

Ward County Social Service Board
Minutes
 October 17, 2017 – 8:00 AM
 Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Also present was Melissa Bliss, Director and Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Larry Louser and unanimously carried by the Board, approval of the Minutes of the September 19, 2017 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, 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	22,575.76
BOARD MEMBER EXPENDITURES	297.27
ADMINISTRATIVE PAYROLL	312,868.30
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	20,823.39
TRAVEL & REGISTRATION FEES	8,352.54
UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM	.00
WORKMANS COMP PREMIUM	.00
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE	78,147.63
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT & LIFE	41,353.60
SOCIAL SECURITY& MEDICARE MATCH	22,985.12
PARENT AIDE EXPENDITURES	.00
WRAPAROUND SW EXPENDITURES	22,056.12
SAFETY PERMANENCY FUNDS	374.86
WELLNESS COMMITTEE	.00
FC PROGRAM EXPENSE	48.00
FOSTER CARE TRANSPORTATION	79.25
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TOTAL SOCIAL WELFARE EXP	532,793.09

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Larry Louser and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the September 2017 Recap and Revenue Report.

The General Assistance approvals and denials were reviewed. No appeals were scheduled. There was some discussion about the GA approval for a utility bill as we don't typically see GA approval for utilities. The Board was informed that it is still in our GA Policy to allow payment for a utility bill if every effort has been made with other agencies to assist with payment.

Melissa Bliss presented program information to the Board regarding current caseload numbers. In reference to Foster Care, there are currently 94 children in care and she provided a breakdown as to the type of homes/facilities that the children are placed in at this time. As some of those children are in family placements, the question was raised as to whether the families are paid for the care of the children to which Melissa indicated they can apply for TANF or Kinship care and may receive financial assistance if they qualify to do so. They can also go through the process to become a licensed foster home specific to the children they care for in their home.

Director Bliss also indicated we have 30 licensed foster homes in Ward County, citing that the homes can be specific to ages and needs of the children they can provide care for and that there is a lack of homes for teens. Foster Care payments are State funded, however, we have had to use interim placement such as the Williston Youth Assessment Center which does not qualify for State payments and that becomes the financial responsibility of the county. General Assistance funds are then used for payment to these types of facilities.

Discussion continued regarding funding and the lack of it from the State in order to continue to provide the case management and provide the care needed for these children. Shelly Wepler indicated she was planning to send a letter to the state legislators outlining expenses of 2015 compared to our current financial need and indicating why the deficit is there. Melissa indicated that ramifications of the State budget cuts are being felt in our county as well as across the state. She indicated that the county has always incurred costs not covered by the State but it is more apparent now when we are also receiving less revenue from uncollected/unpaid taxes.

Jim Rostad again asked for a program outlining the 2017 NDCSW be sent to the Board Members.

Melissa Bliss informed the Board that there will be a county blood drive on November 17th from 9-2.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 am.

Jim Rostad, Chairman

Date

Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary