

RESOLUTION 07 -11
VETERAN BENEFITS FUNDING

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF POLK:

WHEREAS, Polk County veterans receive the majority of their state veteran benefits through the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA); and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) is WDVA's primary means of financing the multitude of benefits provided to the veterans of Polk County; and

WHEREAS, the VTF, started in 1947 with proceeds from a statewide liquor tax, and later funded by periodic infusions of general purpose revenue and proceeds from WDVA loan programs, has steadily decreased in size due to declining interest rates and investment earnings, along with increased demand for programs/services; and

WHEREAS, the cost to provide and administer benefits provided through the VTF is almost entirely funded by proceeds from WDVA loan programs, resulting in a situation whereby the veterans of our state are essentially funding their own benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, the VTF is forecasted to be into a negative cash flow and completely insolvent as early as late FY-2012/early FY-2013; and

WHEREAS, this will result in cessation of vital and in many cases mandated services to our veterans during an unprecedented time of financial need, to include Aid to Needy Veterans Grants, Veteran Retraining Grants, Military Funeral Honors Program, County Veteran Service Officer Grant Program, Personal Loan Program, Federal Claims Assistance, VetEd Reimbursement Grants, Aid to Indigent Veterans, Disabled American Veterans Transportation Grant, County Transportation Grant, Veterans Assistance Program, Outreach Programs, State Veteran Cemeteries, and Veteran's Museums; and

WHEREAS, it is only right that our veterans should continue to have the services they have earned and the support they need, particularly in this time of war and economic crisis, to enable them to contribute to Polk County's economy as productive, independent citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Polk County Board of Supervisors fully supports any and all efforts to provide additional state funding to forestall any VTF insolvency within the next biennium, including, but not limited to, the exploration of permanent state funding for WDVA and the veteran programs and benefits that WDVA oversees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Polk County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward a copy this resolution to the Office of the Governor Scott Walker, respective State of Wisconsin legislative representatives of Polk County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs.

Funding Source and Amount: No Funding
Date Finance Committee Advised: Not Applicable
Finance Committee Recommendation: Not Applicable

Effective Date: Upon Passage

Date Submitted to County Board: March 15, 2011

County Board Action: adopted

Submitted and Sponsored By:

Deane Stonking

RN [Signature]

Review By County Administrator:

- Recommended
- Not Recommended
- Reviewed Only

[Signature]
Dana Frey, County Administrator

Review By Corporation Counsel:

- Approved as To Form
- Recommended
- Not Recommended
- Reviewed Only

[Signature]
Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel

At its regular business meeting on 017, 2011, the Polk County Board of Supervisors adopted the above-entitled resolution. Resolution 07-11: VETERAN BENEFITS FUNDING, by a simple majority vote of _____ in favor and _____ against. Carried unanimous voice vote

[Signature]
William Johnson, IV, County Board Chairperson

Attest: [Signature]
Carole Wondra, Polk County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS
COUNTY OF POLK)

I, Carole T. Wondra, Clerk for Polk County, do hereby certify that the
attached is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 07-11 that was adopted
by the Polk County Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.

Carole T. Wondra 3-21-11
Carole T. Wondra Date
Polk County Clerk