



**Department of Veteran Services**  
 294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301  
 Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401  
[www.greenfield-ma.gov](http://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 April 27, 2016**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Location: District Office  
294 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
  - Financial & Operations update
4. New Business
  - Nomination and election of officers for FY17
  - MA DVS Approval for continuation
  - Set next meeting date / time (Oct 2016) 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

## UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

### **-SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES 21 OCT 2015**

-Meeting called to order at 6:02PM

-Introductions from each member present

-Approval of minutes from previous meeting, motion by Leo parent 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Sluter, motion carried

-Discussion of **Old Business**

--change of bylaws, increased quorum from 7 to 9 members

-Discussion of **New Business**

--Discussion on the past 90 days report

--Many successful outreach events

--New VSO rep. schedule at various towns, based on usage -hours/locations will be re-assessed in future

--Many clients have been well served with application for benefits, some towns reimbursed

--Discussion regarding the success the new van has been in helping veterans throughout the district

--Some towns have not posted hours/phone #s for VSO reps on their websites, many outdated

--Some towns have attached District newsletters to enhance their sites

--Motion to accept above by Leo parent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Loven, motion carried

**-Budget**

--Tim Niejadlik discussed FY17 budget and impact of one less full-time vs part-time employee and credit from FY16 budget

--Insurance credit from FY16 more than projected @\$2000.00

--\$51,000.00 from previous Veterans District to be credited to be spread over 5 years and credit given to towns of dissolved District

--Motion to accept above by Leo Parent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Nash, motion carried

-Next meeting set for April 27<sup>th</sup> 2016, 6PM

-Meeting adjourned at 6:29PM

Respectfully submitted, Denis Brennan –Secretary UPVSD



**Department of Veteran Services**  
 294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301  
 Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401  
[www.greenfield-ma.gov](http://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*

FY16 Report

**FINANCIAL:** Our staff continues to fine tune Ch115 outlays with clients, and file for alternative sources of income for the clients. This has resulted in the following projected decrease in Ch115 monies for the listed towns for FY16 versus what was projected as of May 2015.

<b>Ashfield: \$12,000 less</b>	<b>Montague: \$12000 less</b>	<b>Sunderland: \$24000 less</b>
<b>Buckland: \$24000 less</b>	<b>Shelburne: \$8000 less</b>	
<b>Greenfield: \$20000 less</b>	<b>Shutesbury: \$6000 less</b>	

**Final FY17 assessments are attached.** These are the final amounts and are slightly lower than what was projected due to lower retiree insurance obligations for the old "Central" district. This will be the last year of the two year Ambulance grant, so this \$10000 deduction will be gone for FY18. The insurance credit is due to one of the retirees passing, so the insurance bill was less for part of the year. The district credit is what was left from operations and payroll estimates.

Our donation account still has \$1000.00 which will be used to purchase food gift cards for needy veterans in FY17. We purchased \$1000 in cards in dispensed this past fiscal year.

We purchased cemetery flags at 62 cents each. (70 gross for those who ordered) final cost to towns will be 15 1/2 cents each after 75% reimbursement from the state.

**Operations:**

District completed approximately 150 VA claims for disability, pensions, burial benefits, and VA footstones. This resulted in approximately \$500,000 in additional VA monies flowing into the district for our veterans and their dependents. We also re-certified approximately 130 Ch115 clients currently on the rolls in the district.

District purchased two new desktop computers for veteran use with updated software to replace older donated systems

Staff racked up approximately 8000 miles on department van doing outreach, home visits, and staffing our satellite offices in the district. We eliminated hours in Sunderland due to no clients, moved our hours in Montague to Wednesdays, eliminated Conway and shifted hours to Ashfield.

District conducted multiple outreach events like the Conway Festival of the Hills, the VA town hall meeting at G.C.C., Heroes in Healthcare with UMASS, and had student nurse with us conducting home visits and helping at the COAs to do blood pressure clinics. We continue to do outreach by deploying our V-CAT (Veterans Civic Action Team) to events. This is our new collaborative effort with other groups to have one-stop informational tables and events for our vets. This team consists of UPVSD staff, health care, VA, non-profits, SHINE and other veteran groups.



