



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DES SERVICES
SOCIAUX DU DISTRICT DE MANITOULIN-SUDBURY

210 Mead Boulevard, Espanola, ON P5E 1R9
Telephone: (705) 862-7850
Facsimile: (705) 862-7805
<http://www.msdsb.net>

210, boulevard Mead, Espanola ON P5E 1R9
Téléphone: (705) 862-7850
Télécopieur: (705) 862-7805
<http://www.msdsb.net>

MINUTES
of the
BOARD MEETING
held in the DSSAB Espanola Office Boardroom
February 22, 2002

Present: Jack Barr, Pat Best, Gary Brown, Raymond Chénier, Ken Ferguson, Earle Freeborn, Les Gamble, Frank Gillis, Vincent Lacroix, Lucie Lemieux, Willy Léveillé, Marcel Rancourt, Dale Van Every, Janet Whissell

Staff: Gary Champagne, CAO,
Karen Gerrard, E.A. (Recording Secretary)
Connie Morphet, Finance and Administration Manager
Fern Dominelli, Ontario Works Program Manager
Peter Bradley, Housing Services Manager
Karen Dominick-Smyth, Community Services Manager

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Ray Chénier, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 02-020

Moved by: Vince Lacroix

Seconded by: Earle Freeborn

That this regular meeting be open for business and that the agenda be approved subject to the following amendments:

In Camera is a Closed Session meeting

Item 5.7 Human Resources (Contract Extension) is removed.

Carried

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Frank Gillis disclosed a conflict of interest with respect to the Non-Profit Housing Providers' item.

4.0 CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 02-021

Moved by: Frank Gillis

Seconded by: Willy Léveillé

THAT the Board adjourn to a closed session to discuss Human Resources and Property items.

Carried

Resolution No. 02-022

Closed Session Resolution as per the Municipal Act Section 55 (5)

OPEN SESSION

Resolution No. 02-023

Moved by: Vince Lacroix

Seconded by: Les Gamble

THAT the Board resume an open session of this regular meeting.

Carried

5.0 DECISION ITEMS

5.1 Approval of Minutes

Resolution No. 02-024

Moved by: Ken Ferguson

Seconded by: Janet Whissell

THAT the minutes of the January 24 2002 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

5.2 Non Profit Housing Providers

Resolution No. 02-025

Conflict of Interest Declaration - Frank Gillis disclosed a conflict of interest with respect to the Non-Profit Housing providers' item.

Moved by: Pat Best

Seconded by: Lucie Lemieux

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB's approved Joint Local Transfer Plan (JLTP) speaks to the DSSAB's in-house assumption of the RGI eligibility determination functions presently in the hands of the area's Non-Profit Housing providers effective February 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS the DSSAB has deemed it necessary to enter into Agreements with its Non Profit providers to see them retain such functions for an unspecified period beyond the projected February 1, 2002 transition

date; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT as directed by the Regional Office of the MMAH that a Board Resolution notifying the MMAH of this adjustment to the timelines stipulated in the JLTP approved by the Minister is required; the herein Resolution is hereby approved to serve as such notice.

Carried

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5.3 Capital Funding for Public Housing

Resolution No. 02-026

Moved by: Gary Brown

Seconded by: Janet Whissell

WHEREAS the Public Housing portfolio in Ontario previously received cost shared capital funding allocations from the Province and this funding recognized the Comprehensive Asset Management Program (CAMP) of its Northern portfolio with respect to both building conditions and the Northern setting;

AND WHEREAS the Province advised District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) of their LHC Federal funding allocation in January of 2001 and program funding in April of 2001;

AND WHEREAS the Province in December of 2001 decided to redistribute the above noted Federal capital funding for Social Housing purposes;

AND WHEREAS communities in Northern Ontario are adversely affected due to this reduction of funding as well as a retroactive claw back of capital funds;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of this redistribution of capital funding will result in the loss of \$16m to Northern Ontario communities over the 5 year life of the new funding model;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board does hereby strongly petition the Provincial Government to reassess the impact of the revised Provincial capital funding model on Northern DSSABs and further that any claw back of funds either retroactive or current be suspended pending a review of this decision;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Chris Hodgson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Senator Marie Poulin, Chair of the Federal Liberal Party's Northern Caucus, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities; the Mayors Action Group; the Northern Ontario Municipal Association; the five Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership candidates as well as all local MPs and MPPs in ridings that cross the DSSAB's jurisdiction;

AND FURTHER that our CAO prepare and forward an accompanying letter to Minister Hodgson that speaks to the aggravated severity of the capital funding redistribution that is particular to this DSSAB given its fusion of the LHA housing stock of three distinct LHAs.

Carried

5.4 Policy Statements

Inclement Weather Policy

Resolution No. 02-027

Moved by: Les Gamble

Seconded by: Jack Barr

THAT the following policy statement be given a first and second reading:

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is responsible to provide its mandated public services to the citizens and consumers within its catchment area; and

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WHEREAS the DSSAB is of the opinion that its operations should remain accessible and available to all citizens and consumers at predictable times and predictable locations, on all days and at all times that the DSSAB has identified as regular work days, work times at the work locations where its services will be accessible and available; and

WHEREAS the DSSAB is of the opinion that it is consistent with good customer service practice that its citizens and consumers be able to rely on the availability and accessibility of the DSSAB's services on all days and at all times that the DSSAB has identified as regular work days, work times at the work locations where its services will be accessible and available;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB's established work locations will remain open on all regular work days and at all regular work times established by the DSSAB; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on those days at those times when a staff member is of the opinion that he or she is unable to be at work due to inclement weather, it shall be incumbent upon that staff person to notify his or her immediate supervisor and to be expected to use vacation time or overtime credits to offset the time not worked, or, exercise the option of making up the time not worked at a later time to be agreed to by their immediate supervisor.

Carried

Group Health Benefits

Resolution No. 02-028

Moved by: Earle Freeborn

Seconded by: Janet Whissell

BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board give a first and second reading to the following policy statement:

All employees of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board will be provided with the same group health benefits (i.e. - Life Insurance, Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability, and Extended Health benefits (vision, dental, pharmaceutical, hospitalization))

Carried

Non-Union Employees Specific Policies

Resolution No. 02-029

Moved by: Marcel Rancourt

Seconded by: Vincent Lacroix

Whereas Human Resources policies are being developed for the Non-Union employees of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board;

Be it resolved that the following statements as attached be given a first and second reading:

Non-Union Complaints Resolution Policy

Personal Leaves of Absence

Educational Leave of Absence (Long Term and Short Term)

Carried

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Board Member Honoraria for Special Events

Resolution No. 02-030

Moved by: Pat Best

Seconded by: Janet Whissell

THAT the Policy Committee review a policy regarding Board Member Honoraria for Special Events.

Carried

6 DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Items Arising From The Board Minutes

6.1.1 Board Committee Membership

Resolution No. 02-031

Moved by: Lucie Lemieux

Seconded by: Gary Brown

THAT Resolution 02-004 be amended to reflect the addition of Frank Gillis to the Finance Committee and Earle Freeborn to the Child Care Committee.

Carried

6.2 Committee Reports

6.2.1 Human Resources/Policy Committee Report

Resolution No. 02-032

Moved by: Frank Gillis

Seconded by: Jack Barr

THAT the Board accepts the minutes of the Human Resources/Policy Committee meeting of February 08 2002, as attached.

Carried

6.2.2 Child Care Committee Report

Resolution No. 02-033

Pat Best spoke to the items addressed in the Child Care Committee minutes.

Moved by: Frank Gillis

Seconded by: Les Gamble

THAT the Board accepts the minutes of the Child Care Committee meeting held on February 11 2002, as attached.

