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Board member looking for fair representation

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Late last month, Manitoulin-Sudbury District services Board member Morgan Pitfield addressed the board on behalf of the Sudbury East Municipal Association (SEMA) about full representation for the four-year term of office for the SEMA group of municipalities.

“As the constituents are becoming more involved in municipal politics, they are demanding more transparency and accountability.

“The issue of the contribution by way of apportionment to DSB was noted and addressed to municipal councillors, demanding explanation of where and why such a large portion was assessed to our municipality and myself. While discussing this issue at a recent SEMA meeting, it was determined that our SEMA Group is contributing 31.3% of the total assessment of our DSB organization.

“This issue has already been brought to my attention and I was asked how do I know what is going on with our contribution to DSB if I am not physically present at meetings.

The rest of the mayors in our SEMA group are of the same opinion as I am. If a whole year of meetings are missed, we are not properly representing our constituents.

“We believe that selection to the board should not depend on population alone, but also must include the financial contribution by a municipality or group of municipalities. It is requested an ad-hoc committee be established to review the request,” announced Pitfield.

After Pitfield thanked the board for its time and consideration, Les Gamble requested all municipalities be present at AGM to have a discussion prior to setting up an ad hoc committee.

CAO Fern Dominelli explained there are no provincial guidelines, regulations or legislation, which dictate or provide any guidance on board representation.

In 1998, the board's Steering Committee contracted with the Randolph Group to develop a board representation model; the model was approved by the Steering Committee on September 17, 1998.

There are currently 15 board members and this model was sent to member municipalities for a double majority vote as defined by DSSAB regulations.

This item was added to the May 23, 2012 DSB AGM in Killarney so a similar discussion can take place with all member municipalities present, and the eight boards will decide how to proceed on the matter at the May 24, 2012 Board meeting.

A draft AGM Agenda was shared with the board.

Since the board will be in Killarney it was decided a visit to the Killarney EMS station followed by a walkthrough of the new Killarney Health Centre would be arranged.

The results of the AGM and any motions, which may have come out of it, have yet to be released to the public. This will take place at the next meeting, which is to take place in Espanola at the end of June.

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