



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

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

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**MINUTES**  
of the  
**MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING**  
held at the Meldrum Bay Community Hall  
in Meldrum Bay, Ontario  
**August 5, 2004**

Present: Pat Best, Fernand Bidal, Ray Chénier, Earle Freeborn, Leslie Gamble, Frank Gillis, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux, Bud Rohn, Richard Stephens, Maureen Van Alstine, Dale Van Every

Staff: Gary Champagne, CAO  
Suzanne Bouchard, E.A. (Recording Secretary)  
Connie Morphet, Director of Finance  
Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services  
Dan Hammond, Director of EMS  
Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor  
Dexter Adams, Human Resources Manager

Regrets: Collin Bourgeois  
Laurier Low

Media: Tom Sasvari

## 1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Frank Gillis, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Chair thanked Dale Van Every and the Dawson Citizens Association for the work done in hosting this DSSAB meeting in their community. Frank added that it was good for the Board to continue its practice of meeting at least once per year in a different community within the DSSAB's jurisdiction.

### 1.1 Meldrum Bay Local Services Board (LSB) –

Noting that Meldrum Bay is situated in Unorganised or TWOMO territory at the furthest western point of the Manitoulin District that can be accessed by land, the Chair invited Dale Van Every to briefly outline some of the concerns that Dawson Township residents were confronted with given the particularity of their LSB designation.

Dale explained that Meldrum Bay had historically communicated with government officials via an organization known as the Dawson Citizens Association. Some three years ago the Dawson (Township) Citizens Association found that it had little, if any success in getting the government's assistance in addressing their concerns. Noting that the nearby community of Silver Water had had Local Services Board (LSB) status for some twenty years and that it seemed to help that community in its efforts to get the government's aid when it came to some of their concerns, the Dawson Citizens group elected to establish a Local Services Board (LSB) of its own. While the provincial (Harris) government of the day agreed to the LSB designation it clearly indicated to Dawson Township residents that this designation would not entitle the Meldrum Bay LSB to any of the operating grants that already established LSBs habitually

received from the province. The designation, if nothing more, was a good means of getting the attention of relevant government ministries, agencies, boards and commissions and of rendering their community eligible to receive those capital grant funding initiatives that are from time to time made available to LSBs (e.g. – FedNor and Northern Ontario Heritage Foundation Capital Project grants).

Though the present provincial (Liberal) government has been asked to reconsider the previous government's LSB operating grants decision, its response is the same as that of the previous government.

There as such seems to be little hope for the Meldrum Bay LSB to secure any of the operating grants that other long time established LSBs can count on to assist them with concerns that are on the horizon (i.e. – operating costs associated with soon to be needed new landfill site).

All of the funds required for the operation of those local services available must therefore be locally generated through local fund-raising.

Dale wished to have the Board members aware of this situation and noted he was open to suggestions re how to go about applying successfully for operating grant monies needed for these and other community specific service requirements.

## 2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**Resolution No. 04-70** Moved by: Mike Lehoux Seconded by: Fern Bidal  
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried**

## 3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Conflict of Interest.

## 4.0 MINUTES

### 4.1 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

**Resolution No. 04-71** Moved by: Maureen Van Alstine Seconded by: Pat Best  
THAT the Minutes of the June 24, 2004 Board Meeting be approved. **Carried**

## 5.0 BUSINESS ITEMS

### 5.1 Ratification of CUPE Collective Agreement

Earle Freeborn, Human Resources Committee Chair, reported that the Committee had met to go through the Memo of Settlement between the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB and CUPE Local 4705. Mr. Freeborn congratulated the Negotiating Committee on the quality of the tentative settlement, having reached it in such a short period of time and especially for having negotiated a 5-year contract.

Mr. Freeborn reported that it was the unanimous decision of the HR Committee to recommend that the Board ratify the Memo of Settlement previously circulated to all Board members for their perusal and comment.

**Resolution No. 04-72** Moved by: Earle Freeborn Seconded by: Fern Bidal  
WHEREAS the Collective Agreement between the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB and CUPE Local 4705 expired on December 31, 2003; and  
WHEREAS the Board, through resolution 03-121, authorized the CAO, HR Manager, and other designated managers to negotiate the renewal of the Collective Agreement including the signing of the Memo of Settlement on behalf of the Board; and  
WHEREAS the parties have signed a Memo of Settlement on July 13, 2004; and  
WHEREAS the parties are unanimously recommending ratification of this Memorandum of Settlement to their respective principals; and

WHEREAS the Negotiation Advisory Committee of the Board has reviewed and has recommended for ratification the terms of the Memorandum of Settlement;  
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Board ratifies the Memorandum of Settlement between Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB and CUPE Local 4705 dated July 13, 2004 and authorizes, subject to the ratification by the employees represented by CUPE, the signing of a new Collective Agreement that expires on December 31, 2008. **Carried**

**5.2 OPSEU Collective Agreement Update** - Earle Freeborn reported on the progress of OPSEU Collective Agreement (for EMS paramedics) negotiations. He sought and received the Board's ongoing confirmation that it was their desire that the current Human Resources Committee continue to assist and advise the DSSAB's Negotiating Committee throughout the process.

On the matter of the "Essential Services Agreement" that is a necessary first step in the OPSEU C.A. negotiations process, the Board confirmed its agreement with the HR Committee that its Negotiating Committee proceed with negotiating an Essential Services Agreement that reflects the continuance of some level of reduced service in the event of a strike/lock-out. Ray Chénier asked that a copy of this Agreement be circulated to Board members before it is implemented. Any concerns that Board members might have re: the circulated Essential Services Agreement should be brought to the CAO or the HR Committee Chair, Mr. Earle Freeborn.

### **5.3 EMS Land Based Station—Gogama**

Gary Champagne spoke to the reports circulated to the Board re: the two major concerns related to the purchase of the Gogama building under consideration.

The findings of the NORCAT Health and Safety Resources Centre report re: the asbestos concern was discussed as were the status of the in-ground oil tank and the DSSAB's undertakings to have the province sell the building to the DSSAB for the nominal sum of \$1.00. The Board will be kept informed of any further progress with respect to this matter.

Asked to comment on the status of possible provincial sharing of the costs involved in the purchase and retrofitting of a new facility, Gary reminded the Board that while the MOHLTC has indicated that they will cost-share, on a 50:50 basis, any acquisition of new EMS facilities if provided with a satisfactory business plan, the Ministry has not provided any of the DSSAB's peers with any such capital funding in the last three years. He noted that the DSSAB will nonetheless "go through the motions" and make application for the shared Ministry funding of the new facilities required.

### **5.4 Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers Training & Resource Centre**

Les Gamble explained that his Township has made an application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund for the creation of a Multi Purpose Training and Resource Centre in the town of Massey and requested a letter of support from the DSSAB.

**Resolution No. 04-73 Moved by:** Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Ray Chénier  
THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB send a letter of support to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund re the application made by the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers for funding for the creation of a Multi Purpose Training and Resource Centre in Massey.

**Carried**

## 6.0 REPORTS

### 6.1 CAO Report

#### 6.1.1 Operational Management Reports

##### 6.1.1.1 [Children's Services Report](#)

Further to the circulated Children's Services Report, Gary Champagne added that a key concern on the horizon at this time is that the new provincial government has yet to let the penny drop re: this DSSAB's strongly advocated and AMO supported contention that the service management of the Early Years Centre Programs, like the child care portfolio, should rest with CMSMs and DSSABs to manage as part of the "child care service system management" role divested to us.

Gary pointed out that we are also keeping a close eye on what the new federal government's recent announcement re: the implementation of its National Childcare Policy, with a \$5 billion budget, will mean for rural and remote areas such as ours let alone how it will address some of the operational and financial difficulties faced by existing child care centres.

