



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 Espanola DSSAB Board Room  
**February 26, 2004**

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

Regrets: Collin Bourgeois

Leave of Absence: Raymond Chénier

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

Press: Cindy Laundry

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Frank Gillis, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Resolution No. 04-11 Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Laurier Low  
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 CLOSED SESSION –**

**Resolution No. 04-12 Moved by:** Fernand Bidal **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every  
THAT the Board move into closed session to discuss Human Resources and Property  
matters at 10:15 a.m. **Carried**

**Resolution No. 04-13 Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine  
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 11:30 a.m. **Carried**

**5.0 MINUTES****5.1. Adoption of Minutes of January 22, 2004**

**Resolution No. 04-14 Moved by:** Laurier Low **Seconded by:** Mike Lehoux  
THAT the minutes of the January 22, 2004 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

**5.2. Business Arising from Minutes**

**Power Dams** - Laurier Low enquired as to the status of including municipal Power Dam revenues in the DSSAB municipal apportionment formula. The CAO replied that the matter was deferred to this Board by last year's outgoing Board of Directors and that any changes the Board might like to see to the apportionment formula would have to be done by way of a double majority vote re: same.

**6.0. BUSINESS ITEMS****6.1. Business Arising from In-Camera Session**

**Resolution No. 04-15 Moved by:** Pat Best **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn  
THAT the DSSAB instruct its CAO to forward a letter with its attached "French River Issues" document to the members of Council and to the Clerk of the Municipality of French River with a request that Council do what it can to see the Municipality address those EMS issues. **Carried**

**6.2. C.A. MacMillan Non-Profit Housing Corporation**

A resolution from the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers requesting that the DSSAB explore the possibility of having the ownership of the C.A. MacMillan facility (a municipally-owned Non-Profit Housing facility) transferred to the DSSAB was circulated to Board members. The CAO and Housing Manager offered the following information in reply to questions from Board members:

- the facility is in very good shape, has been well maintained and is fully occupied at this time;
- the DSSAB is well aware of the property management workload tied to this particular facility since the DSSAB's Housing Department has been "contractually managing" the facility for the present operator since day one ( a contractual property management arrangement that previously existed with the Local Housing Authority/Corporation (LHA/LHC) that was simply transferred to the DSSAB when the area's LHC obligations became the DSSAB's;
- the DSSAB's financial responsibilities regarding this facility would be no more and no less than they presently are by accepting to see the facility transfer proceed given that the DSSAB, per the terms of its provincially divested Service Manager responsibilities under the Social Housing Reform Act (SHRA), is already ultimately responsible for any of the financial shortcomings that this "third party" social housing provider could potentially face and not be able to internally manage within its own means.

**Resolution No. 04-16 Moved by:** Leslie Gamble **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal  
WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the C.A. MacMillan Non-Profit Housing Corporation has requested that divestment of the C.A. MacMillan building and assets to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB be explored; and

WHEREAS the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers has by way of their Motion 02-04 supported the request of the C.A. MacMillan Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB would accept responsibility for the ownership of the building if divestment could be accomplished in a similar manner as occurred with its public housing stock,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB's administration be directed to explore the possibility of divestment of the aforementioned building and its assets and that administration report back to the Board of Directors after consulting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. **Carried**

## 7.0 REPORTS

### 7.1 BOARD COMMITTEES

#### 7.1.1. Budget Committee

Budget Committee Chair, Fern Bidal, reported that the Committee's In Camera budget deliberations were going well and that the Committee was very close to finalizing the budget it wished to recommend to the Board.

Mr. Bidal reported that the Committee had thus far met on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the 20<sup>th</sup> and again just prior to this Board meeting. It was pointed out that the circulated 2004 DSSAB Budget Status Report was a good update on the status of the key considerations factored into the budget's preparation and development.

Mr. Bidal pointed out that while the Committee had met just prior to today's Board meeting, it had spent most of its hour meeting addressing the first of two outstanding items, run out of the time needed to sufficiently address the last outstanding item and would have to reconvene as a Committee to address the outstanding item. He indicated that it was his hope to have the Committee reconvene before the close of today's Board meeting. (The Budget Committee did later reconvene at 11: 45 a.m. It ended at 12: 35 p.m. with the understanding that it would again reconvene on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to finalize its Budget Committee recommendations to the Board.)

### 7.2. CAO REPORT

#### 7.2.1. Operational Management Reports

There were no questions regarding the circulated Child Care, Social Housing, EMS and Ontario Works Management Reports.

