

Memorandum: Addendum to 7/26/2013 Report

To: Chairs of Senate Institutions Committee and the House Committee on Corrections & Institutions

Cc: Jeb Spaulding, Secretary of Administration
Melissa Jackson, Vermont Veteran's Home
Agatha Kessler, Supervisor of Committee Services

From: Michael J. Obuchowski, Commissioner, Buildings & General Services

Date: 7/31/2013

Re: *Addendum to 7/26/2013 Report Pursuant to Act 51 of 2013 Section 17(b): Vermont Veteran's Home (VVH)*

Pursuant to Act No. 51 of 2013, section 17(b) Vermont Veteran's Home which reads:

(b) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer of the Veterans' Home, shall apply for any eligible federal funds to use as a match for the appropriation made in subsection (a) of this section and shall work with Vermont's Congressional Delegation to investigate the availability of other possible federal funding sources. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall notify the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the availability of federal funds and the status of a federal match to be used for the project described in subsection (a) of this section on or before July 31, 2013.



On July 30, 2013, the BGS Commissioner's Office received the attached letter [Exhibit 4] from Representative Peter Welch supporting the State of Vermont Veteran's Administration Construction grant application and indicating, after a long search, no other funding sources were discovered. The reader is urged to consult the original VVH report issued July 26, 2013.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Obuchowski".

Michael J. Obuchowski
Commissioner, Department of Buildings & General Services

Enclosures:

Exhibit 4: Letter from Congressman Welch in response to VA Grant & Funding Opportunities

PETER WELCH
AT-LARGE, VERMONT

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4501

1404 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20516-4601
202-226-4116

DISTRICT
30 MAIN STREET
3RD FLOOR, SUITE 350
BURLINGTON, VT 05401
(802) 652-2450
(888) 806-7270

July 25, 2013

Commissioner Michael J. Obuchowski
Vermont Department of Buildings and Grounds
2 Governor Aiken Avenue
Montpelier, VT 05602-9701

Dear Commissioner Obuchowski, *MJ*

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Vermont Veterans' Home. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you to explore all possible funding sources for this critical facility.

During my tenure in Congress I have had the pleasure of visiting the Veterans' Home on multiple occasions. I have always been impressed with the quality of care it provides. The team at the Vermont Veterans' Home is providing countless Vermont veterans and their families with excellent long-term care. Recent history demonstrates that the need for excellent care for our nation's veterans will not diminish. All efforts must be made to sustain the Vermont Veterans' Home for generations to come.

I applaud the Veterans Home's pursuit of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Construction Grant funds. Recent success in applying for these grants is a testament to the excellent work happening at the Vermont Veterans' Home. I am proud to join my colleagues, Senator Leahy and Senator Sanders, in writing to support the most recent grant application. A copy of that letter of support is attached for your review.

I have also joined with Senator Leahy and Senator Sanders in expressing support for the Veterans Home as it undergoes review by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Specifically, we requested that CMS work closely and collaboratively with the Vermont Veterans' Home to address any pending issues. A copy of that letter is also attached for your review.

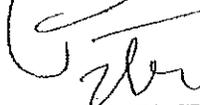
I am aware that the Veterans Home and the VA Medical Center in White River Junction have communicated about the possibility of collaborating to provide care. Cooperation between the VA and the Veterans' Home could be of tremendous benefit not only to the Home, but also to veterans in need of rehabilitative care in the Southwestern corner of our state. If I can be helpful in facilitating this collaboration, please let me know.

My staff has completed an exhaustive review of other possible federal funding sources to help maintain the facility. All of those efforts pointed back towards the VA Construction

Grant Program. I will keep the Veterans' Home in mind should any additional potential resources emerge.

The Vermont Veterans' Home is an incredibly important asset for Vermont. I am eager to assist in helping to sustain it for years to come. I trust that you and Administrator Jackson at the Vermont Veterans' Home will continue to be in touch should additional opportunities arise to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Welch', written over a circular scribble.

PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

PW/jc