This along with the new dollars the province will be providing for new early learning and child care initiatives such as the "Best Start" program clearly indicates that there will be a lot of significant changes and new dollars put into the "children's/child care arena that is under the service system management of the municipal (DSSAB) sector".

The child care system will no doubt look very different from what it now is in three to four years time.

As welcome as the added investment in the "under eight years of age category" is, as is the confirmation of the DSSAB's service system management role, our concern is, as usual, the municipal financial contribution that is required to see the new dollars come to our area. The province's confirmation that that the new municipal share required is CRF eligible would obviously go a long way to allowing us to embrace these new initiatives in our catchment area.

##### 6.1.1.2 [EMS Report](#)

There were no questions regarding the circulated Emergency Medical Services Report.

##### 6.1.1.3 [Social Housing Report](#)

There were no questions regarding the circulated Social Housing Report.

Mike Lehoux asked whether the DSSAB directed any money towards Homelessness issues. The CAO reported that the DSSAB has had an annualised Homelessness fund of approximately \$60,000 that it allocates to specific initiatives since the time of the DSSAB's inception.

Fern Dominelli expanded on the fact that, with the new Liberal government's "Energy fund" allocation of \$7930 (via MCSS) and the "Rent Bank" allocation of \$31,177 (via MMAH) we now have approximately \$100,000 for this fiscal year to dedicate to a variety of "homelessness initiatives". Fern indicated that the types of initiatives funded and the criteria for accessing said funding are clearly identified in the Board approved [Healthy Communities Fund](#).

The brief discussion that was had re: an apparent allegation of DSSAB office indications that we did not assist with homelessness matters ended with Ray Chénier reminding Board members and employees who receive service complaints from the public that they should encourage the complainants to put their questions or complaints in writing thereby providing the DSSAB's Administration the opportunity to investigate the specifics of the allegation and address legitimate complaints via the proper complaint management protocols.

Gary also spoke to the progress being made via the imminent sale of the housing units in

Sultan and Foleyet. Questioned as to where the new “rent supplement” allocations would be made when replacing the Sultan and Foleyet units, Gary replied that the Board’s stated intent some two years ago was to see first priority accorded to requests emanating from the Sudbury North area, albeit understanding that the rent supplement assistance was to be directed to those in most need regardless of the community they lived in. Pat Best indicated that there should be a policy for the allocation of the rent supplement dollars involved.

#### 6.1.1.4 [Ontario Works](#)

Ray Chénier asked for - and Fern Dominelli provided - an explanation of the Funding Approval charts on page 1 of the OW Report. Fern basically indicated that the Ministry (MCSS), in 2004, is allocating its Employment funding on the basis of the actual spending in 2003. Fern indicated his belief that the reduced funding would nonetheless prove to be sufficient in 2004.

Both he and Gary repeated that the DSSAB’s key OW funding concern continues to rest in the new provincial government’s apparent intent to pursue the previous government’s indicated intent to have all CMSMs and DSSABs operate within arbitrary Cost per Case funding parameters that are inappropriate to geographically large catchment areas whose relatively small client base is geographically dispersed across a number of sparsely populated primarily rural and remote towns and villages.

#### 6.1.2. Strategic Issues Report

- **Say for Pay** - Gary reported that the DSSAB’s strategic issues, as previously highlighted\*, continue to revolve around what the previous (Conservative) government referred to as the “Say for Pay” that member municipalities, by way of their DSSAB, can expect to exercise, relative to the governance and service management of the public services that are regionally accessible to their communities.

