



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.msdss.net>

210, boulevard Mead, Espanola ON P5E 1R9
Téléphone: (705) 862-7850
Télécopieur: (705) 862-7805
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MINUTES
of the September 28, 2006
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at Espanola's DSSAB Mead Street Board Room

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

Staff: Gary R. Champagne, CAO; Suzanne Bouchard, E.A. (Recording Secretary); Connie Morphet, Director of Finance; Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services; Peter Bradley, Manager, Housing Services; Jeff Horseman, Director of EMS; Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor; Aurel Malo, HR Services

Media: Michael Erskine, Manitoulin Expositor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Ray Chénier, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Pte David Byers of Espanola and Cpl Glen Arnold of McKerrow

The Chair called for a minute's silence in honour of these two young soldiers from our LaCloche Region who were recently killed while serving in Afghanistan.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA Resolution No. 06-55

Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine
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. 06-56 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah
THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:02 a.m. to discuss Human Resources and Property matters.

Carried

Resolution No. 06-57 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:43 a.m.

Carried

4.1 CLOSED SESSION REPORT

The Chair reported that In Camera discussions involved:

- OPSEU contract negotiations and Bargaining Committee mandate
- AMEMSO circulated correspondence re: municipal elections
- Massey EMS station lease
- Wikwemikong Ambulance station & property
- Chapleau EMS station
- 2007 Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel Salaries

5.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1. Human Resources Committee

Resolution No. 06-57 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal
THAT the Board approve the [Human Resources Committee Terms of Reference](#) as presented by the Committee. **Carried**

Resolution No. 06-58 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
THAT the Board accept the Human Resources Committee recommendation that salary scales of the Board's non-bargaining unit personnel be increased by 3% effective as of January 1, 2007. **Carried**

Resolution No. 06-59

Moved by: Maureen Van Alstine **Seconded by:** Dean Wenborn
THAT the Board accept the verbal report of the Human Resources Committee. **Carried**

5.2. Finance Committee

Resolution No. 06-60 Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn
THAT the Board accept the verbal report of the Finance Committee. **Carried**

6.0 Adoption of Minutes of June 22, 2006

Resolution No. 06-61 Moved by: Frank Gillis **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah
That the minutes of the June 22, 2006 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

7.0. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. [MISWAA Report](#) (aka Time for a Fair Deal Report)

Referring members to the pre-circulated [Modernizing Income Security for Working Age Adults](#) Report (MISWAA Report) and associated emails, the CAO described the report as the most significant report on Income Security to be produced in years. The Report calls for sweeping "systemic changes" at the Federal and Provincial levels if we are to have an Income Security system that is truly responsive to the needs of both taxpayers and citizens who have recourse to the Income Security system. The Report is filled with informative facts re: the disintegration of the "safety net" and the problems that are in the offing if the system, which it contends is broken, is not fixed to become responsive and effective and not simply efficient.

The CAO explained that when looked at in the context of the Ontario status quo with an increased reliance on municipal property taxes to meet income support needs previously belonging to the provincial and federal orders of government, ever increasing ODSP caseloads, the gradual erosion of the middle class and a growing disparity between rich and poor, "welfare payments" which are

essentially unchanged from what they were in 1970, an aging population, growing labour market needs, announced PLT Reform and the Premier's announcement of an 18-month provincial-municipal review of the funding and delivery of community health and social services, et al; ...

- ... the findings and recommendations of the MISWAA Report need to be seriously addressed, with many – if not all of its recommendations – adopted, if our Income security system is to be redesigned to be the cost effective and responsive system that evidence tells us is required to address to the needs of our constituents. The right wing business interests on the MISWAA Task Force tell us it is a financial imperative to address the needs and the left wing interests on the Task Force tell us it is a matter of social justice as traditionally defined in Canada.

Resolution No. 06-62 Moved by: Frank Gillis **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every
 THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB support, in principle, all of the recommendations of the Modernizing Income Support for Working Age Adults (MISWAA) Report; and
 THAT the CAO convey a copy of this Resolution to the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Toronto City Summit Alliance and the Minister of Community and Social Services; and
 THAT the CAO write to the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services requesting a copy of the Ministry's response to this Report.

Carried

7.2. Provincial Land Tax (PLT) Reform

Building on his emails to members re: Minister Garretson's PLT Reform announcement that the province will move to current value assessments in 2009, the CAO repeated his belief that when this is examined in the context of:

- the barrier that this removes when it comes to the possibility of Area Service Boards or District governments;
- the growing arguments advanced by AMO, OMSSA and others (such as the MISWAA Task Force) re: the need to remove income support funding from the municipal property tax base;
- the Premier's announced 18 month Provincial-Municipal review of the funding and delivery of social services; and
- the known date of the next Provincial election;

he suspects that the door is opening to the likelihood of significant provincial-municipal infrastructure changes analogous to those introduced with the Harris government's Local Services Restructuring (LSR) are in the offing.

7.3. NOSDA AGM Update

Chair Ray Chénier, Mayor Les Gamble and Gary Champagne, CAO attended the NOSDA AGM held in Dryden in September. The key areas addressed were:

- OEYC boundaries realignment to match those of the DSSABs
- DSSAB solidarity on the paramedic meal break position
- A presentation of the bleak demographic projections for Northern Ontario by Deb Matthews, MPP and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services.
- Further work on the essentials of DSSAB Governance & Accountability

Ray Chénier pointed out that he was pleased to note the growing involvement and participation of “municipally elected” DSSAB Board members at this year’s AGM when compared to earlier years. He saw it as a sign of NOSDA’s maturation and further evidence of the fact that DSSABs are beginning to be recognized where they weren’t before.

7.4. TWOMO Elections

7.4.1 Administration of the Election and Deputy Returning Officers

Resolution No. 06-63 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Les Gamble

THAT the Board retain the contractual services of Christopher Stewart to manage the Fall 2006 Elections as pertains the Election of District Social Services Administration Board Members to represent Territory without Municipal Organization (TWOMO) and that Christopher Stewart and George Bardeggia be appointed Deputy Returning Officers for the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB.

Carried

7.4.2 Mail-In Vote By-Law

Board members were canvassed by telephone in order to determine whether the Board would approve the vote by mail method should there be more than three candidates for the three available TWOMO positions. Members were unanimous in their agreement to proceed by mail-in vote if an election was required.

Noting that such an agreement had to be formally adopted by the Board and as approved during the telephone canvass, the following resolution is tabled on this day to formally confirm the Board’s decision to enact the required By-Law to carry out a Mail-In Vote.

Resolution No. 06-64

Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Dean Wenborn

WHEREAS the District Social Services Administration Boards Act and its regulations do not define the election process for members representing territory without municipal organization;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Community and Social Services has issued a Resource Guide setting out the Ministry’s key requirements for running elections;

AND WHEREAS the Resource Guide specifies that a by-law must be passed to authorize the use of alternative voting and counting methods;

AND WHEREAS Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB Board Members were canvassed by telephone during the week of September 5 to 8, 2006 with the majority in favour of using an alternative voting and counting method for the 2006 election;

NOW THEREFORE the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB hereby gives its first, second and third readings of this By-Law and enacts as follows:

1. THAT the alternative voting method of “vote by mail” is hereby authorized for purpose of electing members representing territory without municipal organization.
2. THAT the Returning Officer shall adapt forms and procedures in keeping with the Ministry’s key requirements set out in the Resource Guide.
3. THAT this by-law will remain in force until repealed.

AND THAT this Resolution is deemed to have been passed on September 14, 2006.

Carried

7.5. Emergency Generators & JEPP Funding

Gary gave a brief overview of the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) financing that is being made available to municipalities but not to DSSABs and added that it would be useful to the DSSAB if those funds could be accessed for such things as emergency generators for Ambulance Stations.

Resolution No. 06-65 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Mike Lehoux
WHEREAS the province's municipalities are considered to be "eligible recipients" for the purposes of the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) public financing that is being made available to municipalities to enhance the "Essential Level" emergency management program in Ontario; and
WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB has the legislated responsibility to service manage a number of the provincially divested "Essential Level" municipal emergency management programs in Ontario and thus has a shared responsibility in municipal emergency planning; and
WHEREAS DSSABs are presently not considered as "eligible recipients" for JEPP financing purposes even though their primarily Southern Ontario based 37 CMSM (UTM) counterparts are eligible for the JEPP financing to enhance the same "Essential Level" emergency management programs administered by DSSABs in Northern Ontario; and
WHEREAS DSSABs require the province's assistance to access the types of JEPP project funding provided to their municipal counterparts in Southern Ontario;
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB request that the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services level the playing field when it comes to Northern Ontario and include DSSABs as eligible recipients for the purposes of the JEPP public financing possibilities made available to their thirty-seven Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) counterparts; and
THAT the CAO convey a copy of this Resolution to our jurisdiction's MPPs, AMO, NOSDA, FONOM and the North East LHIN. **Carried**

8.0 REPORTS

8.1. CAO REPORT

8.1.1. Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- [Children's Services Report](#)
- [Ontario Works Report](#)
- [Social Housing Report](#)
- [Emergency Medical Services Report](#)
- [2nd Quarter Finance Report](#)

Children's Services Report

Best Start Update - Gary reported that the Best Start target of creating 84 new childcare spaces has been met.

Noting that this was an ambitious and demanding undertaking that had to be realised within limited timeframes and within very prescriptive and onerous government parameters and demands that continuously changed, - in no small measure due to the changes that Ontario had to introduce to its plans due to the newly elected Harper government's decision to not honour the terms of the "Child

Care and Early Learning” agreement signed with the former Martin government, - Gary wished to have the Board appreciate that what was accomplished by the DSSAB, was primarily due to the tenacity, determination and hard work of Karen Dominick.

Pat Best indicated that she had a number of concerns with the Ministry Regional Office's (MCYS) latest plans re: Best Start Child and Youth Centres (Hubs). Both Gary and Karen noted that they shared Pat's concerns and were on record with MCYS re: same.

EMS Report

i - Fleetnet Radios - Fern Bidal indicated that the Municipality of St. Charles would like their Emergency First Response Teams to have portable radios and that the Municipality is willing to pay for them. Indicating that the problem seems to have to do with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, he asked that Administration look into getting the Ministry's permission for them to purchase the radios for their Teams.

Gary indicated he would have Jeff look into this possibility. He pointed out that since the last report on the matter, the MOHLTC has decided to provide the new portable radios to our Field Managers/Supervisors.

ii - LHINs - Richard Stephens informed the Board that, at the previous night's Manitoulin Municipal Association meeting, a presentation was made regarding Local Health Integration Networks and that Land Ambulance Service was one of the services included in their mandate. It is not yet known what effect the LHINs will have on the DSSAB's services.

Chair Ray Chénier indicated this was interesting since at the NOSDA AGM, NOSDA members were told that Land Ambulance services weren't part of the services that LHINs were responsible to plan for and allocate funding to.

iii – Status of possible Sudbury-East EMS coverage changes –

Dean Wenborn questioned the status of the consultations re: the possible changes identified for Noëlville and Hagar stations. Gary reported that consults had been held with both OPSEU Local and with MOHLTC Regional Office. OPSEU Local vehemently against less coverage from out of Noëlville station proper and suggests PRU be introduced to the area. It was pointed out that paramedics and French River were against the proposed PRU when it was proposed a year earlier.

MOHLTC Regional Office, as suspected, has nothing to contribute on the question other than to state they do not guarantee any additional cost sharing of any service enhancements and leave it entirely to the DSSAB to determine what coverage is provided where as long as response times are met.

No immediate changes are planned and the matter will be referred to the EMS Planning Committee.

Chapleau Ambulance Station is now complete and the paramedics are operating from the new station. A date and time for an official opening will be discussed with Chapleau Mayor and DSSAB Board Chair.

8.1.2. Strategic Issues Report

The CAO brought Board members up to date on the following items:

- The 18-month Joint Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review which will possibly have a significant impact on Ontario Works and ODSP
- Lobbying going on regarding the Canada/Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement and Labour Market Partnership Agreement which will affect Ontario Works operations.
- Strategic Planning sessions for the new Board which will be in place for the four year municipal term commencing shortly.

Resolution No. 06-66

Moved by: Maureen Van Alstine **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal

That the CAO's Operational and Strategic Management Reports be accepted.

Carried

9.0 CLOSED SESSION**Resolution No. 06-67**

Moved by: Maureen Van Alstine **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal

THAT the Board move into closed session to discuss financial matters at 12:05 p.m.

Carried

Resolution No. 06-68 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah

THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 12:30 p.m.

Carried

9.1 CLOSED SESSION REPORT

The Chair reported that the Closed Session discussions included:

- Banking institution matters
- [MOHLTC correspondence re: First Nations EMS funding grant](#)

10.0 UPCOMING CONFERENCE AND EVENTS**10.1. ONPHA Fall Conference, Toronto, November 19-21, 2006**

Frank Gillis will be attending the 2006 ONPHA Fall Conference in Toronto from November 19 – 21, 2006.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 06-69 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Laurier Low

THAT we do now adjourn at 12:37 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 26, 2006 in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room.

Carried

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)