)

John's Southern. I can't remember the other one's name. But there's, I think there's four or five of them there in the state. But anything that has to be dispersed would have to be on there.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (32:29)

So we're not allowed to know? Is that what you're trying to say? No,

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (32:31)

I'm not saying that.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (32:32)

Then where are we going to discuss it at, Zach?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (32:34)

I'm stating, like I said, John, I've even got the... John said we're one of the only ones that have a limit on the superintendent. Those two things, all executive powers, and no one made them.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (32:50)

Well, I know what this is about, but that's, we can see. We'll see what the state's attorney has to say. I mean,

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (32:57)

it's not nothing about me. This is coming. Oh,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (33:00)

no, I've talked to several of your colleagues. I know where some of this is coming from, and that's okay. That's fine.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (33:06)

At the end of the day, it's not really that have a feeling it's not going to matter next year. As it sits.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (33:14)

You mean proposed legislation changes?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (33:17)

Several of them. Just like I said, with the whole springfield, or with the whole debacle about it before, I said it was leading to one, it wasn't precedent setting, now here it is precedent setting. So,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (33:35)

hey, man, they've got a lot of stuff they need to clean up in there. As far as that goes, Zach, we'll do whatever we've got to do. We'll be compliant.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (33:44)

Can you get us all the information? I mean, we have to trust you. We'll make all these decisions. I just want to know the source where the rules are coming from that you talk about that one is in the full MVA

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (33:56)

So the executive power part of it is in the MVA The other part is the one that I have to involve state attorney and to get their recommendation on and that one's coming from the other two and that one's the dispersed pair if the limitation on the superintendent which it is what it is i don't care i don't see it ever being an issue um i don't either but if it comes down to it and somebody comes in and they ask for the ten thousand dollars up for the ten thousand which they technically can.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (34:31)

That does not need to be promoted publicly.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (34:34)

I'm not saying anything on it.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (34:35)

Because that's the first I've heard of that. And they can do that every single year.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (34:41)

No. That's a limitation of it. They can request it up to five or six times total.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (34:52)

So \$60,000.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (34:53)

No. They can request money up to that amount. Oh,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (34:57)

six times lifetime then.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (34:59)

No, for the year.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (35:00)

So in one year, every year they can come back and get \$10,000.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (35:06)

If they meet the criteria for it.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (35:08)

Which... I think part of what we need to do is discuss what the criteria is. I don't want to get into that tonight. Can you send an email to all of us showing us the criteria that they've got to go through to get that kind of money?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (35:20)

That's basically it. If they don't meet the threshold.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (35:26)

Okay, the threshold's that.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (35:28)

138, yeah.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (35:30)

Well, isn't it a little bit more than that, like if they have more dependents and so forth, like what he was getting at? Yeah,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (35:34)

it's 138%. Yeah, the poverty level. Oh, the poverty level of a person with... with three people and okay gotcha well there you go there's there's the straight poop and i guess that really throws our whole idea of limiting how much per claim per person that gets thrown out the window because that's the legislation says that he can do that and

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (35:58)

the executive power language i don't disagree with you on that that's probably going to be your enabler right there the problem that county boards are having and this what i was trying to avoid with this That's why we were able to set this up so quickly. You realize that, right? Told them we're going to have tight controls on this stuff. Not tight controls over you, tight controls over the process to make sure that there's no monkey business, no problems, no issues. That right there, if they knew about that, they would lose their minds. But it doesn't matter. They still had to approve and fund this because by state law they have to. Well,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (36:29)

that's all. This is the law. It's written in stone.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (36:33)

But they would fight and file lawsuits because other counties have them. That's part of the problem too.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (36:38)

The basic gist of it, and this is just not being nice or just being blunt. Basically, you guys are here for the commission, like fundraising and everything, all that fun stuff, and as an oversight committee.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (36:57)

That's really all it is, oversight. That's all it is. Yeah, that's...

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (37:00)

Fundraising.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (37:01)

Choosing is not a component that we have to engage in.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (37:03)

But if you have a few people come in asking for the limit, it could wipe out our budget money. No, Kevin,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (37:11)

I explained this to Fisher Overstreet after that meeting when it all passed. I said, man, I appreciate everything you've done, but you do realize we're like the Sheriff's Department. What do you mean? Whatever we send you, you have to pay. Our budget could be \$120,000. If we spend \$250,000, they have to pay it. That's why we have to be very careful how we operate this, because people can turn against us really quick over this, too.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (37:35)

I can slowly... Really bad.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (37:38)

Agreed.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (37:38)

They're doing that in Washington County.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (37:41)

Exactly. And some of these people that abuse the system, and our fellow brethren and sisters in the veterans group, we've got plenty of them. We do. We saw them on active duty. I did.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (37:54)

Just because you're a veteran doesn't mean you get free shit.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (37:57)

Agreed.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (37:57)

And it doesn't mean you're honest.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (37:59)

Agreed.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (37:59)

Believe me, I've had enough veterans pass through over here that I throw in jail in a heartbeat just for breathing the same air that I do.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (38:07)

Agreed. Okay. Yep. I put some in Joe while I was on active duty, so yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (38:12)

You know, I had shore patrol a couple times. I picked some guys up and had to lock them up. So if I'm reading this right, if you've got a household of 10, a family of 10, and I make less than \$89,907, I qualify.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (38:30)

Damn. 89,000 year old people.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (38:34)

I guess I might as well spit my claim now.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (38:36)

Yeah, no kidding.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (38:37)

Where's my ask is it?

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (38:41)

No kidding.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (38:41)

I'm gonna have my wife divorce and fire me. Take everything I own.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (38:45)

I remember on my Navy days making 21, 5, 5, and 7, I was living high on the hog,

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (38:51)

man. But you have to think about it. Most people that come in...

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (38:56)

that have that. I'll need them back there.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (38:58)

Oh, sorry. Man, I was ready to run off with it. Me too.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (39:01)

That's a good example.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (39:03)

Yeah.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (39:04)

If they come into our office most of the time, they're... above that with social security and other income and then on the flip side of that we still want to help some of these people though even if it's a they're above the thing it's gonna be circumstances that's where it's super superintendent discretion that's where most of the ones are going to come into and i just i can see it from the ones that have come in i've had a few of them so far None of them have finished the paperwork and brought it back to me, but from what I've seen, most of them are going to borderline on the superintendent discretion. And that's where most of it's just going to sit at. So, that's, again, why I'm getting...

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (39:59)

pretty much in depth with as much of it as i can so we thought our t's and cross our eyes great so i'm thinking we just saw his discretion no limits right now until we see what's happening in a month or two i

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (40:15)

think of the year yeah yeah not that we're not giving discretion it's just he's allowed to within the limits of the state law which honestly is the law of the land right now until they get this figured out. Not to say that that needs to be changed, I don't know. There's lots of different things there. However, that being said, they do need to tighten that legislation. It is poorly written. It really is. It's not fair to him, it's not fair to us, it's not fair to the taxpayers, it's pretty dysfunctional.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (40:43)

The only thing I was wondering, are we just going to pay everybody that they need money for rent or food or something? It goes directly to the entity that...

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (40:53)

Yeah, he's not giving them...

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (40:54)

So they can't get anything, they can just give them...

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (40:57)

He ain't even going to give them five bucks for lunch, Kevin. He has to actually go buy the lunch.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (41:01)

Okay.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (41:03)

None of it goes to the person. No.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (41:05)

It always has to go to the people.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (41:08)

Whatever agency they're needing paid.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (41:13)

So they don't get the money, the physical money.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (41:14)

Alright.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (41:15)

Alright, can we move on?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (41:17)

Yeah.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (41:17)

Alright.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (41:19)

That was under bills, where we were at on that.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (41:23)

Old bill.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (41:24)

Absolutely. Does anybody have any reports of sickness, distress, any veterans?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (41:32)

The only thing I want to share with you guys real quick, if I can, it'll only take a minute. 20th annual Kyle Price ride. You know about this from our officers meeting. They're going to be doing this. So the Huntsville family is turning this over to some Marine Corps group or somebody. They're going to start taking it. Riders.

Board Member (unspecified) (41:49)

I can't think of that.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (41:50)

Marine Corps riders. Some organization along that line. They want it and they're going to run with it. So this is the last one with local control, if you will. So it's going to be out at the airport. It's a two-day event. But the main event is going to be on the 25th, Saturday. And it's going to be open and free to the public. They're going to have a dinner, which you will have to pay for dinner, and they're going to have raffle, 50-50 raffle, raffle drawing, Jeff Bradley and the Eastwood Frisch at Woodlawn Bar afterwards, if you want to go down there and hang out with them there. But most of the activities are going to be at the airport. They're going to have the Global Wall of Terror present at the airport as well. That'll show up on Friday and be there Friday and Saturday. So I asked for and received permission. You guys know that my big thing is the enlistment day. I want a holiday for this. I'm already starting to talk to state legislatures about this. I want it to happen. I want it to happen nationally, but I guess we've got to start off slowly. You guys know how to go big or go home, right? So I want to do this. We did it a couple of years ago. It was very successful. We had it over at the Elks. Kevin, you were there, right?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (42:58)

Okay, I think so,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (43:00)

yeah. It was packed. We turned people away. We didn't have enough room. That's how many veterans showed up to support these kids. I'm going to invite them and honor them at that ceremony for that day. I think we got about six or eight kids from Mount Vernon Township High School. But moving forward, that's something I'd really like to work with you on. This is an integral thing to understanding all of this stuff because, man, how many people come out of the service? They don't know where to go. You know, you see the American Legion building, it doesn't look welcoming, and unless you know somebody that's in it, you're not going to want to walk in there, right? Same thing with the VFW halls or any other organization. I'm not picking on the Legion. No,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (43:34)

I understand.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (43:35)

But, you know, if we're there before they go in, and yeah, these are your guys, these are your guys, these are your guys, they're going to know that when they come home. And we want them to come see us when they come home.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (43:45)

Absolutely.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (43:46)

So this is the start to make that happen. And I will be posting that out on Facebook. But yeah, if you guys want to take a photo of it or whatever, it's my only copy. You should, yes. So that's all I had.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (44:03)

Anybody have any communications, letters, or anything that have been cracked up on us?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (44:08)

Somebody said something about it. No, I'm just kidding.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (44:13)

Okay. Let's see. Last week we talked about a committee for, what was it?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (44:21)

Open house?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (44:21)

Yeah.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (44:22)

Ribbon cutting?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (44:23)

Grand opening thing.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (44:24)

We just need to pick a date, man. We can make that happen very easily. We'll have a nice little ceremony at the Legion afterwards.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (44:31)

Sure. Does somebody want to pick a date or what do you think? We just need to do it. Well, we should not do it until really, really, everything's really running up and running, running, running. Are we really up and running, Ryan? Then, Anytime, I guess.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (44:51)

We were talking last time, I think, early May,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (44:54)

maybe.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (44:56)

I think that sounds okay.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (44:58)

We'll have to pick a specific date and time.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (45:01)

So do we want to...

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (45:03)

We can post on our Facebook page and post on our website and all that here. Get it in the paper.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (45:10)

You want to do it on a weekend when we get to most people?

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (45:12)

I would say probably.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (45:16)

Do you want to do it on a Saturday?

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (45:17)

I think a Saturday is probably the best thing.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (45:19)

That way we have the max people.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (45:21)

Exactly, yeah.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (45:22)

And then work with the kitchen folks to have either hot dogs, hamburgers kind of thing.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (45:27)

Yeah,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (45:28)

giveaways is what I was thinking. Do we want to see about, you know, food of some type for this or ink pens or something?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (45:38)

We don't really need to do that, Kevin. I don't think. I mean.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (45:42)

It's nice, but really, if we're going to put out some food or something like that, I think that's all we really need to do.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (45:49)

Do some food? Oh,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (45:49)

yeah. I think that's what most vets come for. Well.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (45:53)

Yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (45:54)

Yeah. Yeah.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (45:54)

They know ain't nobody buying their drinks, so if you're feeding them, they're all about it. Let's go.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (45:59)

Let them show up at the bar.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (46:00)

I don't remember when the veterans picnic is going to be.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (46:05)

Yeah, we don't want to... What,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (46:06)

the David King picnic? I don't know. I don't get involved in that.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (46:10)

Yeah, we don't want to conflict with that.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (46:12)

No, he already got that woman a roof there, Zach. Did you see it made front page?

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (46:15)

Yeah,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (46:17)

she's a bastard.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (46:18)

Don't even get me going. Freakin' Lowe's. I sent them an email, the manager. I said, listen, we're doing some rehab. I need some towels, need some lights. Can you give us a break? Didn't even respond. They gave that bitch all the materials for her roof. Free.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (46:39)

It's David Keen for you.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (46:40)

Now, you own a home. You don't have homeowner's insurance?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (46:46)

No, it's even worse than that. That house was built in 65. I think that was the original roof.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (46:50)

Well,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (46:51)

that's what I heard too.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (46:53)

She said that, but I used to sell this stuff. There's nobody makes a roof in the last 60 years.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (46:57)

Oh no.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (46:58)

Without, I mean...

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (46:59)

No, there's probably a lot of glue and shit on there.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (47:02)

Yeah, they have to tar a lot of it because the shingles would come off after 30 years. They just disintegrate.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (47:08)

Yeah, especially back then, the just old asphalt things.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (47:10)

Yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (47:11)

Well, if we go May... We have five Saturdays in May. June, we've got four. We don't want to do it in April at this point. It's a little late to get stuff prepped.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (47:24)

If you guys want to consider May 2nd, the VFW is doing a cemetery cleanup that morning, and if we want to do something at 1 o'clock here, those cats might come out and be a part of this too.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (47:36)

It's okay with me. May

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (47:41)

2nd? Yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (47:42)

What time?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (47:43)

Say 1 o'clock, does that sound good? Sure.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (47:46)

I think I can make it. I got a soccer game, but I can make it.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (47:50)

Well, what time's your soccer game?

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (47:51)

11 o'clock.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (47:52)

okay what'd you say one o'clock yeah does that work does that make sense everybody good all right okay one

o'clock on the second of may one o'clock and second of may yes yes we're gonna do that here bs bc ribbon now that being said yes

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (48:09)

sir that's a good idea but we need to have some branding on this building right now um I don't know if everybody's seen, Kevin made up, that I kind of like, a nice logo for the thing.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (48:24)

Yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (48:25)

Has everybody seen that?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (48:26)

Yeah.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (48:26)

That's not that great.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (48:29)

I think, I like it. And I got a guy that makes signs that I can have that made up and put on our door. Has anybody talked about the sign out front?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (48:43)

Well, yeah. Natalie wants everybody to come through the front door.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (48:47)

We're only coming in through the side door because everything's closed.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (48:51)

So we'll need something, a placard by the front door saying this.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (48:54)

So we don't want anything on the side door now?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (48:56)

No, sir.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (48:57)

Okay.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (48:57)

So we need something out front, and then he needs something on his door.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (49:01)

Okay. Right. I mean, some stuff can just print on the wall. But outside, we need something by the front door. And then we also need to work with Natalie on modifying her existing sign, maybe put a panel that lifted up. I put a panel underneath that says Veterans Assistance Commission.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (49:20)

And Todd Hamm handled all that, and he will work with us. He's a huge fan of veterans.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (49:25)

That's cool with him.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (49:27)

Do you talk with him?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (49:28)

Yeah, you guys do.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (49:29)

Yeah, I mean, me and Harold talk every day.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (49:32)

Ask her about that.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (49:34)

She's hard. I mean, she's waiting.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (49:36)

Then let me say this.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (49:37)

Yes, you talked about it.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (49:38)

Let's say the first Saturday. Was it the first? First Saturday,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (49:43)

May 2nd, yep.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (49:44)

Tentative. Yeah. And let's work real soon here, quickly, to get the signage. Because we should have the signage before the grand opening. And this is already the, you know, second week in April. And who knows how long it's going to take for the signage to be made. You know what I'm saying?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (50:03)

Yeah. Well, okay. So how about this? If we can't have the sign made, what about a banner? We'll have the banner temporarily.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (50:10)

We can make a banner quick.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (50:11)

Absolutely. Do the banner and that way we get this knocked out. Main thing is, I mean, he's already running. Let's just make a big media event of this because he's ready to start taking people on, right? Let's go. Let's rock and roll. We can abandon or whatever. That's fine. Good. Okay. Yeah,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (50:22)

if we're coming up with things at the last minute, oh, whatever. We've got a date to shoot for.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (50:30)

Yeah, okay. The wheels are turning.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (50:33)

Pretty soon, he's going to be busy because he's going to be going to a lot of events, too, so that he's available and people know who he is and he can introduce himself around. Did you make that National Guard thing or no?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (50:43)

That's okay.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (50:46)

Um, Kyle Price thing, you think you'll be able to make that?

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (50:48)

That thing's really taking off.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (50:52)

Yeah.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (50:53)

I remember when I first started.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (50:55)

I rode it last year.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (50:57)

I'm working with Severn's office right now to get a stretch of either 15 or Woodlawn Road named after him. Oh,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (51:03)

that's nice.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (51:04)

And Zach, if you've got any down time between other stuff you do, like to maybe make a few phone calls or something, things you need to do.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (51:13)

I'm going to get a uniform shirt or something for him to wear.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (51:17)

Yeah, he needs some official gear. Do you like wearing a dress shirt with a tie, man? Is that you?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (51:24)

No. No. That's not him. Tommy,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (51:26)

they like the veteran shirts like this.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (51:29)

Come on, man. You knew I wanted to ask him that.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (51:31)

I've got it. I mean, I've got Armani in the closet. I just don't wear it.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (51:35)

No, no, no. We've got a gal here in town that does logoing for our shirts at the league.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (51:40)

Right.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (51:40)

There you go. the logo and Purchasing polos, button downs, sweats, whatever.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (51:46)

Yeah, but the DAB, we bought these for all the members that come to meetings. And when we had them personalized, we should do something like that. Give you several shirts, maybe different styles or something. Like maybe button down type of shirt.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (52:01)

Actually, why don't you just let him go buy his shirts? And then we'll take care of the deal. Bring in the shirts, we'll get them logoed.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (52:08)

Oh, I already did that there, Oakley.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (52:10)

Okay, perfect. All right.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (52:11)

No, I really went last week to buy a St. Louis.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (52:14)

That's good. And then I was gonna bring up maybe hats down the road, not necessarily right now, but we might look into getting like this is Jefferson County veterans. And like when people come in...

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (52:26)

What about pens? Pens. Well,

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (52:30)

there's all kinds of things. We need pens. I think pens would be good too. Don't necessarily have to decide on anything tonight. I just want to bring it up. We might want to get some... marketing materials so when people come in to see him he can give them a hat or ink pen or something that's fine with our logo information on it uh yeah well i think these ads are back to discretionary accounts for the county veteran Does anybody want to make a discussion on that? Put it off until next time we meet?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (53:06)

Well, so Zach, we need to look into getting some ink pens. I would suggest the click pens, Bic pens. And to my knowledge, the only one in town that might provide those is Peacock Printing, but I'm not sure they do. No, they do.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (53:21)

I buy pens with a navel cap.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (53:27)

So,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (53:29)

no, you can't.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (53:30)

This is taxpayer money.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (53:32)

You need to keep every dime of that in here with these people that are spending the money to pay for this. I'm just telling you right now, that would be a bad move.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (53:41)

I'll go down and talk to them.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (53:45)

Yeah, and they'll work with us on pricing.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (53:49)

Then later on, we could do like squeeze balls or coolers or...

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (53:54)

coolies man yeah you know something like that down the road when we're at a show of some kind of yeah so people know anything remember right like we do with kyle price we had a table had stuff laid out there you know so people could pick up i think with it it's i would rather not do it for a business if possible i'm

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (54:14)

sure i don't know how extensive but I'm sure Ren Lake probably does but that's another that's an outreach thing that you that I could get if the college does it I can talk to them if they have the capabilities of doing it and get them involved so of doing screen printing screen printing if they have the capabilities of it no class down here they could

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (54:40)

I personally don't care, but I'm telling you, every dime we spend, we need to try and keep inside this county.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (54:46)

Yeah, the reason I'm saying that is because when I do my report at the end of the year, I can say, yeah, we didn't

go over this, but... but we gave the educational opportunity to a college in our community. So it's checking off the blocks.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (55:04)

But buying pens isn't going to get you crucified or shirts or anything. No,

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (55:08)

I'm not saying anything like that. Like that I'm just saying it's the first year so anything that we can add to what's going to be a slow year already I have a feeling for it anything that we can add to beef up the end of year report the governor's report

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (55:25)

Oh, as soon as we have this open house, man, and we've got our information clearly out there, we're going to be blasting the hell out of this thing on social media. You're going to get busy. Even my own relatives. My brother-in-law called me today. He finally went in and set up his file with the VA. Finally. He's almost 50. It's like, man, why'd you wait so long? Well, I didn't need the money. I said, it wasn't about the money. You just need to be in the system. You might need the health care. You might need this. You might need that. Really, his motivation was to get base privileges because he's right near F.E. Warren or whatever it is.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (55:59)

Right,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (56:00)

right. All right, so yeah, we need to investigate items like that, right? Zach, what kind of other promotional items do you think would be, what are your colleagues getting, or do they do any of that?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (56:19)

I'll check on that. I think the best thing that would be just beneficial for us to have are QR codes in there. Right.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (56:30)

Oh, yeah.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (56:32)

Maybe you might need to get some brochures or something.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (56:35)

Definitely need to have some brochures. You've got it.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (56:37)

And we can put a QR code on them.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (56:40)

So reach out to Run Lake on that. Get one of their graphic design people and say, I need somebody to volunteer to do this or if we're paying them, whatever. And get them to design it.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (56:48)

Yeah, just something to put on even the back of my computer in there.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (56:53)

Absolutely. Get you a little holder where they can just take them and run with them, the whole deal.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (57:02)

While we're talking about this also, kind of all goes together, we've talked before about posting the meeting times, 48 hours or something like that.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (57:14)

Does this have to be a public meeting?

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (57:16)

I don't know. Yes.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (57:17)

Gary says. It does? Okay.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (57:18)

We still have to give 48 hours notice. You can do it as a yearly event. That's what they did in Orson County. They put it on, actually, the old courthouse. On the door, you can see it. It shows. Oh.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (57:31)

the full schedule of events for the year?

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (57:32)

They did it for the whole year so they didn't have to keep doing it.

Board Member (unspecified) (57:35)

It was just a change.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (57:37)

If you want to change it, like we do for the Board of Review, we've got to change things. Post it on the door. 48 hours. Post it in a public accessible place. It can't be on the bulletin board inside where they can't see it. It's got to be... A guy can walk up and get to it.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (57:53)

Yeah. Does Gord House have something like that? Yeah, they post on Gord House stores. I haven't been in there in a while.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (58:00)

So.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (58:01)

So I was going to suggest whenever we know, figure out when we're going to meet next. All right. Zach, print out the thing and tape it on the front door.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (58:09)

All right. Let's clear this up real quick. When are we going to have our monthly meetings? First, second, third, fourth week. Which one?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (58:18)

First is probably all.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (58:20)

What? Ours is the second Monday, right?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (58:22)

Yeah,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (58:23)

when we started this, we were doing it at the last Monday of the month. Right. Because it didn't conflict with anybody else. Was it the last Monday or the last Wednesday?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (58:33)

Because I have mine set.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (58:35)

Yeah,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (58:35)

it was the last Monday of the month.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (58:38)

No, I'm with him. I thought it was Wednesday. Yeah,

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (58:39)

because I've got mine as a recurring event on the Wednesdays.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (58:43)

Now,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (58:43)

we may have had one that was on a Monday last week.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (58:45)

When we first started, it was a Monday.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (58:46)

I think we changed it to a Wednesday,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (58:48)

but it was a Monday.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (58:49)

But again, we're talking about it now. We're reopening it.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (58:52)

And you're the last Wednesday of the month.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (58:54)

No, I'm not.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (58:57)

It's okay with me. Mike,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (58:58)

you killed me, man. You're just like, hey, I like it. Let's roll.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (59:01)

it was the third Wednesday that's what I've got in mind third Wednesday of every month I have

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (59:09)

Post meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays. I can hang on Monday. Like last month, that was the last Wednesday of the month. And I know Ryan's got the same one and Joe, I mean... So that's not going to work.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (59:20)

So third Wednesday. I think that's what we were doing.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (59:23)

Yeah. It repeats every month on the third Wednesday.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (59:26)

On the third Wednesday. 6 p.m. here. Now, Kevin, that's your other problem. If we're going to have these meetings here and you have public show up, where are they going to be?

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (59:38)

Well,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (59:39)

number one, I expect to see this many people in the public. But we can certainly do it at the post and use the bingo hall.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (59:51)

You know what? Funny room. You know what? If we show up and there's 100 people here, then we'll say, all right, make a motion to suspend the meeting or whatever, go into recess. We're going to relocate over to the American Legion, give it 30 minutes. I have to post something on the door and then we go over there.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:00:06)

I mean, if it's a Wednesday, I don't think that's a distribution day, but we've got the entire fact that it's okay to use.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:00:15)

Okay. What about things going on at the leading? Do they ever have something happening?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:00:20)

I don't think we've ever had anything on a Wednesday.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:00:22)

No,

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:00:22)

it's not on a Wednesday. Tuesday's bingo, that's it.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:00:26)

Yeah, we've got that entire distribution.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:00:30)

area back there. How many people will that hold?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:00:31)

It's bigger than the bingo wall.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:00:34)

Back here? It's got tables and chairs?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:00:37)

It's got chairs.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:00:38)

Okay, well, we can work on that.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:00:40)

Yeah, like I said,

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:00:41)

I don't expect it to be that big. You'll see a couple people show up, especially when people get pissed.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:00:47)

That's what I'm getting on to.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:00:49)

There are going to be people you know it's not going to be help.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:00:52)

Probably.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:00:53)

And they're going to want to appeal to the board. Excluding April 15th. Someone over his head. Basically, that's what you're going to see. Sooner or later. Or just somebody that wants to be a busybody and say, where's my money going? Yep. No, no,

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:01:08)

I'm with you.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:01:09)

I'm with you.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:01:12)

But I'm not expecting it. a big turnout. No.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:01:15)

Every once in a while, you will see that. Somebody will say, I got a text message. A guy left rehab and they gave money. That's when you'll see people show up. And then he'll tell them, sorry, unless you get a HIPAA release, I can't tell you anything. But you just got to trust I followed the rules. If you don't like it, then that's the other thing. What's the route of complaints? So if you somehow offend somebody, not on purpose, maybe on purpose, I don't know, but I'm not sure. It happens, and they're mad. What's their recourse? They come to us?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:01:47)

Yeah,

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:01:47)

they would come to the Lord. Okay. Making this packet, you know, this is the latest in Worcester County, but in here it says, specifically, if you have an issue, if you've got an issue, it tells you how to bring it up to the board.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:02:04)

Good.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:02:04)

And it appeals. I mean, it's like a page and a half.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:02:08)

Okay.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:02:09)

Just telling you how you can do an appeal if you don't like what Zach said. Okay. I mean that's the kind of policies that, it protects that because all these people say this is what he's allowed to do, this is what he ain't allowed to do. You don't like it, basically it all comes back to the board. And from there we take it to the state's attorney. but you have to take it up to the state's attorney or the county council. It's just like we shouldn't be giving money to veterans outside the county because they're not residents.

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:02:41)

We are. As it sits right now.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:02:46)

You have to. But sooner or later, once the work is out, you'll have one. I told people before, my brother had one at the council in Nevada. A guy came all the way from Utah. Because it was better than when he could get there.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:03:03)

I rest my case. I rest my case.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:03:05)

So are we all leaning towards the third Wednesday of the month? Yes. It's our established date.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:03:13)

Does anybody want to make a motion? I motion that. Second. Scott wanted in on that.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:03:15)

Is that excluding next week? Because it's next week.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:03:18)

Yeah. No, we'll begin in May. We'll begin in May. As of May, right? So the motion's made by Gary and seconded by Michael.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:03:25)

All in favor, aye.

Gary Reynolds (AMVETS Delegate) (likely) (1:03:29)

motion adjourned see I knew you'd roll with me man uh it's all that Ryan and the other guys know Okay.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:03:45)

There's one minor little thing I'll bring up. Zach mentioned he liked the domain name BAC4JC.org. I went ahead and I got... I set up a name cheap, just like GoDaddy, but cheaper, where you can buy a domain. So I bought that domain. It's like \$7.98. And I started a new account because I got my own stuff just for the VAC. And then I'm going to... get him the login information so he can manage that and then I'm hosting the one right now because I got unlimited hosting but we should put that in the name of the VAC and we have another website when you start going through the website building list unless Zach wants to do anything like that but And so we might just wanna determine the amount we want. We can do it out of discretionary fund or whatever for hosting. I mean, you get hosting for probably \$10 a month at the cheapest and pay for it a year in advance.

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:04:51)

It's an operational expense. It's not a discretionary expense. So don't worry about it. Set it up. Just be reasonable.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:04:58)

So I was just going to go over that. And then we can also have other domain names, which I usually do for everything, because you want a .com. because a lot of people type it in wrong right instead of .org and so if you buy that and a .com and maybe some other things people type it in you just forward it here you forward all these right domains so I was gonna kind of get that set up. Anything on that?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:05:23)

No I mean if we have something linked there like I said just whatever we can put people to.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:05:31)

Yeah they'll all land on the same page. Did I get started or did we need to create a new one?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:05:36)

I created the one specifically for the super, so if somebody comes back after me, you can give them all the login.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:05:42)

So we use that for getting messages out publicly.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:05:48)

And what's the name for that Facebook page?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:05:52)

VAC for Jefferson.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:05:57)

Yes, send the link to everybody on that tomorrow or something.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:06:00)

Okay, do that please.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:06:01)

Yeah, and then that way we can put announcements on there about our grand opening, things like that. We can pay a little bit of money, you know, 20 bucks, and it'll go out to a lot of people in Jefferson County and get the picket. So that's one of the things.

Michael Hayden (American Legion Delegate / Treasurer) (1:06:13)

We can put that web address on the page. Okay.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:06:15)

Right, exactly. QR codes for it. So that's why I'm going to bring this up now. Is there anything else on there? I think that's all I had on that, just so everybody knows. Any new business?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:06:37)

What I brought up earlier was really lonely.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:06:39)

About who we give aid to, assistance to?

Zach Brooks (Superintendent) (1:06:45)

Yeah, the superintendent stuff and limits.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:06:51)

Not bad. Good. Anybody got anything else to add?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:06:57)

Motion to adjourn. Second.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:06:59)

We've got a motion to adjourn. The second. All in favor?

Board Member (unspecified / frequent speaker) (1:07:02)

Aye.

Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate) (1:07:03)

We're adjourned.