

Ward County Social Service Board
Minutes
 March 15, 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 John Fjeldahl and unanimously carried by the Board approval of the Minutes of the February 16, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION:

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

Social Welfare Expenditures

GENERAL ASSISTANCE	2,800.00
BOARD MEMBER EXPENDITURES	271.39
ADMINISTRATIVE PAYROLL	313,554.88
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	10,781.36
TRAVEL & REGISTRATION FEES	5,163.42
UNEMPLOYMENT	.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE	.00
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE	70,149.12
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT & LIFE	39,434.58
SOCIAL SECURITY& MEDICARE MATCH	22,843.67
PARENT AIDE EXPENDITURES	4,901.53
WRAPAROUND SW EXPENDITURES	6,229.60
SAFETY PERMANENCY FUNDS	1,487.91
WELLNESS COMMITTEE	.00
FC PROGRAM EXPENSE	47.00
FOSTER CARE TRANSPORTATION	1,550.40
TECS./VISION/SAMS OPERATIONAL COSTS	.00
EBT FOOD STAMP COSTS	.00
TOTAL SOCIAL WELFARE EXP	479,214.86

The Board reviewed the General Assistance approvals and denials.

MOTION:

It was moved by John Fjeldahl, seconded by Larry Louser and unanimously carried by the Board the approval to receive and file the February, 2016 Budget Recap and Revenue report, as it is presented.

As requested at the February Board Meeting, Melissa Bliss and Connie Zieske met with the Auditors office to reconcile the end of the year balance and discuss other matters. This meeting has taken place and an email had been sent to the Board members with the details of that meeting which included addressing the issue of the property tax bill and TECS bill which were both received in 2016 but were expenses incurred in 2015.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Weppler, seconded by Larry Louser and unanimously carried by the Board that Ward County Social Services request a Budget Amendment approval at the Ward County Commissioner Meeting, to increase the spending authority for 2016 for the property tax bill and TECS billing incurred in 2015 for a combined total of \$18,069.23.

Director Bliss updated the Board as to the discussion from the monthly Director's Meeting regarding the recent State budget cuts. An information sheet had been sent to the Board Members in their meeting packets as well as Melissa handing out additional information. Specific impacts that were noted was that there will not be a raise in the reimbursement for CPS reports, Homemaker/QSP services will not get a raise and those rates will be cut which will result in agencies no longer providing these services. Several other programs are also being affected as well as the income guidelines being tightened for Child Care Assistance in which some families that previously qualified for assistance will no longer qualify for this benefit.

Melissa presented to the Board the information regarding the telephone bill and long distance charges. This is still trying to be worked out with Jason in IT as some charges on the bill for Social Services do not appear to be correct. The line charges are currently being split with one-half being paid by Social Services. It is anticipated that we will continue to receive a bill for long distance charges from SRT and the line charge bill will be obtained through Jason.

Melissa presented information on the Vestige (Verizon) panic alert device by providing a handout which included the various rates as well as additional information regarding the plan. She indicated the desire for these devices due to the homes that the workers are encountering and having to enter which have become more high risk environments and the idea is for the device to send out alerts from the worker which would indicate their location and the need for assistance. The Board inquired if a cell phone would have the same type of capability and if any information had been obtained as to what SRT would have to offer.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Weppler, seconded by John Fjeldahl and unanimously carried by the Board to table the idea until next month when more information on other resources that can provide this type of service, has been obtained by Director Bliss.

Director Bliss informed the Board that Sandy Richter has resigned from her position as HSPA IV, Supervisor for Child Protective Services, effective 04/01/16. This will bring the current number of vacancies yet to be advertised to 5 with an additional position currently in the process of interviewing applicants.

Business After Hours will take place at the Ward County Administration Building on April 7th and an Open House will take place on April 8th. Melissa indicated that the public will not be taken to the 4th floor

for viewing during the Open House and the 3rd floor will only be open to the public in the lobby/waiting area due to the confidentiality of the business being conducted in these areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 am.

Alan Walter, Chairman

Date

Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary