

# 2017 DSB budget passed with slight increase to municipalities

By Alicia McCutcheon – The Manitoulin Expositor

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ESPANOLA—At its October meeting, the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) passed its 2017 budget, resulting in a 0.40 percent increase to the municipal share.

For Ontario Works, there was a reduction to the municipalities by \$81,593, a municipal increase to children's services by \$27,930, an increase to social housing by \$25,019 and an increase to paramedic services by \$70,670. At \$15,569,654, the paramedic services budget makes up over half of the DSB's total budget.

Northeast Town Mayor Al MacNevin, a member of the DSB board of directors, noted that the non-urgent patient transfers have always been an issue for the DSB; the costs add more to the DSB budget, but it also means a reduction in response times. "It's a cost, but also a benefit," the mayor said.

"My municipality will look at this budget and say it's not that bad," Mayor MacNevin added.

The total budget for 2017 is \$33,262,397, an increase of 4.36 percent with a total increase across all municipalities of \$42,027 or 0.40 percent.