



MFA Board Minutes

July 20, 2018, 12:00 Noon

The meeting was called to order by Vanessa Melancon at 12:04.

The following board members were in attendance:

- Thomas Enright
- Homer Rodgers (for Secretary Strickland)
- Sulanda Lonnette
- Rep. Chris Hazel
- Alex Juan
- Billy Robbins

Non-board members present included:

- Julie Baxter-Payer, LDVA Executive Counsel
- Vanessa Melancon, MFA Administrator

Board confirmed that a quorum was present and the meeting continued with the pledge and a moment of silent reflection/prayer.

The minutes from the last meeting were read. Billy Robbins made a motion to accept the minutes, Rep. Hazel seconded the motion, and it was passed without objection.

Vanessa Melancon reviewed the fund balance report. Alex Juan made a motion to accept the report, Sulanda Lonnette seconded the motion, and it was passed without objection.

Julie Baxter-Payer led a brief discussion about MFA funding sources, the purposes for which MFA funds can be spent, and the requirements to demonstrate that an award is need based. She asked that the board members review the current set of propagated rules sometime before the next meeting and make recommendations for updates and improvements.

Julie Baxter-Payer then reviewed tables depicting the statute and/or rules for spending in each category allowed for MFA funds and the estimated funds available to disperse in FY 2018-2019. She asked that the board members review the information before the next meeting, so that they may be then ready to discuss any ideas related to the budget, such as setting possible limits for certain categories.

The following applications were considered:

- 1) Veteran JSTE0718; requested car purchase price up to \$10,000
 - The board determined that the veteran was not eligible for MFA assistance because he did not meet the statute's defined minimum requirement for active duty service time. Billy Robbins made a motion to deny the application on that basis, Thomas Enright seconded the motion, and it passed without objection.



2) Veteran DMAC0718; requested \$7,347.30

- The board determined that the veteran was not eligible for MFA assistance because he did not meet the statute's defined minimum requirement for active duty service time. Billy Robbins made a motion to deny the application on that basis, Sulanda Lonnette seconded the motion, and it passed without objection.

3) Veteran JSTR0718 requested \$10,000.00

- The board reviewed the application and determined that the veteran was experiencing a severe hardship due to a long period of unemployment. While the veteran recently obtained a job that met his needs, he was not able to pay the large reinstatement amount needed to save his home from being sold at a sheriff's sale in a few days. The board compared this case to a very similar application they approved a couple months ago. Rep. Chris Hazel made a motion to approve the application, Thomas Enright seconded the motion, and it passed without objection.

A motion was made to adjourn by Thomas Enright, seconded by Billy Robbins, and passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 1:06.