Put another way, the issues revolve around:

- The “Say” the DSSAB (and by extension its member municipalities) can command for the portion of the costs they “Pay” via their Property Tax base;
- The “Pay” the DSSAB’s member municipalities can continue to afford for the “Say” they have relative to the nature and regional availability of the community health and social services accessible to their residents as a vital part of the municipal services infrastructure needed to ensure the health and vitality of their communities;
- The local and regional services availability this DSSAB and others will be able to continue to provide without a recognition of a “Special Circumstances funding adjustment” needed to maintain the administrative and program support infrastructures that they require to provide the responsive and accessible range of services now in place on the strength of a simple “Cost per Service Unit/Case/Call” basis.

#### - **InterMinisterial-DSSAB Working Group Update –**

While the above referenced issues are well identified and expanded upon in the previously circulated “ [DSSABs at a Cross-Roads](#)” paper that was circulated at the InterMinisterial-DSSAB Working Group’s first meeting, and while it is recognised that DSSABs have proven themselves as viable regional service management entities that provide their member municipalities a certain economy of scale as well as a regional vehicle through which they have a local voice in the regional governance and service management of the municipally cost-shared community health and social services that are regionally accessible to the citizens and communities in their catchment area as part

of their municipal services infrastructures, a number of decisions need to be taken re: the future directions of the North's DSSABs: not the least of which are an adjustment to the federal/provincial-municipal cost-sharing arrangements that impact the DSSAB member municipalities' capacity to continue to contribute that portion of their property tax assessments that the present cost-sharing arrangement requires of them to sustain the infrastructures that effectively and efficiently respond to the service needs of their communities.

Noting that the government representatives at the InterMinisterial table asked the DSSAB members to come to the next meeting with an indication of what we saw as the short term, mid-term and long term accomplishments might be, Gary pointed out to the Board that he proposed to suggest that our short-term objective should be to see the municipal or DSSAB share of the DSSAB's 2005 operating budget maintained at the same, after-CRF, percentage that it was in 2003.

Gary pointed out that while he liked to believe certain progress would be made at the InterMinisterial table, he continued to be of the opinion that in the final analysis the type of decisions sought (e.g. – Administrative Infrastructure funding adjustments, future change as to lead Ministry to DSSABs, expansion of DSSAB role to include other services and programs, evolution to Area Service Boards or District Governments, etc.) the policy nature of the options possible was such that the decisions would ultimately rest in the political arena.

The CAO went on to point out that the most pressing issue on the "program finance" front was that of *the ever decreasing portion of the Land Ambulance services budget that is being funded by the province*; an issue that he indicated would prove to be financially cumbersome effective in the 2005 budget year if the province continues to avoid the issue.

\* Other previously highlighted reports that are hyperlinked as part of these minutes are:

- [DSSAB's Sustained Viability \(September 2002 CAO's Report\)](#)
- [DSSAB's Central Admin. Infrastructure Costs \(February 2003 CAO's Report\)](#)
- [DSSAB Financial Overview \(April 2004 CAO's Report\)](#)

**Resolution No. 04-74 Moved by:** Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn  
 THAT the CAO's Operational Management and Strategic Issues Reports be accepted.

**Carried**

## 7.0 OTHER BUSINESS

### 7.1. Tour of Lafarge Quarry

**Resolution No. 04-75 Moved by:** Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn  
 THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB express its thanks to Don Van Every for his guided tour of the Lafarge limestone quarry and that he be thanked for his time and effort with a cheque in the amount of \$100.00; and  
 THAT the DSSAB express its written appreciation to Lafarge Canada for allowing the DSSAB access to the limestone quarry property and operations. **Carried**

Nota Bene – Dale Van Every refrained from voting on the motion.

## 8.0 NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The Chair, on behalf of all Board members, thanked Dale Van Every for the hospitality He added that all Board members would agree that Meldrum Bay is a pleasure to visit. Dale

Van Every thanked the Board members for coming and hoped that they would return again soon, just for a visit.

**Resolution No. 04-76 Moved by:** Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every  
THAT we do now adjourn at 11:20 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on  
September 23, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Espanola DSSAB Board Room. **Carried**

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Chair

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Chief Administrative Officer  
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)