



MICHIGAN  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
P.O. Box 30014  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Minutes of the Joint Committee Meeting  
of  
the House Standing Committee on Oversight and Ethics  
and  
the House Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

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Thursday, March 10, 2016

10:30 a.m.

Room 519, House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Oversight and Ethics was called to order by Representative Ed McBroom, Chair.

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The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives McBroom, Howrylak, Graves, Theis, Robinson, and Pagan. (6/6)**

The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

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The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of March 3, 2016 as amended.

**Representative Theis moved to adopt the minutes of March 3, 2016 as printed.**

**There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as amended.**

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**Representative Howrylak moved to report with recommendation that House Bill 4850 be referred to the Committee on Agriculture.**

**The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:**

**Yeas: Representatives McBroom, Howrylak, Graves, Theis, Robinson and Pagan, (6/6)**

**Nays: None. (0)**

The bill was referred to the full House.

The Oversight Chair turned the gavel over to the Military and Veterans Affairs Chair.

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The House Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs was called to order by Representative Tom Barrett, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives Barrett, Hughes, Gardon, Hooker, Outman, Glenn, Rutledge, Talabi, and Kosowski. (9/9)**

The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

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The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of March 3, 2016 as printed.

**Representative Kosowski moved to adopt the minutes of March 3, 2015 as printed. There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.**

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The Military Chair turned the gavel over to the Presiding Chair, Representative McBroom.

The Presiding Chair laid before the committees the Office of the Auditor General Performance Audit.

Performance Audit of the  
**Grand Rapids Home for Veterans**  
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency  
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
February 2016  
**Report Number: 511-0170-15**

Sarah Slocum, Kaye Scholle, and Jerry Stevens, Long Term Care Ombudsmen at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home, testified on the Auditor General's audit report. Questions followed. A copy of Ms. Slocum's written testimony is attached.

State Representative Winnie Brinks, representing House District 76, testified on the audit. Questions followed.

State Representative Thomas Hooker, representing House District 77, testified on the audit. Questions followed.

State Representative Scott Dianda, representing House District 110, testified on the audit and submitted written testimony, which is attached. Questions followed.

James Robert Redford, Interim Director for the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency in the Michigan Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, addressed a member's question.

Catherine Buckley, a Navy veteran, testified on the audit and submitted written testimony, which is attached. Questions and discussion followed.

Catherine Kooyer, a veteran advocate, testified on the audit and submitted written testimony, which is attached. Questions and discussion followed.

The Oversight Chair turned the gavel over to the Military and Veterans Affairs Chair.  
At 12:00 Noon, the Military and Veterans Affairs Chair went at ease at the call of the chair until when committees are given leave to meet during the balance of the day's session.

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The Military Chair turned the gavel over to the Oversight Chair, Representative McBroom.  
At 12:00 Noon, the Oversight Chair went at ease at the call of the chair until when committees are given leave to meet during the balance of the day's session.

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At 1:22 p.m., the Oversight Chair reconvened the committee.  
The Oversight Chair turned the gavel over to the Military and Veterans Affairs Chair.

At 1:22 p.m., the Military and Veterans Affairs Chair reconvened.  
The Military Chair turned the gavel over to the Presiding Chair, Representative McBroom.

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Tim Sheeran, representing the veterans at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, testified on the audit and submitted written testimony, which is attached. Questions and discussion followed.

Mark Williams, President of Local 261, which represents Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and Michigan Youth Challenge Academy within Council 25 of AFSCME, testified on the audit. Questions followed.

Tammy Porter, LPN, representing Local 261 in the Michigan Department of Veteran Affairs at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, testified on the audit. Questions followed.

Due to the days' time restraints, the following individuals were unable to testify, but submitted written testimony:

Greg McNeil, representing the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Dorm Unit Vets;  
Theresa A. Robinson, United Veterans Council of Kent County; and  
Jerry Luckstead, representing Veterans for Justice.

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There being no other business before the committee; the Chair declared the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs adjourned, the time being 3:43 p.m.

The Military Chair turned the gavel over to the Oversight Chair.

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There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Graves moved to adjourn the meeting.**

The motion prevailed, the time being 3:43 p.m.

The Chair declared the Committee on Oversight and Ethics adjourned.

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Ed McBroom, Chair  
House Standing Committee on Oversight and Ethics

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Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

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Date approved by the committee