



Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Preliminary 2027 Budget Meeting—June 23, 2026

The preliminary 2027 budget Western Plains Public Health (WPPH) Board of Health meeting was called to order by Jackie Buckley at 10:00 am CST in the conference room at WPPH. The packet was emailed/mailed to members prior to the meeting. Notices were emailed to all County Auditors and posted on our website with meeting time and date.

Board Members Present:

Jackie Buckley, President, Morton Co.
Charles Steinkuehler, Vice Present, Grant Co.
Dan Ulmer, Treasurer, Morton Co. (Virtual)
Shila Blend, Board Member, Morton Co. (Virtual)

Staff Present:

Erin Ourada, Administrator
Vonda Bechtel, Office Manager

Absent:

Angie Eagle, Board Member, Sioux Co.
Jamee Folk, Board Member, Mercer Co.
Dr. Tom Kaspari, Board Member/Health Officer, Oliver Co.

Jackie Buckley stated there is quorum.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda for the June 23, 2026 (Preliminary 2027 budget) meeting was emailed/mailed to all board members. Jackie Buckley asked to add the following items to the agenda: number two - Revised 2025 Audit Engagement Letter, number five - Public Comments, and number six - Other. Charles Steinkuehler moved to add number two - Revised 2025 Audit Engagement Letter, number five - Public Comments, and number six - Other to the June 23, 2026, agenda and approve, seconded by Shila Blend; all aye, motion carried.

1. **Review of 2027 Budget:** Erin Ourada presented a budget which includes a 3% hourly rate increase for employees, a deficit of \$243,251, and a 3.85 equalized levy request from the counties. This would be a levy increase from 3.74 in 2026.

Expenses increased about \$29,000 in 2027 due to payroll, estimate of a 15% increase in health insurance premiums starting in July 2027, and server updates. In collections there was about \$75,000 increase in county levy funds, requested an increase of \$30,000 to the Mercer Nurse contract (which has not been updated since it started in 2013), a possible increase in State Aid funds, and additional interest earned from the money market account.

Shila Blend motioned to approve the preliminary 2027 budget as presented by Erin Ourada; Charles Steinkuehler seconded. Roll call vote on motion: Dan Ulmer-aye; Charles Steinkuehler-aye; Jackie Buckley-aye; Shila-aye; motion carries.

2. **Revised 2025 Engagement Letter:** A revised 2025 Engagement Letter was provided to the board members that added a single audit for federal funding. The federal funding collected by WPPH in 2025 was over the \$1million threshold. Charles Steinkuehler motioned to approve the revised 2025 Engagement Letter from Haga-Komer; Dan Ulmer seconded; roll call vote: Dan Ulmer-aye; Charles Steinkuehler-aye; Jackie Buckley-aye; Shila-aye; motion carries.



Western Plains PUBLIC HEALTH

3. **Money Market for Committed Funds:** Erin Ourada provided Century Code NDCC 21-06-07: Political subdivisions may invest funds. She asked the board to consider moving the committed funds into a money market since the interest rate is higher than a traditional savings account and money is easily moved without penalty. She also provided a list of FDIC insured banks offering money markets and the current interest rates.

Dan Ulmer motioned to move the committed funds balance (approximately \$302,187.11) to a money market account at US Bank; Charles Steinkuehler seconded. Jackie Buckley asked for discussion. Roll call vote on motion: Dan Ulmer-aye; Charles Steinkuehler-aye; Jackie Buckley-aye; Shila-aye; motion carries.

4. **Next Board Meeting:** Joint Board of County Commissioners – Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 10:00am CT
2nd Quarter Meeting – Friday, September 11, 2026, at 1:30pm CT

5. **Public Comment:** No one was present for public comments.

6. **Other:**

- a. **2025 Audit Update:** Erin Ourada informed the board the auditors found an issue with the 2025 payroll. Haga-Komer is still researching issue; however, they believe Fronteer Professional Services may have pre-taxed the employees retirement contributions. Erin will provide more information to the board once WPPH is informed of the findings. Erin may need to call a special meeting depending on the findings.
- b. **Staffing:** Two nurses have resigned due to wanting a reduction in hours. Three people have been interviewed with one more on Thursday.

Adjournment: Charles Steinkuehler moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30am; Jackie Buckley seconded; all aye; meeting adjourned.


Jackie Buckley, President

Submitted by Vonda Bechtel


Dr. Tom Kaspari, Secretary