

Ward County Social Service Board
Minutes
January 2, 2019 – 8:00 AM
Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

Shelly Weppler
John Fjeldahl
John Pietsch
Jim Rostad
Alan Walter

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

MOTION:

It was moved by Jim Rostad, seconded by John Pietsch and unanimously carried by the Board approval of the Minutes of the December 4th, 2018 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Jim Rostad, seconded by Alan Walter and unanimously carried by the Board approval of the bills for December 27, 2018.

MOTION:

It was moved by Jim Rostad, seconded by Alan Walter and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the Budget Recap Expenses and Revenue Report for November 2018.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alan Walter, seconded by Jim Rostad and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the Revenue Report for October 2018.

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

Director Melissa Bliss addressed the Board in regard to the estimated cash carryover from FY 2018 which is estimated to be \$600,000 after Auditor Devra Smestad takes out the property taxes estimated to be around \$129,000 as well as the December expenses for health insurance estimated to be around \$77,000.. This will result January and February premiums being taken out in January.

In regards to a personnel update, Melissa indicated that we currently have 3 Family Service Specialist vacancies in the Foster Care Unit, 2 Family Service Specialist vacancies in the CPS unit and 2 Office Assistant positions to be filled for the 4th floor receptionist area.

Director Bliss provided a hand out to the Board members in regards to SB 2124 regarding the proposed Social Service redesign. Melissa indicated that she has been in on conference calls each Friday with other County Directors, to discuss recommendations. The specific changes are uncertain at this time and pilot projects are coming for all areas. Some of the proposals

include having a Zone Director who would be a State employee and the County Commissioners would become a consulting board to the county. Melissa indicated she will continue to bring information to the Board regarding this proposed legislation.

In closing, Director Bliss wanted to speak of the strength of the agency employees in spite of being understaffed . She expressed her gratitude for everyone doing their jobs in the manner it needs to be done and that she is quite proud of them in spite of the difficulties the year had brought.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 am.

Shelly Wepler , Chairperson

Date

Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary