



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 Anishinabe Spiritual Centre, Espanola, Ontario
May 27, 2004

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

Regrets: Frank Gillis
Collin Bourgeois

Leave of Absence: Raymond Chénier

Guests: Candy Beauvais; Diane Charlebois; Vivianne Harvey; Normand Roberge

Media: Cheryl Waugh

Staff: Gary R. 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

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Board Chair Frank Gillis, the meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair, Dale Van Every. Mr. Van Every called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Maureen Van Alstine asked that two items be added to the Agenda:
o Power Dams and Municipal Apportionment; and
o Financial Planning Committee.

Resolution No. 04-42 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine
THAT the agenda be adopted as amended. **Carried**

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Dale Van Every declared a Conflict of Interest pertinent to the item addressing the Vice-Chair's Honorarium.

4.0 CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 04-43 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal
THAT the Board move into closed session to discuss H.R., Property and Legal matters.
Carried

Resolution No. 04-44 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal
 THAT the Board adjourn the closed session at 11:30 a.m. and report. **Carried**

5.0 MINUTES

5.1. Adoption of Minutes of April 22, 2004

Resolution No. 04-45 Moved by: Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Pat Best
 THAT the minutes of the April 22, 2004 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

5.2. Report on the Business discussed in Closed Session

i. Espanola General Hospital's Arbitrated Paramedic Wage Settlement –

Members were apprised of the results of the arbitration award that is attributable to a number of hospital based paramedic operations across the North and sees the retroactivity payable going back to 2001. The EGH is calculating the amount payable and will inform the DSSAB accordingly. (The DSSAB estimates that the amount payable is approximately \$240,000.)

The CAO indicated that preliminary indications from the MOHLTC are that:

- it will NOT be paying any portion of the retroactive sums payable given its policy of only funding 1% of all annual wage settlements.
- the amount payable is to be entirely borne by the DSSAB's member municipalities.

Also unclear at this time is the MOHLTC's response as to whether or not the province will honour its commitment to pay that portion of the municipal share payable that is attributable to our Districts' Townships Without Official Municipal Organisation (aka TWOMO &/or Unorganised municipalities).

Members agreed that this is further evidence of the flawed funding template that is in place when it comes to our ambulance services funding.

The CAO was asked to keep the Board apprised of the matter and of the collected action that affected DSSABs may wish to pursue re: the management of this arbitration award.

ii. EMS Service Extension to Wikwemikong (Unceded) First Nation community

Noting that the DSSAB's Chair was aware of this matter, the CAO shared that the DSSAB had yet to sign the Ministry of Health's proposed MOU re: the EMS services provided to Wiky effective April 1, 2004 since doing so would see the DSSAB identified as the "Service Provider" and the MOHLTC identified as the "Designated Delivery Agent" when it comes to Wiky. (The DSSAB is the DDA for all of the other First Nations communities in our Districts' and fails to appreciate why Wiky would be differentially treated.) The MOHLTC has not, to the DSSAB's knowledge, expected any of the DSSAB's counterparts to enter into a MOU relationship with the Ministry re: the ambulance services provided to First Nations communities located within their catchment areas. The CAO indicated that the MOHLTC has yet to flow us any money for Wiky and has indicated it will not flow us any dollars until a contract re: Wiky is signed. Marjorie Wilcox, Senior Manager of Finance and Corporate Planning with the Ministry's Emergency Health Services Branch (EHSB) has promised the CAO that her Branch will be in touch with the DSSAB's CAO to discuss what it contends are the circumstances that are "unique" to the Wikwemikong dossier. The CAO will keep the Board apprised of all developments on this dossier.

iii. **Municipal Apportionment Payment Arrears -** The Board continues to stand by its policy that interest is payable on all outstanding arrears.

- iv. **Emergency First Response Team (EFRT) Concerns** - Discussed. Further to be said on matter following Dan Hammond's Power Point presentation.
- v. **CUPE/OPSEU Negotiations** – Members discussed Fern Bidal and Administration's update of the HR Committee's prior night deliberations re: these matters. **(Cross-reference Resolution #04-48 identified as Item 6.1)**

5.3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.3.1 Powers Dams and Municipal Apportionment

Maureen Van Alstine indicated that she believed it was time to address the deferred matter of seeing member municipalities vote on the desirability of having the Power Dam grants that some of our member municipalities receive factored into the DSSAB's Municipal Apportionment Formula. Doing so now would permit all concerned to better anticipate and prepare for their 2005 Assessments.

Resolution No. 04-46 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
 THAT the DSSAB proceed to activate the legislated Double Majority vote requirement mechanism required to determine if the DSSAB's member municipalities (both organised and unorganised) pronounce themselves either for or against the inclusion of the Power Dam grants that some of our member municipalities receive factored into the DSSAB's Municipal Cost Apportionment Formula for future years commencing with the DSSAB's year 2005 operating year. **Carried**

The DSSAB's Finance Department will prepare the necessary documentation that our member municipalities will require to determine how they wish to vote.

5.3.2 Financial Planning Committee

Maureen Van Alstine reminded the Board that there had been some Budget Committee discussion regarding the formation of a committee to work on the DSSAB's long-term financial plans.

Resolution No. 04-47 Moved by: Maureen Van Alstine **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn
 THAT the Budget Committee be reactivated to assist the DSSAB's Administration with the DSSAB's long-term financial planning. **Carried**

6.0 BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1. Resolution Arising from In-Camera Session

Resolution No. 04-48 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal
 THAT the Board accept its HR Committee recommendation that its Negotiating Committee be given the mandate to proceed with the Human Resources Committee approved and In Camera discussed recommendations identified as the Employer's position with respect to the CUPE Collective Agreement negotiations underway with respect to the Collective Agreement expired December 31, 2003. **Carried**

6.2. Vice-Chair Honorarium

Fern Bidal explained that in its 2004 budget deliberations, the Budget Committee had reviewed the Honoraria paid to Board members and decided to recommend to the Board that the honorarium paid to the Vice-Chair be the same as that paid to all other Board members who are not acting as either Board Chair or Committee Chair.

Dale Van Every declared his conflict on the matter and refrained from all discussions.

Earle Freeborn reminded Board members:

- o that the Vice-Chair's is an elected position and that there are responsibilities that go along with the position that other Board members do not have;
- o that the past has shown that the Vice-Chair is usually elected to the Chair when the position is open and the "on-the-job" training for the position is invaluable;
- o that other DSSABs do have an Honorarium specific to the Vice-Chair; and
- o that the current Vice-Chair had accepted the position while the honorarium was in effect.

Mr. Freeborn indicated that he personally opposed any change to the Honorarium paid to the Vice-Chair and asked to see a Recorded Vote on the proposed resolution.

Resolution No. 04-49 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Laurier Low

THAT the honorarium for the Vice-Chair be the same as other members unless he/she is replacing or acting on behalf of the Chair at which time his/her honorarium will be equal to that of the Chair. **Carried**

Results of the Recorded Vote:

YEAS: Fern Bidal, Pat Best, Mike Lehoux, Laurier Low, Bud Rohn,
Maureen Van Alstine

NAYS: Earle Freeborn, Leslie Gamble, Bruce Killah, Richard Stephens

6.3. SHSC Board Nominations

The CAO reminded Board members that there was a call for nominations for DSSAB representatives to sit on the Board of Directors of the Social Housing Services Corporation, effective January 1, 2005. The Nomination Papers that interested members are asked to complete were circulated at the April Board meeting. Interested Board and management staff members are asked to submit their completed nomination forms to Sue Bouchard for a recommendation to be made at next month's Board meeting. (The SHSC's election process calls for each DSSAB to identify their DSSAB's recommended candidates identified to NOSDA as soon as possible, that NOSDA can in turn vote on the candidates that it chooses to identify to the SHSC at its September Annual Meeting. The process sees the SHSC then deciding on the two DSSAB candidates that it will select to sit on their Board for the two year term commencing January 1, 2005.)

6.4. Emergency Measures Coordination Ontario (EMCO)

The CAO explained that the province's expectations of DSSABs re: its new Emergency Measures Coordination legislation is "confusing". He likened the confusion to that which existed with the province's lack of clarity when it came to DSSABs and the Ontario Disabilities Act.

Citing previously circulated correspondence on the matter, the CAO pointed out that while the province expects municipalities to ensure that they are in compliance with the new Emergency Measures Coordination expectations that the province has set in place as a result of SARS, blackouts, Nile virus, etc., larger municipalities such as York Region are clearly pointing out that the types of expectations and issues that are now having to be addressed should be planned and coordinated at larger rather than smaller municipal levels in order to be properly addressed.

To this end, it appears that most of the EMCO coordination that is occurring in Southern Ontario is being coordinated or centralised at the Upper Tier rather than Single Tier municipal level. In many cases the responsibility for the Emergency Measures Coordination is being delegated to CMSMs (UTMs and County government levels) with actual "coordination responsibility" often being assigned to the Director of Land Ambulance services.

This scenario is, for the most part, not possible in most of Northern Ontario since the DSSABs, unlike their CMSM counterparts in the South, are not municipalities.

There is a good deal of questioning as to whether or not the North is not being disadvantaged and smaller single tier municipalities being unduly strapped with EMCO expectations that should be addressed on a more regionally encompassing table.

While it is questionable whether the DSSABs would be allowed to assume the EMCO responsibility for their catchment area even if their member municipalities wanted them to, the fact is there are those who question if the North is not being disadvantaged by the fact that the North's DSSABs have a status that is different from that of their primarily Southern Ontario based CMSM counterparts.

Members discussed what their respective municipalities are doing to address the new EMCO expectations of them and the fact that there is no new funding being provided to them to meet these new expectations.

Earle Freeborn recommended that each municipality write a letter to the government requesting financial assistance with the implementation of the new Emergency Measures coordination expectations, since it is a provincial requirement and since it is an expensive venture.

The CAO was asked to do more research into the matter of whether the DSSAB could take on this role if it were requested to do so by its member municipalities. Gary indicated he would send members some of the recently received information he had on the matter.

6.5. Draft Policies Presented for 1st and 2nd Readings

Resolution No. 04-50 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal
 THAT the Board give its First and Second Readings of the circulated and proposed Social Housing Rent-Geared-To-Income Policies, and specifically:

- The \$250 Transfer Fee Policy; and
- The In-Situ Priority Status Policy.

Carried

Resolution No. 04-51 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
 THAT the Board give its First and Second Readings of the proposed Healthy Communities Fund Policy.

Carried

It is understood that these draft policies will be presented for discussion and third and final reading at the Board's next regular meeting.

7.0. REPORTS

7.1. CAO Report

7.1.1. Operational Management Reports

7.1.1.1. Children's Services

There were no questions regarding the circulated Children's Services Report.

7.1.1.2. EMS

7.1.1.2.1. Report on Emergency First Response Teams (EFRTs)

Dan Hammond proceeded with a Power Point Presentation addressing those items pertinent to the DSSAB and its catchment area's Emergency First Response Teams. A hard copy of the presentation was distributed to Board members.

The presentation gives a history of the EFRTs and speaks to the lack of clarity relative to the governance, accountability, management and funding roles, responsibilities and relationships specific to the EFRTs, their hosts and the DSSAB.

Dan explained that while he has been involved with EFRTs for many years; the roles, responsibilities and protocol between the various players involved – the MOHLTC, the EFRT host, the EFRT and the DSSAB – have never been formalized, clarified and documented. He explained that it is to this end that he expects to undertake a review of the EFRT program over the coming months. A Paper that speaks to the DSSAB's findings and recommendations will be presented to the Board for their consideration later in the fall.

Fern Bidal thanked Dan for his presentation, adding that it clarified the background to a lot of the issues brought forward during the Closed Session.

Dan was invited to make his presentation at the next SEMA meeting, to be held in Killarney.

7.1.1.3. Social Housing

There being no questions on the Report prepared by the Housing Department, the CAO spoke to the developments taking place with respect to the imminent disposition of the Chapleau and Sultan properties.

Fern Bidal asked to have the minutes show that his municipality was extremely pleased with the renovations that the DSSAB's Social Housing Department was carrying out relative to the Housing stock in St. Charles.

7.1.1.4. Ontario Works

There were no questions regarding the circulated Ontario Works Report.

7.1.1.5. Finance & Administration

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance, spoke to the First Quarter Financial Report and accompanying Variance Report provided to Board members.

7.2.2. Strategic Issues Report

The CAO reported that the first meeting of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) initiated InterMinisterial-DSSAB Working Group would be taking place on May 31, 2004. He noted that the gist of the Working Group's deliberations had to do with the road ahead for the DSSABs and specifically with:

i - the recommendation that a new funding arrangement is needed to secure the central administrative and program support infrastructures of the North's DSSABs. (Put another way, the demographic and geographic realities of many of the North's DSSABs are such that they require an infrastructure funding formula that is based on more than a simple "cost per case" or "cost per call" funding formula if they are to be expected to meet their mandated expectations. The funding formula that is being sought is similar to that which the province has in place for its School Boards; a funding formula that sees School Boards eligible to receive "Special Circumstances" funding on top of the "cost per pupil" funding that they are allotted. It is thanks to the "Special Circumstances" funding that many if not most of our Northern School Boards are able to manage their affairs and ensure the regional accessibility and presence of most of the schools situated in communities outside of the North's five major urban centres. If our Northern School Boards were strictly funded according to their "pupil head count" or caseload (as the province is seeking to apply to DSSABs when it comes to "Ontario

Works case load” or “ambulance call volume”, these School Boards would neither have the administrative and program support infrastructures they need to carry out their mandate nor would they have many if not most of the schools they have in many of the Northern communities that are situated beyond the boundaries of Northern Ontario’s five major urban communities.

ii - an examination of the pros and cons of the rationale to continue to see the North’s 10 DSSABs have a different “lead Ministry” than is the case for their primarily Southern Ontario based 37 CMSM counterparts.

iii – an examination of the merits of seeing the DSSABs assume other program responsibilities;

iv – an examination of the pros and cons of promoting that DSSABs become Area Service Boards in certain areas;

v - an examination of the long held opinion of some that the time has come for the North to have District governments – similar to Southern Ontario’s County governments.

Mr. Champagne indicated that the rationale and background to these matters is found in a number of previously circulated documents, not the least of which is the Paper that he presented at this month’s FONOM meeting in Mindemoya and the NOSDA “Issue Paper” provided to the InterMinisterial-DSSAB Working Group as the foundation of its upcoming May 31st agenda.

Resolution No. 04-52 Moved by: Bruce Killah **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal
THAT the CAO’s Operational Management and Strategic Issues Reports be accepted.

Carried

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

8.1. Gary Brown Recognition Event - discussed

9.0 UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

10.1. NOSDA Annual Meeting, September 2004

The 2004 NOSDA Annual Meeting is taking place in Gore Bay, September 15, 16, 17. It has been past practice to send two Board members (voting delegates) to this meeting. The Chair is the one constant member that has always attended on behalf of the DSSAB. Gary encouraged all members to look into the possibility of attending this year’s meeting given that it is in Gore Bay and being hosted by the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB.

Resolution No. 04-53 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn
THAT Pat Best be the second voting delegate at this year’s NOSDA Annual Meeting to be held in Gore Bay, September 15, 16, 17, 2004. **Carried**

Thank You Dale – All Board members joined Fern Bidal in congratulating Dale Van Every on his chairmanship of this DSSAB meeting.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No.04-54 Moved by: M. Van Alstine **Seconded by:** Richard Stephens
THAT we do now adjourn at 12:40 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on June
24, 2004 in the DSSAB's Mead Blvd Boardroom at 10:00 a.m. **Carried**

**Nota Bene - Members were reminded that Gary Champagne would not be present
on the 24th as he will be in Europe on vacation with his family.**

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)