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

**District Assessments FY 17 with \$51K Credit Applied**

**FY17 Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District budget less Greenfield portion (56%)**

		Greenfield	District	Total		Retiree Ins.	Total District	Grand Total	District Credit	Ins. Credit	Total CF Credit	Final Assessment
		\$122,360	\$86,140	\$208,500		\$6,600	\$ 86,140.00	\$92,740.00	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 3,552.67	\$ 51,017.67	\$ 82,987.33
	EQV 2014	50%	Population	50%	Total %						per year 5 years	
Ashfield	230,930,200	1.9%	1,737	1.9%	3.7%	\$ 228.59	\$ 3,221.50	\$3,450.09	\$ 231.87	\$ 123.05	\$ 374.47	\$ 2,720.70
Bernardston	221,233,900	1.8%	2,129	2.3%	4.1%	\$ 247.69	\$ 3,514.80	\$3,762.49	\$ 252.98	\$ 133.33	\$ 359.16	\$ 3,017.01
Buckland	213,003,400	1.7%	1,902	2.0%	3.8%	\$ 229.35	\$ 3,247.80	\$3,477.15	\$ 233.76	\$ 123.46	\$ 345.90	\$ 2,774.04
Charlemont	130,454,200	1.1%	1,266	1.4%	2.4%	\$ 146.71	\$ 2,082.33	\$2,229.04	\$ 149.88	\$ 78.97	\$ 212.23	\$ 1,787.96
Colrain	169,419,700	1.4%	1,671	1.8%	3.2%	\$ 192.19	\$ 2,729.06	\$2,921.25	\$ 196.43	\$ 103.45	\$ 274.48	\$ 2,346.89
Conway	251,195,300	2.0%	1,897	2.0%	4.1%	\$ 249.12	\$ 3,511.18	\$3,760.29	\$ 252.72	\$ 134.09	\$ 408.14	\$ 2,965.33
Deerfield	680,644,100	5.5%	5,125	5.5%	11.0%	\$ 674.07	\$ 9,499.99	\$10,174.06	\$ 683.77	\$ 362.84	\$ 1,105.04	\$ 8,022.41
Erving	659,098,000	5.4%	1,800	1.9%	7.3%	\$ 457.50	\$ 6,283.90	\$6,741.40	\$ 452.29	\$ 246.27	\$ 1,082.59	\$ 4,960.25
Gill	147,440,600	1.2%	1,500	1.6%	2.8%	\$ 170.08	\$ 2,417.21	\$2,587.29	\$ 173.98	\$ 91.55	\$ 239.78	\$ 2,081.98
Hawley	48,930,700	0.4%	337	0.4%	0.8%	\$ 46.52	\$ 653.97	\$700.49	\$ 47.07	\$ 25.04	\$ 79.59	\$ 548.79
Heath	87,647,700	0.7%	706	0.8%	1.5%	\$ 89.64	\$ 1,265.77	\$1,355.42	\$ 91.11	\$ 48.25	\$ 141.83	\$ 1,074.23
Leverett	273,713,900	2.2%	1,851	2.0%	4.2%	\$ 258.11	\$ 3,626.78	\$3,884.89	\$ 261.04	\$ 138.94	\$ 443.85	\$ 3,041.06
Leyden	85,506,200	0.7%	711	0.8%	1.5%	\$ -	\$ 1,255.36	\$1,255.36	\$ 90.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,165.00
Monroe	22,644,600	0.2%	121	0.1%	0.3%	\$ 19.37	\$ 270.43	\$289.80	\$ 19.46	\$ 10.43	\$ 38.77	\$ 221.13
Montague	783,599,400	6.4%	8,437	9.0%	15.4%	\$ 932.63	\$ 13,275.32	\$14,207.95	\$ 955.50	\$ 502.02	\$ 1,271.36	\$ 11,479.07
New Salem	109,671,100	0.9%	990	1.1%	2.0%	\$ 118.75	\$ 1,682.09	\$1,800.84	\$ 121.07	\$ 63.92	\$ 177.54	\$ 1,438.31
Northfield	416,996,200	3.4%	3,032	3.2%	6.6%	\$ 406.31	\$ 5,720.77	\$6,127.08	\$ 411.76	\$ 218.71	\$ 676.49	\$ 4,820.12
Orange	-				0.0%	\$ 747.85	\$ -	\$747.85	\$ -	\$ 402.56	\$ 816.28	\$ (470.99)
Plainfield	87,121,300	0.7%	648	0.7%	1.4%	\$ 85.79	\$ 1,208.62	\$1,294.40	\$ 86.99	\$ 46.18	\$ 141.83	\$ 1,019.41
Rowe	275,867,200	2.2%	393	0.4%	2.7%	\$ -	\$ 2,297.94	\$2,297.94	\$ 165.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,132.54
Shelburne	238,955,100	1.9%	1,893	2.0%	4.0%	\$ 242.44	\$ 3,421.60	\$3,664.04	\$ 246.27	\$ 130.50	\$ 387.73	\$ 2,899.53
Shutesbury	216,229,500	1.8%	1,771	1.9%	3.7%	\$ 222.96	\$ 3,149.69	\$3,372.65	\$ 226.70	\$ 120.02	\$ 351.00	\$ 2,674.93
Sunderland	351,627,700	2.9%	3,684	3.9%	6.8%	\$ 412.21	\$ 5,863.09	\$6,275.30	\$ 422.00	\$ 221.88	\$ 570.38	\$ 5,061.04
Warwick	80,977,300	0.7%	780	0.8%	1.5%	\$ 90.71	\$ 1,287.18	\$1,377.89	\$ 92.65	\$ 48.83	\$ 132.65	\$ 1,103.77
Wendell	94,635,600	0.8%	848	0.9%	1.7%	\$ 102.08	\$ 1,445.70	\$1,547.78	\$ 104.06	\$ 54.95	\$ 154.07	\$ 1,234.70
Whately	260,658,200	2.1%	1,496	1.6%	3.7%	\$ 229.34	\$ 3,207.94	\$3,437.28	\$ 230.89	\$ 123.45	\$ 418.34	\$ 2,664.59
Totals:	6,138,201,100	50.0%	46,725	50.0%	100.0%	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 86,140.00	\$92,740.00	\$6,200.00	\$3,552.67	\$10,203.53	\$72,783.80



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

600 WASHINGTON STREET, 7TH FLOOR  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

TEL: (617) 210-5480 FAX: (617) 210-5755 TTY: (617) 210-5883  
WWW.MASS.GOV/VETERANS

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 1, 2016

MARYLOU SUDDERS  
SECRETARY, EOHHS

FRANCISCO A. UREÑA  
SECRETARY, DVS

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District  
William F. Martin  
Mayor  
14 Court Square  
Greenfield, MA. 01301

Mayor Martin,

On July 1, 2015 The Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) issued the towns of Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague New Salem, Northfield, Plainfield, Rowe, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whatley and the City of Greenfield the conditional approval for formation, establishment and operation of the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District for a period of one year. This initial, one-year approval was conditioned upon Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District demonstrating to DVS that the district would adhere to applicable legal requirements, meet DVS's uniform standards, and demonstrate that sufficient veterans' benefits and services provided adequately to veterans and their eligible dependents residing in the municipalities that comprise the district.

DVS's ongoing examination and review of the operations of the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District to date show, by and large, that the district has been adhering to the legal requirements for veterans' services districts, has been meeting DVS's uniform standards, and has been and continues to demonstrate that sufficient veterans' benefits and services are being provided adequately to veterans and their eligible dependents.

On February 19, 2016 DVS received Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District re-application for continued operation of a veterans' services district. DVS has completed its sufficiency review of the re-application. Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District hereby is granted approval for a period of two years commencing on July 1, 2016, to operate under the terms presented in its initial application and re-application, and in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and directives of DVS.



This approval is effective for two years and shall expire on July 1, 2018. If you wish to continue to operate the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District after this expiration date, then you should submit your re-application for continued veterans' services district status not later than 30 days prior to the expiration date.

Congratulations, again! We look forward to continuing to work with you and your team to provide the nation's best veterans' benefits and services to Massachusetts veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Makrinikolas", written in a cursive style.

Evan Makrinikolas  
Compliance Director  
Department of Veterans Services