Carried

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Child Care Projects in Distress (PID) Recommendations

Resolution No. 02-034

Moved by: Willy Léveillé

Seconded by: Marcel Rancourt

THAT the DSSAB accept the Child Care Committee recommendation that it accept the Projects in Distress reports prepared by Northern Business Consulting Services;

AND THAT the Board is not prepared to assume any of the service provider debts to Ontario;

AND THAT the Board strongly encourages the Service Providers to act on the Projects in Distress report recommendations that will see them develop financial viability plans;

AND THAT the DSSAB indicate to the Service Providers that it is prepared to assist them in lobbying the Ministry to forgive the debts that they owe to the province for those time periods that pre-date the Province's Child Care Service Management divestment to the DSSAB.

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Carried

Divested Program Front Concerns

Resolution No. 02-035

Moved by: Marcel Rancourt

Seconded by: Jack Barr

THAT the DSSAB Board accept the Child Care Committee recommendation that the DSSAB prepare a

report outlining the key concerns that are confronting the DSSAB on each of its divested program fronts (ie: Child Care, Ontario Works, EMS, Housing) in order to see these brought forward at the upcoming AMO conference.

Carried

6.2.3 Year 2002 Budget

Frank Gillis indicated that the Budget Committee had not yet chosen its Chair.

He noted that the Committee had thus far had the opportunity to examine the draft budget figures applicable to each of the DSSAB's four divested business portfolios and that the Committee members at the meeting were overall satisfied with the explanations provided relative to the figures provided and the overall Year 2002 budget.

Mr. Brown echoed Mr. Gillis' comments adding that the February 18/02 Introductory Summary that the CAO had circulated to Committee members in preparation of yesterday's Committee deliberations was a very good explanation of the cost variances applicable to each of the DSSAB's business portfolios.

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Resolution No. 02-036

Moved by: Earle Freeborn

Seconded by: Janet Whissell

THAT the approval of the proposed Year 2002's budget be deferred until the March 28 2002 Board meeting, thereby enabling the Finance Manager to collate the central administration costs assigned to each program stream into one Central Administration budget for the Budget Committee's deliberations at its next scheduled meeting.

Carried

The Chair summarised the discussions by what he understood as the overall agreement of members that:

- i. a copy of the February 18/02 Summary as well as a copy of the February 21/02 draft Budget Summary document reviewed by the Budget Committee would be forwarded to all Board members for their review; and that
- ii. members would raise any questions or concerns they may have with one of the Budget Committee members that they might address these at the Committee's next meeting prior to the March 28/02 Board meeting.

7.0 CAO Report

7.1 January, 2002 Financial Report

Resolution No. 02-037

Moved by: Frank Gillis

Seconded by: Willy Léveillé

THAT the Board accepts the Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2002 as attached.

Carried

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7.2 OMERS

Resolution No. 02-038

Moved by: Earle Freeborn

Seconded by: Pat Best

BEING A RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN OMERS AS A RESULT OF AMALGAMATION IN RESPECT OF EMPLOYEES OF THE MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT HOUSING CORPORATION

1. The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board (Employer) hereby confirms the participation of the employees of Group 342588 and elects to include the employees of Group Number 342549 of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Housing Corporation to participate in OMERS as of the first day of January, 2002 (the effective date) and authorizes the Chair or CAO to submit forthwith a certified copy of this by-law to the President of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement Board (the President).

2. Every employee of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board who on December 31, 2001 was employed by the:

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Housing Corporation
And a member of OMERS Group 342549

and who was or was entitled to become a member of OMERS on January 01, 2002 shall continue such membership or membership entitlement from January 01, 2002 while employed by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board.

3. Every person who becomes an employee of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board on or after the effective date, if such person is employed on a continuous full-time basis, shall, as a condition of employment, become a member of OMERS, or if such person is already a member, resume contributions to OMERS on the date so employed.

4. Every person who becomes an employee of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board on or after the effective date, if such person is employed on an other-than-continuous full-time basis, excluding the following class: Security Tenants shall, as a condition of employment, become a member of OMERS.