#### EMS Funding Concerns Resolution

The CAO expanded upon the information provided to Board members in recently forwarded e-correspondence re: the nature of the EMS funding concerns being flagged across the province and updated members as to the unknown status of the MOHLTC's Emergency Medical Services Branch's decisions, if any, regarding its alluded to reference to a reduction to our DSSAB's First Nations (offset) Allocation.

#### **Resolution No. 04-17 Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's (MOHLTC) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Branch officials have only recently formally informed the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB of said Ministry's unilateral decision to decrease the municipal portion of the Year 2004 operating budget that is attributed to and payable by the DSSAB's Townships Without Official Municipal Organization (TWOMO) in the amount of \$130,000; and

WHEREAS this unilateral MOHLTC decision effectively sees the responsibility for the payment of this \$130,000 amount transferred to and payable by the DSSAB's organized member municipalities; and

WHEREAS these same MOHLTC EMS Branch officials have indicated that the Ministry is also examining the possibility of unilaterally decreasing that portion of the DSSAB's EMS budget that is commonly known as our First Nations Allocation; and

WHEREAS any decrease to the DSSAB's EMS First Nations Allocation will also see the responsibility for the payment of said lost EMS funding revenue effectively transferred to and payable by the DSSAB's member municipalities; and

WHEREAS these same Ministry officials have failed to respond to our DSSAB's requests for the information or data that would be used to validate any decrease to the First Nations Allocation which the DSSAB has always received to offset the cost of having its Land Ambulances available to respond to the Land Ambulance needs of the First Nations communities in its catchment area; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB still awaits the Ministry of Health's resolution of the Cross-Border billing funding gridlock that exists across Ontario and that sees our DSSAB owed ever-increasing unpaid cross-border billing revenues as a result of the MOHLTC's legislated regulations pertinent to cross-border billings; and

WHEREAS, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB, has endorsed a Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) resolution that calls upon the MOHLTC to address the "flaws" that exist in its EMS funding template or simply take back the province's divested responsibility for the delivery of the province's land ambulance services; and

WHEREAS the new provincial Liberal government is on record as stating that it wishes to work in partnership with municipalities regarding the financial pressures they are experiencing; and

WHEREAS the ever increasing municipal cost of meeting the province's Land Ambulance services established response times and inter-facility transfer expectations that are a source of significant and ever-increasing financial pressure upon all of the province's municipalities;

BE IT HEREIN RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB petition the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health, to see the province's long standing EMS funding problems resolved by having the province assume the 100% responsibility for the cost of its municipally delivered land ambulance services; and

BE IT HEREIN FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this DSSAB's Resolution also be forwarded to all other DSSABs, UTMs, Counties and Regional Governments who share this DSSAB's provincially divested Land Ambulance Designated Delivery Agent responsibilities as well as to this DSSAB's member municipalities.

**Carried**

### **7.2.2. Strategic Issues Report**

**EMS funding issue** - The CAO reported that the EMS funding issue is probably the single most significant issue affecting our DSSAB at this time. He indicated that the Ministry of Health's apparent attempts to tie our First Nations (offset) Allocation funding to

the actual EMS call volume attributed to those communities, is a significantly flawed approach by which to determine the provincial EMS funding we are attributed to offset the cost of the EMS services coverage availability required to ensure we have the capacity to respond to the EMS needs of those First Nations communities within legislated 90<sup>th</sup> percentile response time requirements. He noted that the formula by which the First Nations (offset) Allocation is determined has to be a comprehensive one that adequately addresses all of those components that need be addressed.

*An arbitrarily set provincial cost per call allocation that is call volume driven only will not guarantee that the provincial dollars we are allocated will cover the involved DSSAB costs. It risks leaving our municipalities “on the hook” for the cost shortfall that is associated to the difference between the cost of having the service respond to and the cost of having the service available to respond to calls within “legislated response time standards”.*

There are service capacity and service availability “cost driver” considerations that should not simply be ignored. They are particularly significant “cost drivers” in geographically vast yet demographically sparse territories populated by a high number of demographically and geographically dispersed and remote communities such as those covered by most of the Northern Ontario’s DSSABs.

These factors are the same factors that have led us, and NOSDA, to challenge the appropriateness of an Ontario Works “Cost per Case” funding formula.

These factors are the same factors that have led us, and NOSDA, to seek to have the province establish an InterMinisterial-DSSAB table that looks at the administrative and program support infrastructure requirements particular to Northern Ontario.

These factors are the same factors that have led us to advocate that the province consider recognizing the validity of seeing its Northern DSSABs also be eligible to receive the “special circumstances” funding considerations that are similar to those that the province now uses to support the enhanced administrative infrastructure requirements particular to the province’s small and remote School Boards.

### **Municipal-Provincial Social Services Working Group’s DSSAB Sub-Group Update**

G. Champagne noted that while he had been mandated by his DSSAB peers to Co-Chair the above referenced (InterMinisterial) DSSAB Sub-Group table along with MCSS Assistant Deputy-Minister Clodhna McMullin, the group had yet to formally meet.

**Resolution No. 04-18 Moved by:** Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Mike Lehoux  
 THAT the CAO’s Operational Management and Strategic Issues Reports be accepted.

**Carried**

## **8.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **8.1. City of London re Land Ambulance Settlement**

This letter, circulated to Board members, outlines the City of London’s position regarding land ambulance services in their part of Ontario.

### **8.2. Minister’s Reply to DSSAB Letter Re: Dental and Drug Programs for the Working Poor**

It was noted that a copy of both the request to and the reply from the Minister were sent by e-mail to all Board members. The matter has to do with the DSSAB’s original request that the government reconsider its policy of no longer extending dental and drug benefits to low-income families. Minister Papatello has forwarded the letter on to Minister George Smitherman, MOHLTC with a request that he give it his attention.

## 9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

### 9.1. Governance & Accountability Consultation

As background, the CAO explained that when the province introduced its new Municipal Act, this DSSAB and others began to ask the government to clarify how the anticipated changes would affect DSSABs. These queries were raised at the same time as a host of other NOSDA raised "Governance and Accountability" questions that DSSABs had re: the differentiated status that ten (10) DSSABs have relative to the province's other thirty-seven (37) Municipal Service Managers known as CMSMs.

As a first step, Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) officials met with NOSDA CAOs & Commissioners to speak to the Municipal Act changes and how these affected DSSABs. The provincial government officials involved also deemed it appropriate to proceed to meet with the Boards of the North's DSSABs as part of a Governance and Accountability consultation.

Frank Gillis indicated that the CAO has been keeping him apprised of this matter and of the province's request to meet on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Frank asked for and received the Board's support that we not convene a special meeting of the Board on March 4<sup>th</sup> but instead encourage the Ministry officials involved to do what they can to accommodate Board member schedules and attempt to meet with our DSSAB either the day of or the day preceding a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Both the Chair and the CAO indicated that many of the Governance and Accountability issues of importance to our DSSAB are items that we hope to see addressed at the earlier referenced M-PSSWG InterMinisterial-DSSAB sub-group table. (Copies of an earlier circulated MCSS paper on the Governance & Accountability Consultation will be redistributed for the benefit of those new members who would not have it.)

### 9.2. Public Reply to Letter to the Editor re Land Ambulance Services Complaint

As per the last Board meeting's instructions re: the circulated Letter to the Editor that a disgruntled EMS client had chosen to see published in both the Manitoulin Recorder and the Sudbury Star, a draft reply to the press was prepared and circulated to Board members for feedback.

The CAO noted that in addition to the letter sent to the client, Dan Hammond had also spoken to the individual who indicated that her issues were not with the Emergency Medical Services themselves but with the neglect and the long wait that she had experienced at the hospital.

Subsequent to further discussion, the Board decided to let the matter rest and not provide any public media reply to the matter.

## 10.0 CLOSED SESSION

### 10.1 Budget Committee Meeting

**Resolution No. 04-19 Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal  
 THAT the Board move into closed session to discuss Budget Committee matters at 11:45 a.m. **Carried**

**Resolution No. 04-20 Moved by:** Pat Best **Seconded by:** Laurier Low  
 THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 12:35 p.m. **Carried**

**Report on the Closed Budget Committee Meeting**

Committee Chair Fern Bidal reported that the Committee was not yet in the position of recommending a final 2004 DSSAB budget and would reconvene on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to finalize its Budget Committee recommendations to the Board.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution No. 04-21 Moved by:** Maureen Van Alstine **Seconded by:** Les Gamble  
THAT we do now adjourn at 12:40 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on March 25, 2004 in the Espanola DSSAB Office Boardroom at 10:00 a.m.

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Chair

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Chief Administrative Officer  
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)