



First District Health Unit
Board of Health Meeting
August 21, 2025 4:30 pm

Board members present: Nikki Medalen, Ron Krebsbach, Heather Thompson, David Stark, Jeanine Jensen, Walter Lipp, Ex-officio member Health Officer Dr. Casmiar Nwaigwe

Absent: Dr. Dawn Mattern, Dawn Ystaas, Penny Hamilton, and Ron Merritt

Also present: Executive Director Holly Brekhus; FDHU staff: Amy Silverwood-Miranda, Amy Yale, Angela Hiller, Becky Fred, Brandon Johnson, Caroline Drohan, Haley Hanna, Hallie Weddell, Heatthyr Haugeberg, Jen Clark, Karla Fannik, Katie Huettl, Lisa Otto-Westman, Lori Brierley, Melissa Burud, Mikayla Eklund, Nancy Bryn, Natalie Davy, Rebecca Coffin, Roxanne Vendsel, Tami Aberle, Vicky Jones, Zach Bruns

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 4:41 by Ron Krebsbach
2. Ron Krebsbach led the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Holly Brekhus **called the roll**. There was not a quorum of board members present at that time, so initially only discussion items were addressed.
 - a. There are two retirements coming up at First District. Business Manager Lois Mackey is retiring on September 19. Roxanne Vendsel, Director of Nursing, will be retiring in November.
 - b. Health insurance through NDPERS is increasing is 14%. It may not be sustainable if it continues to increase at that rate and funding continues to be reduced. The Board may have to consider making other reductions in expenses, looking for other vendors or even the possibility that staff may have to contribute a portion of the cost of their health insurance

At this point, Heather Thompson arrived and a **quorum was established**.

4. Consideration and Approval of the June 26, 2025 Board of Health minutes

A motion was made by Nikki Medalen, second by Jeanine Jensen, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of Expenditures for Quarter ending June 30, 2025

A motion was made by Jeanine Jensen, seconded by Walter Lipp, to approve the expenditures. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consideration of Financial Statements for Quarter ending June 30, 2025

Interest income and accounts receivables both increased in the current year. The accounts receivables increase was due to adjustments made in the 2024 audit. The interest increased due to investing in bank CDs. As the most recent came due, First District got quotes from banks throughout the seven-county service area both to find the best rate and to more opportunity to local entities.

Jeanine Jensen moved to approve the Financial Statements and Balance Sheet ending June 30, 2025. Walter Lipp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A copy of the Audit report was also distributed to Board Members. It will be an action item on a future agenda.

7. Finance Committee Updates

The Finance Committee met June 10 and set the rent for Shriners to use First District office space at \$500 per month. The Shriners will also pay an additional \$200 per month for some minor administrative support.

8. 2026 Budget Approval

Ward County voted to cut the amount of their contribution for 2026 by \$27,000 because the legislature restricted them from increasing by more than 3%. The State's Attorney recommended working on an MOU between the seven counties to establish a clear method of establishing fund amounts. Holly suggested that could also include the City of Minot.

There are supposed to be funds earmarked for rural health in the Big Beautiful Bill, but it remains to be seen how that rolls out and what programs might be funded. Early indications point to the funds being used to replace Medicaid funding that is getting reduced.

Jeanine Jensen moved and Heather Thompson seconded to approve the budget as presented.

9. FDHU Updates

Holly asked staff if anyone wanted to give an update. Rebecca Coffin said she had more of a question than an update and asked if there was a timeline for acting on the Director of Nursing position. Holly explained that this is a very important position and

she would like to give due consideration to how to proceed before taking action. Staff can expect to hear something within a couple of weeks.

10. Quarterly Report

The quarterly report was distributed in the Board packet.

11. Adjournment

The **meeting adjourned** at 5:20 pm.