5. The Finance and Administrative Services Manager of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board is hereby authorized to deduct from the earnings of each employee who is a member of OMERS, the contributions required to be made by the member, and to remit such contributions together with the amounts required under the OMERS Act to be paid by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board to the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement Fund.

6. The Finance and Administrative Services Manager (the Agent) is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents and to do all such things as are necessary to carry out the intent of this by-law, in accordance with section 6 of the OMERS Regulation.

This resolution hereby repeals Bylaw 04 as enacted on December 19, 2001 and rescinds Resolution 10 of January 27, 2000.

Carried

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7.3 Housing Negotiating Committee Membership

Resolution No. 02-039

Moved by: Frank Gillis

Seconded by: Willy Léveillé

THAT the Housing Negotiating Committee be amended by removing Robert Sutherland and adding Peter Bradley.

Carried

7.4 Northern DSSAB Voice

G. Champagne noted that at the DSSAB CAOs meeting in the Sault, there was agreement on the need for

regular Northern Ontario wide meetings of CAOs to ensure that we have a common Northern voice on issues of common concern. It was agreed to work towards a process that would see DSSAB Program Stream Managers (i.e. - OW, Housing, Child Care and EMS) hold monthly conference calls and meet on an as needed quarterly basis with Northern CAOs to discuss common rolled up common concerns that require provincial attention. CAOs will in turn hold monthly teleconferences and meet quarterly to address common program stream issues that require NOSDA attention. The intent is to see these Northern wide items brought to the NOSDA table. The intent is to see the next NOSDA meeting of DSSAB CAOs and Chairs held in Toronto the day prior to the Toronto Fall OMSSA Session.

7.5 Northern Intake Screening Unit (NISU) Cost Increases

The matter of increasing NISU costs for 2002 was also discussed at the Northern CAOs meeting. The costs will need to rise if the Ministry insists on its established response time standards. The decision on these standards and the approval or non-approval of the NISU budget remains entirely with MCSS though its costs are entirely borne by our Northern CMSMs.

7.6 OW/Employment Monthly Report

Fern Dominelli spoke to the monthly report presented for the month of December 2001.

He noted that thanks to the hard work of Iain Stephen we were now resuming our ability to produce the monthly OW stats reports by municipality that members routinely received prior to November 2001; stats report that we are no longer able to obtain from Queen's Park with the introduction of the new SDMT.

It was pointed out that we can no longer provide ODSP stats by municipality since Ontario no longer generates the reports in that fashion.

7.7 Land Ambulance (EMS) Grant Funding Announcement

The CAO received an Email indication that the Ministry of Health (MOHLTC) had recently informed all CMSMs that all future year provincial EMS funding would be done on a "grant funding basis". While this at first blush appears favourable to some, others see it as a significant, "two edged change" to the 50/50 cost sharing terms put in place at the time of divestment only 1 year ago. It is too early to determine the impact of this change on our DSSAB

7.8 Discretionary Benefits (OW/NCB)

G. Champagne and F. Dominelli alerted the Board to concerns emanating from the Province's decision to no longer have OHIP cover the cost of certain health services. This loss of coverage is particularly difficult on some of our OW recipients and the working poor in our communities.

Specifically cited were:

- the elimination of public funding for audiologist tests as they pertain to children (that is ironically coming at the same time that new dollars are being spent on early child development through the introduction of Early Years Centres); and

- the elimination of public funding for certain heart medication (which can be reinstated, on a case by case basis, once it has been independently adjudicated, by specific MOH officials that such are required to the life threatening nature of their removal).

It was pointed out that while the DSSAB has certain discretion to pay in some instances, it is usually with 100% municipal money. The matter may require Board Policy consideration.

7.9 Strategic Planning Workshop Report

The Consultant's final report is as good as complete and will be circulated to Board members prior to any external distribution.

Adjournment

Resolution No. 02-040

Moved by: Ken Ferguson

Seconded by: Vince Lacroix

THAT we do now adjourn at 11:50 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on March 28, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)