

Ward County Social Service Board
Minutes
 July 18, 2017 – 8:00 AM
 Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

Shelly Weppler, Vice Chairperson
 John Fjeldahl
 Larry Louser
 Alan Walter

ABSENT:

Jim Rostad

Also present was Melissa Bliss, Director; Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary; Connie Zieske, Account Budgeting Specialist and Devra Smestad, County Auditor

MOTION:

It was moved by Larry Louser, seconded by John Fjeldahl and unanimously carried by the Board, approval of the Minutes of the June 20th, 2017 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Larry Louser, seconded by Alan Walter and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the bills according to the attached list and following summary.

Social Welfare Expenditures

GENERAL ASSISTANCE	50.80
BOARD MEMBER EXPENDITURES	297.27
ADMINISTRATIVE PAYROLL	312,006.75
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	16,942.45
TRAVEL & REGISTRATION FEES	4,681.76
UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM	.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE	.00
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE	80,101.92
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT & LIFE	41,202.29
SOCIAL SECURITY& MEDICARE MATCH	23,141.12
PARENT AIDE EXPENDITURES	4,981.82
WRAPAROUND SW EXPENDITURES	21,711.74
SAFETY PERMANENCY FUNDS	264.65
WELLNESS COMMITTEE	.00
FC PROGRAM EXPENSE	14.00
FOSTER CARE TRANSPORTATION	591.77
TOTAL SOCIAL WELFARE EXP	505,988.34

MOTION:

It was moved by John Fjeldahl, seconded by Alan Walter and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the June 2017 Recap and Revenue Report.

The General Assistance approvals and denials were reviewed. No appeals were scheduled.

The Ward County Social Service Budget figures for 2017 and 2018 was the only agenda item for discussion today. Connie Zieske, ABS, presented the Board members with documentation of those estimated figures.

Director Bliss indicated to the Board that ultimately, the money that is to be provided through the grant by the State does not cover all of the anticipated expenses for 2018. This is not a State takeover of the County and it is still the County’s responsibility to provide public relief to the Ward County residents and we should attempt to be properly staffed to fill those needs. Staff payroll and benefits is the largest portion of our budget. She reiterated how the expenses of 2015 is what determined the amount of the grant for 2018 and many of those, such as the fully paid health insurance benefit, was not implemented yet in 2015. Many other counties already had the fully paid benefit in place so it is not as crucial of a financial issue for those counties, according to Auditor Smestad. She added that the concern is statewide as to how the State will be able to maintain funding for the programs as costs increase.

Mills will no longer be levied in 2018 for The Human Service Fund. Any anticipated expenses not covered by the State will have to be covered/levied by our General Fund as poor relief, according to Auditor Smestad.

There was discussion as to how changes in caseload numbers could affect money to be received from the State. The Board inquired as to whether they could see the caseloads across the state in other counties and Director Bliss indicated she did not have access to that information.

Connie Zieske, ABS, spoke on the Budget report she had provided to the Board members. She provided the estimated cash carryover at the end of this year as well as the anticipated expenses which did not include any expenses for employee raises, indicating that some areas of the budget were already estimated to be cut back. Without any further changes, the estimated shortfall is approximately \$175,709.00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 am.

Shelly Wepler, Vice Chairwoman

Date

Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary