

**Ward County Social Service Board**  
Minutes  
 August 15, 2017 – 8:00 AM  
 Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

**PRESENT:**

Jim Rostad, Chairman  
 Shelly Weppler, Vice Chairperson  
 John Fjeldahl  
 Larry Louser  
 Alan Walter

**ABSENT:**

Also present was Melissa Bliss, Director; Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary and Connie Zieske, Account Budgeting Specialist.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Shelly Weppler, seconded by Larry Louser and unanimously carried by the Board, approval of the Minutes of the July 18th, 2017 Regular Board Meeting.

**MOTION:**

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

**Social Welfare Expenditures**

GENERAL ASSISTANCE	2,811.45
BOARD MEMBER EXPENDITURES	297.27
ADMINISTRATIVE PAYROLL	312,539.04
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	5,410.51
TRAVEL & REGISTRATION FEES	4,075.02
UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM	2,708.65
WORKMANS COMP PREMIUM	11,558.52
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE	78,559.52
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT & LIFE	41,322.06
SOCIAL SECURITY& MEDICARE MATCH	23,215.94
PARENT AIDE EXPENDITURES	.00
WRAPAROUND SW EXPENDITURES	21,749.42
SAFETY PERMANENCY FUNDS	833.96
WELLNESS COMMITTEE	.00
FC PROGRAM EXPENSE	50.00
FOSTER CARE TRANSPORTATION	125.80
<b>TOTAL SOCIAL WELFARE EXP</b>	<b>502,257.16</b>

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Alan Walter and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the July 2017 Recap and Revenue Report.

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

Connie Zieske, ABS, provided handouts to the Board members which showed the variance in cost to the County regarding what may be implemented in regards to the following: not having any salary increase, implementing a 1.5 % COLA increase or implementing 1.5% COLA as well as the recommended increases produced by the recent salary study.

Connie provided clarification to the Board members regarding the figures presented and how they will affect the overall budget for FY 2018. The estimates for all plans indicated the needed levy for the 2018 budget and that amount includes General Assistance as well as the estimated revenue shortfall from the ND Dept of Human Services. At the Board's request, she also provided the amount needed last year for the 2017 budget in comparison to what the need will be in the upcoming year. The cash carryover for 2017 is low, with an estimated \$216,000.00. Revenues are also much lower in State Aid distribution.

Shelly Wepler voiced that the Board indicated previously that they would be considering the 1.5% plus the recommended increases from the salary study but that a firm decision will not be made until the budget hearings.

Director Bliss indicated that most counties will be needing to ask for additional funds from their respective county in order to implement their budget needs. She also informed the Board of the current vacancies within the agency, asking for their input on whether to fill those at this time. Shelly Wepler advised Melissa to decide which positions she feels need to be filled immediately and to hold off on the others, at her discretion. Jim Rostad gave input as to doing her very best to find the best fit for the positions or else to postpone the hiring. Ultimately, it is Melissa's decision. Melissa stated it is her preference to fill all the vacant positions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 am.

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Jim Rostad, Chairman

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Date

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Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary