

## VETERANS' COMMITTEE MINUTES

MAY 12, 2008 – 4:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors Jenkins, Raymond, Sausville, Wright and M. Johnson; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Victor Visca, Veterans Agency; Carol Holley, Real Property; Press.

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Jenkins the minutes of the April 7, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Ms. Holley distributed a memorandum explaining the Cold War Veterans Exemption.

Mrs. Johnson, Chairman of the Equalization and Assessment Committee said the committee thought that the Cold War Veterans Exemption decision should come from the Veterans Committee.

Ms. Holley said the county has no record of how many Cold War Veterans own property within the county or what the level of eligibility would be. This estimate relies on a few assumptions as well as facts.

The facts are:

1. The Veteran's Agency reports that there are 19,000 Veterans in Saratoga County.
2. Currently, 9,000 receive a Veteran's exemption.
3. The Cold War cap is 10% of the current Saratoga County level for regular Veterans' exemptions.

The assumptions are:

1. The county would opt for the highest 15% Cold War Veteran's exemption.
2. Twenty-five percent of the remaining 10,000 Veterans would **NOT** be eligible (many would not own homes or have served during the allotted years).
3. The disabled estimate would be 50% of the current impact (since Cold War Vets didn't serve in a war zone).

Based on the above facts and assumptions, the adoption of the Cold War Veteran's Exemption would cost each taxpayer an additional \$.002 per \$1,000 of equalized assessed valuation.

**A motion was made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Sausville to adopt a Cold war Veterans' exemption of 15% of assess value for property owned by veterans serving between September 2, 1945 and December 26, 1991. Unanimous.**

Mr. Barrett said a Veterans Service Agency grant has been received from Senator Bruno's office in the amount of \$25,000 to be used for the purchase of a Van for the Veterans Agency.

Mr. Visca said the current van has a lot of mileage and recently the transmission had failed and left the Veterans Agency with limited van service. Mr. Visca said some money has been set aside for the purchase of a fax machine for the office. Mr. Visca said the Agency is also looking for a shredder.

Ms. Raymond said since this grant is a member grant from Senator Bruno perhaps it is possible between the van and the office equipment needed, possibly a larger shredded could be purchased as a community shredder that could be used at the Social Services building.

**A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve a Veterans Service Agency Award Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to be used for the purchase of a Van and office equipment, subject to review by the County Administrators Office. Unanimous.**

Ms. Ciulla reminded everyone that the Army Field Band Concert will be held at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center on September 20, 2008. Work continues toward the contract for fireworks, advertising posters and students from the local area schools who will be playing with the band.

On a motion made Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Jenkins the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom