



Department of Veteran Services
 294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301
 Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401
www.greenfield-ma.gov

Timothy Niejadlik, Director
 Laura Thorne, Assistant
 Mark Fitzpatrick, VSO
 Brian Brooks, VSO

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district

Member Towns

- Ashfield
- Bernardston
- Buckland
- Charlemont
- Colrain
- Conway
- Deerfield
- Erving
- Gill
- Greenfield
- Hawley
- Heath
- Leverett
- Leyden
- Monroe
- Montague
- New Salem
- Northfield
- Plainfield
- Rowe
- Shelburne
- Shutesbury
- Sunderland
- Warwick
- Wendell
- Whately

Meeting Notice

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District
Wednesday October 12, 2016
6:00 P.M.

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District
 294 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - None pending
4. New Business
 - 90 day report on district to include outreach events, office hours in district, trends in district, and FY17 budget to date
 - **FY18 budget presentation/approval** to include new MA EQVs and recommended changes to part-times staff hours and expected staff changes
 - Set next meeting date / time (May 2017) and location
5. Executive Session, if desired

*Please note that the list of topics in this notice was comprehensive at the time of posting, however the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice.

S Drive: UPPVSD/District Mtg & Notices



*The Town of Greenfield is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer,
 a designated Green Community and a recipient of the "Leading by Example" Award*



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Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes April 27, 2016

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
- Bernardston*
- Buckland*
- Charlemont*
- Colrain*
- Conway*
- Deerfield*
- Erving*
- Gill*
- Greenfield*
- Hawley*
- Heath*
- Leverett*
- Leyden*
- Monroe*
- Montague*
- New Salem*
- Northfield*
- Plainfield*
- Rowe*
- Shelburne*
- Shutesbury*
- Sunderland*
- Warwick*
- Wendell*
- Whately*

-Meeting called to order at 6:01PM

-Towns present: Bernardston, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Heath, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Shutesbury (Board has quorum)

-Approval of Oct 21, 2015 minutes, motion by Leo Parent 2nd by Mike Hastings, motion carried

-Discussion of old business: update on finance, final assessment slightly lower than fall estimate due to lower retiree assessment and surplus credit being applied. Towns that participated purchase 82 gross in cemetery flags, saving hundreds for district costs. Operation: district pushing VA claims to increase money into towns. Staff put on over 8000 miles on van doing outreach. Changes to satellite locations discussed, and upcoming outreach events for the summer and fall presented. Motion to accept by Leo Parent, 2nd by Mike Hastings, motion carries

-Nomination of officers for FY17, all present elected to same positions as FY16, nominations motion by Leo Parent, 2nd by Mike Hastings, nominations carried
 Chair: Dave Gendron, Vice Chair Al Springer, Secretary Denis Brennan

-Motion made to set fall meeting date of Oct 12, 6pm at 294 Main St (Vet Office) by Leo Parent, 2nd by Dave Gendron, motion carries

-Motion to adjourn by Leo Parent at 6:16 PM 2nd by Joanne Carney, motion carries

Respectfully submitted, Denis Brennan- Secretary UPVSD





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FY17 Report

FINANCIAL: Member towns Chapter 115 payouts at the lowest levels in several years. Improved economy, slower military deployment schedules, and tighter investigation procedures have produced lower payouts. In addition we have several clients paying back monies owed to towns because of retroactive VA awards we field for them. FY17 was the last year for the Medicare Ambulance grant, and FY14 EQV values are now included in the FY18 assessments. Most towns will see an increase due to grant ending, and increase to operating and salaries. FY18 budget still less than last budget under old "Central District"

Our donation account now has \$2340.42. This was due to a generous donation from the now defunct VFW Ladies Auxiliary in Montague. This fund is used to help needy veterans and dependents in emergency situations (food/fire/clothing) if they do not qualify for other programs.

District purchased 92 gross of cemetery flags as a group. Final cost was 62 ½ cents before state reimbursement (final cost 15.6 cents each to town). District also distributed over 100 gravesite flag holders at cost to member towns.

Operations:

District projected to complete approximately 165 VA claims for disability, pensions, burial benefits, and VA footstones during FY17.

This results in approximately \$350,000 in additional VA monies flowing into the district for our veterans and their dependents. We also re-certified approximately 120 Ch115 clients currently on the rolls in the district.

Staff will log approximately another 8000 miles on department van doing outreach, home visits, and staffing our satellite offices in the district for FY17.

District conducted or will conduct multiple outreach events: VFW Northfield, TRIAD Fair Gill, VFW Whately Town Hall, Ashfield Library, Whately Library, Warwick Old Home Days, Cummington Fair, FRCOG training for town employees, Conway Festival of the Hills, Greenfield Savings Bank (Montague branch), YMCA Vet program,



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FY18 Discussion

FINANCIAL: Final FY18 assessments are attached. These are projected to be the final assessments. The district credit is what will be left from operations and payroll estimates. We have entered the new EQV values from the MA DOR site. Some towns (Erving/Rowe) have seen dramatic changes in EQV so this impacts their assessments above normal increases. We have used the newest 2013 U.S. census data.

FY17 was the last year for the Medicare Ambulance/VVMI grant (\$10k per year). All towns will see an increase due to grant ending, and increases to salaries. FY18 budget is still less than last budget under old "Central District". (FY15)

Final assessments FY17 was \$72783.80 vs. FY18 proposed \$91799.55. \$10k of increase due to grant ending, no health insurance credit (\$3552.67), smaller district credit (\$2000 vs. \$6200), and approx \$1263.08 in mandated salary/indirect cost increases.

Operations:

Mark Fitzpatrick will work until Dec 2017. This leaves 6 months of FY18 that will need a new hire. Director requesting we increase part-time hours to 3 full days (22.5 hours). This would be at a lower hourly rate but would offer benefits (approx \$17.50 instead of Mark's \$25.00(no benefits) per hour). Director feels with the increase in VA work, the continued need for outreach and home visits these extra hours are warranted.

Recommending increase be used to hire replacement before Mark's end date so new employee can be vetted and trained properly so no gaps in coverage for district. This also allows the staff time to train the

District Assessments FY 18 with \$51K Credit Applied

FY18 Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District budget less Greenfield portion (56%)

		Greenfield \$123,713	District \$97,203	Total \$220,916		Retiree Ins. \$6,800	Total District \$ 97,203.08	Grand Total \$104,003.08	District Credit \$ 2,000.00	Total CF Credit \$ 51,017.67	Final Assessment \$102,003.08
	EQV 2016	50%	Population	50%	Total %					per year 5 years	
Ashfield	241,758,400	1.8%	1,733	1.9%	3.7%	\$ 233.97	\$ 3,599.38	\$3,833.35	\$ 74.06	\$ 374.47	\$3,384.83
Bernardston	216,985,900	1.7%	2,123	2.3%	3.9%	\$ 246.23	\$ 3,822.22	\$4,068.45	\$ 78.64	\$ 359.16	\$3,630.64
Buckland	222,381,700	1.7%	1,889	2.0%	3.7%	\$ 234.04	\$ 3,618.31	\$3,852.35	\$ 74.45	\$ 345.90	\$3,432.00
Charlemont	137,142,200	1.0%	1,251	1.3%	2.4%	\$ 149.83	\$ 2,321.11	\$2,470.94	\$ 47.76	\$ 212.23	\$2,210.95
Colrain	177,586,600	1.4%	1,661	1.8%	3.1%	\$ 196.63	\$ 3,048.44	\$3,245.07	\$ 62.72	\$ 274.48	\$2,907.87
Conway	251,373,100	1.9%	1,902	2.0%	4.0%	\$ 249.67	\$ 3,846.85	\$4,096.52	\$ 79.15	\$ 408.14	\$3,609.23
Deerfield	701,406,100	5.4%	5,089	5.5%	10.8%	\$ 682.72	\$ 10,506.47	\$11,189.18	\$ 216.18	\$ 1,105.04	\$9,867.97
Erving	887,378,000	6.8%	1,796	1.9%	8.7%	\$ 567.42	\$ 8,452.86	\$9,020.27	\$ 173.92	\$ 1,082.59	\$7,763.75
Gill	159,051,900	1.2%	1,491	1.6%	2.8%	\$ 176.33	\$ 2,733.77	\$2,910.10	\$ 56.25	\$ 239.78	\$2,614.07
Hawley	52,222,400	0.4%	335	0.4%	0.8%	\$ 48.03	\$ 736.49	\$784.52	\$ 15.15	\$ 79.59	\$689.78
Heath	96,911,500	0.7%	703	0.8%	1.5%	\$ 94.32	\$ 1,451.51	\$1,545.83	\$ 29.87	\$ 141.83	\$1,374.14
Leverett	263,543,700	2.0%	1,861	2.0%	4.0%	\$ 253.26	\$ 3,894.37	\$4,147.63	\$ 80.13	\$ 443.85	\$3,623.65
Leyden	84,406,000	0.6%	721	0.8%	1.4%	\$ -	\$ 1,377.54	\$1,377.54	\$ 28.34	\$ -	\$1,349.19
Monroe	26,041,800	0.2%	121	0.1%	0.3%	\$ 21.01	\$ 319.26	\$340.27	\$ 6.57	\$ 38.77	\$294.93
Montague	819,151,800	6.2%	8,377	9.0%	15.2%	\$ 952.67	\$ 14,807.18	\$15,759.85	\$ 304.66	\$ 1,271.36	\$14,183.83
New Salem	107,358,200	0.8%	1,002	1.1%	1.9%	\$ 118.74	\$ 1,840.67	\$1,959.41	\$ 37.87	\$ 177.54	\$1,743.99
Northfield	459,130,600	3.5%	3,023	3.2%	6.7%	\$ 427.23	\$ 6,556.12	\$6,983.35	\$ 134.90	\$ 676.49	\$6,171.96
Orange	-				0.0%	\$ 746.09	\$ -	\$746.09	\$ -	\$ 816.28	-\$70.19
Plainfield	86,493,600	0.7%	650	0.7%	1.4%	\$ 85.62	\$ 1,319.01	\$1,404.63	\$ 27.14	\$ 141.83	\$1,235.66
Rowe	297,787,500	2.3%	392	0.4%	2.7%	\$ -	\$ 2,616.97	\$2,616.97	\$ 53.85	\$ -	\$2,563.13
Shelburne	243,225,400	1.9%	1,893	2.0%	3.9%	\$ 244.93	\$ 3,777.05	\$4,021.98	\$ 77.71	\$ 387.73	\$3,556.54
Shutesbury	226,950,300	1.7%	1,773	1.9%	3.6%	\$ 228.97	\$ 3,531.26	\$3,760.23	\$ 72.66	\$ 351.00	\$3,336.58
Sunderland	345,157,100	2.6%	3,690	4.0%	6.6%	\$ 411.65	\$ 6,406.22	\$6,817.86	\$ 131.81	\$ 570.38	\$6,115.68
Warwick	76,200,800	0.6%	774	0.8%	1.4%	\$ 88.29	\$ 1,371.94	\$1,460.22	\$ 28.23	\$ 132.65	\$1,299.35
Wendell	94,983,200	0.7%	868	0.9%	1.7%	\$ 103.87	\$ 1,609.21	\$1,713.08	\$ 33.11	\$ 154.07	\$1,525.90
Whately	279,133,700	2.1%	1,505	1.6%	3.7%	\$ 238.49	\$ 3,638.87	\$3,877.36	\$ 74.87	\$ 418.34	\$3,384.15
Totals:	6,553,761,500	50.0%	46,623	50.0%	100.0%	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 97,203.08	\$104,003.08	\$2,000.00	\$10,203.53	\$91,799.55