

Ward County Social Service Board
Minutes
 February 16, 2016 – 8:00 AM
 Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

John Fjeldahl
 Larry Louser
 Jack Nybakken
 Shelly Wepler
 Alan Walter

Also present were Melissa Bliss, Director, Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary and Connie Zieske, Acct. Budget Specialist

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Larry Louser and unanimously carried by the Board approval of the Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by John Fjeldahl and unanimously carried by the Board approval of the bills according to the attached list and following summary,

Social Welfare Expenditures

GENERAL ASSISTANCE	2,300.00
BOARD MEMBER EXPENDITURES	271.39
ADMINISTRATIVE PAYROLL	303,955.21
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	8,233.28
TRAVEL & REGISTRATION FEES	3,321.37
UNEMPLOYMENT	.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE	.00
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE	69,325.76
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT & LIFE	40,196.07
SOCIAL SECURITY& MEDICARE MATCH	22,116.79
PARENT AIDE EXPENDITURES	4,957.15
WRAPAROUND SW EXPENDITURES	6,229.60
SAFETY PERMANENCY FUNDS	478.88
WELLNESS COMMITTEE	.00
FC PROGRAM EXPENSE	76.00
FOSTER CARE TRANSPORTATION	1,502.95
TECS./VISION/SAMS OPERATIONAL COSTS	.00
EBT FOOD STAMP COSTS	.00
TOTAL SOCIAL WELFARE EXP	462,964.45

The Board reviewed the General Assistance approvals and denials.

Discussion was held as to why bills from the State were already higher than the amount budgeted for in 2016. Melissa Bliss explained that the reason is due to the State being behind on billings due to the new Medicaid system and those bills not being received until January. Discussion was also held on the property tax bill which also was not received until 2016. A budget amendment to request additional spending authority for 2016 is recommended and will be addressed at the next meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Larry Louser and unanimously carried by the Board, that Social Services meet with Devra and identify all bills from 2015, received in 2016, that need an amendment to the budget to be paid from FY 2015 Budget, with a report back to the Board on those items at the next Board Meeting.

Director Melissa Bliss informed the Board that most of the vinyl window coverings have been installed.

She also informed the Board that we have had 2 retirements in the eligibility department, 1 of those positions having been filled internally. There are also 2 resignations in the social work department.

Director Bliss indicated that she is looking into services offered by Verizon that would provide an activity tracker for the Child Protective Service workers when entering an unsafe home or situation. This device would send text, email or alert emergency services. She is checking into the affordability of these devices and will provide an estimate to the board at a later date.

Shelly Wepler inquired as to how the long distance services are being billed out to our department. There are currently 165 phones and 46 lines. We are hoping to get a usage report in the near future from SRT. Commissioner Wepler requested that the phone report be included in next month's Board agenda.

Commissioner Wepler also questioned the status of Social Services paying for space in lieu of rent. Director Bliss informed the Board that we will have to wait one year until Abacus makes their assessment and recommendation of those costs. Those costs will then be deducted out of our reimbursement on the SFN 71 form.

Melissa also addressed the issue of discrepancies in amounts on reports received from the Auditor/Treasurer's office in regards to the cash balances of our funds and other discrepancies and issues regarding those reports. The Board recommended that Melissa along with Connie Zieske, Account Budget Specialist, meet with Devra to address these issues and that it needs to be figured out and that Melissa will report back to the Board regarding this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am.

Alan Walter, Chairman

Date

Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary