

District Services Board passes budget increase

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The Recorder

MANITOULIN—Municipalities within the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) area will see an increase in their levy for 2013, with the board having passed its budget at a meeting last week.

At a Central Manitoulin council meeting last week, Councillor Derek Stephens (a member of the DSB) board told council, “today we finalized our budget for the next year (2013) and the increase of 2.21 percent overall is what municipalities will be look-

ing at.”

Mr. Stephens explained, “we had been looking at a bigger increase originally, but we were able to bring it down to a bare bones budget-increase. The increase in budget is for a 2.21 increase over last year which is also a little above the cost of living increase. The board was quite happy with the budget considering all costs are increasing.”

Mr. Stephens said the DSB budget committee had met prior to last week’s board meeting, “and the increase originally being

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looked at was for a 2.76 percent increase but we were able to decrease this a little.”

Although he would have been happier if the budget increase could have been lower, Central Manitoulin Reeve Gerry Strong said, “there was an increase in service (this year) with our (Central Manitoulin) ambulance EMS service providing 24-hour coverage.”

Fern Dominelli, chief administrative offi-

cer of DSB, confirmed the overall budget increase has been set at 2.21 percent. “One thing we had to cut from the budget for 2013 is that Massey, which had been scheduled to receive 24-hour EMS service every day, had to be postponed for now because of cost considerations.” This service would have cost an additional \$96,000 in the DSB 2013 budget and would have meant the overall budget would have seen an increase of over three percent.