



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 February 22, 2007**  
**MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING**  
held at Espanola's DSSAB Mead Street Board Room

- Present:** Lou Addison, Gary Brown, Jean-Marc Chayer, Ray Chénier, Earle Freeborn, Dennis Golden, Leslie Gamble, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux, David Leonard, Al MacNevin, Jack McMillan, Morgan Pitfield, Dean Wenborne
- Staff:** Gary R. Champagne, CAO; Suzanne Bouchard, E.A. (Recording Secretary); Connie Morphet, Director of Finance; Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services; Jeff Horseman, Director of EMS, Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor; Aurel Malo, HR Consultant
- Observer:** Shelley Quibell, Councillor, Municipality of St. Charles
- Media:** Alicia McCutcheon, Manitoulin Expositor;  
Roz Raby, Mid-North Monitor

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Ray Chénier, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed Jean-Marc Chayer, Mayor of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren to his first DSSAB Board meeting. Around the table introductions were made.

**2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Chair asked that an item be added to the Business Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting: Short Update on the First Nations EMS Funding Meeting, held in Toronto on January 31, 2007.

**Resolution No. 07-19**

**Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Lou Addison  
THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

**Carried**

**3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4.0 CLOSED SESSION**

**Resolution No. 07-20**

**Moved by:** Morgan Pitfield **Seconded by:** Dennis Golden  
THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:01 a.m.

**Carried**

**Resolution No. 07-21****Moved by:** Bruce Killah **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn

THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:20 a.m.

**Carried****4.1 Business Discussed During Closed Session**

During its closed session the Board discussed the OPSEU membership's ratification of the Collective Agreement with its Paramedics.

**5.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS****5.1. Finance Committee - 2007 DSSAB Budget**

Speaking to his Committee's recommendation that the Board accept a 2007 Budget that called for a year over 2% increase to the municipal share payable, Finance Committee Chair, Gary Brown, highlighted that:

- Although there is a significant increase in the Child Care Budget, there is no increase to the municipal share payable as the increase is all captured through the 100% federal government dollars flowed to the province as a result of the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement subsequently cancelled by the Harper government. The new federal dollars in question were attributed to the operation of the early learning and child care initiatives which we were able to locally implement under the banner of what the McGuinty government provincially refers to as "Best Start" programs and services.
- The municipal share of the EMS budget is less than it was in 2006 thanks to the substantive increase in provincial funding that the MOHLTC is contributing to Land Ambulance services funding to get the province closer to the 50% provincial funding mark that the Premier committed his government to reaching by no later than 2008 in order to honour the legislated 50-50 provincial-municipal EMS cost sharing agreements in place. The lion's share of the overall EMS budget increase is attributable to negotiated Paramedic salary increases that are in keeping with wage settlements in the province. The First Nation EMS grant funding dollars that the DSSAB has budgeted to receive have been conservatively estimated since the province has not yet confirmed what our First Nations Per Capita grant funding will be in 2007 despite a very positive January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting with MOHLTC officials re: this very matter.
- The bulk of the DSSAB's overall 2% municipal increase is attributable to the 16%+ increase to the municipal share of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). This increase is primarily attributable to the continued ODSP caseload growth that shows no sign of abetting with the demographic increase in the number of aged Ontarians.

Members were reminded that the DSSAB has no control over the growth or the cost of the ODSP; it is an Income Maintenance program that is directly-run and managed by the province. Outside of the employment assistance the DSSAB is to provide to eligible ODSP recipients and their family members, the DSSAB's role, and by extension that of its member municipalities, primarily consists of a cost-sharing one that sees the DSSAB pay 20% of the ODSP cheques and specific health benefits recipients' receive and 50% of the province's claimed cost of the program's administration. This program's financing is being looked at in the 18-month Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Services Delivery Review (PMFSDR) that is currently in progress.

**Resolution No. 07-22 Moved by:** Gary Brown **Seconded by:** Dennis Golden  
WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board's Budget Committee has presented the Board with a Year 2007 DSSAB operating budget in the amount of \$32,503,007; and  
WHEREAS it is understood that the approval of this budget means that the municipal share payable by, and apportioned to, the DSSAB's member municipalities, both organized and unorganized\*, for the Year 2007 operating year is in the amount of \$9,718,435; and  
WHEREAS it is understood that this \$9,718,435 municipal share payable amount represents a year over year overall municipal share payable increase of \$190,558 or 2.00% over the \$9,527,878 municipal share payable in 2006;  
IT IS HEREIN RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board accepts its Budget Committee's recommendation that it adopt the 2007 Operating Budget in the amount of \$32,503,007.  
\*does not include TWOMO EMS share payable. **Carried**

Earle Freeborn expressed thanks to the Finance Committee and the DSSAB's Administration for the work done on the 2007 DSSAB Budget.

## 6.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

### 6.1. Adoption of Minutes of January 25, 2007

#### Resolution No. 07-23

**Moved by:** Dean Wenborne **Seconded by:** Al MacNevin  
That the January 25, 2007 Board meeting minutes be approved. **Carried**

### 6.2. Business Arising from Minutes

#### 6.2.1 First Nations EMS Per Capita Grant Funding Formula Mtg. Update

The Chair reported that he, the CAO, the Director of Finance and the EMS Director attended the Toronto based January 31, 2007 meeting with all affected UTM/DDAs convened by the MOHLTC to discuss the First Nations funding issue. The outcome of the meeting was a positive one with the Ministry and most, if not all present agreeing on the changes needed to make the FN Per capita funding formula a workable, transparent and acceptable funding formula. The Chair indicated that our DSSAB's arguments had an impact on the meeting's outcome, as they were soundly based and hard to logically refute.

Ray Chénier indicated that the meeting ended with what he understood to be the willingness of the Ministry officials present to see the Ministry:

- Base its FN Per Capita grant funding on the most recent confirmed Financial Information Returns (FIRs) available to the province;
- View First Nations communities with a population of less than 40 as having 40 residents for FN Per capita grant funding calculation purposes;
- Direct the grant funding attributable to a given FN community to the DDA that primarily serves the FN community in question; and
- To calculate the Per Capita grant payable for a given FN community at the Per Capita rate applicable to the DDA who provides the service to that FN community even if the FN community is situated within another DDA's service jurisdiction boundaries.

The Chair indicated that until the MOHLTC confirms what we believe they said as fact, the DSSAB is wise to not count its chickens until they hatch in our 2007 budget preparation process.

Chair Chénier concluded by remarking that he remained “cautiously optimistic” that what we believe to have heard will prove to be the case.

## 7.0. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1. AMO’s Concern re Child Care Income Test Module

Citing the circulated AMO Alert re: this matter as the reference point for his comments, the CAO explained that the province’s new Child Care Income Test reflects a significant change in the way subsidised child care costs are determined. It is these changes, the fine print re: these changes and the Ministry’s (MCYS) enforcement - or not - of the changes that is behind some of the concerns that are being expressed in the major newspapers re: the local impact of this and other related changes that differentially affect the local viability and availability of child care operations from one community to the next across the province.

Noting that the Child Care world was forever subjected to constant left to right and right to left swings in the thinking of changing political masters at both the federal and provincial levels, Gary indicated that he, Karen Dominick and Fern Dominelli were keeping a close eye on the local and Northern Ontario impacts of the most recent changes.

To help members better understand the context of the new “fee subsidy changes” introduced by the province, Gary circulated a report entitled [Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB’s Child Care Fee Subsidy History](#) to Board members. He indicated that it was his and Karen’s hope that this brief historical overview would be of benefit to them.

## 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 \(EMS\) Report](#)

There were no questions concerning the Children’s Services Report, the Ontario Works Report and the Social Housing Report.

#### EMS Report

**Ambulance Stations** – Les Gamble asked about the status of all of the DSSAB’s ambulance stations. Gary said that a report would be prepared outlining what will be needed to ensure adequate EMS facilities over the long-term—i.e. upcoming leases, relocations, new construction, etc.

#### Finance & Administration Report

**2006 Audit**—Connie informed Board members that their auditors were to commence the 2006 audit next week and that it is expected that the resulting Annual Report will be presented at the April Board meeting. Asked about the DSSAB’s Reserve funds, the Chair asked that Administration prepare a report on this subject for the next meeting.

**8.1.2. Strategic Issues Report**

**Board Strategic Planning Session** – Gary asked that Board members consider suitable April dates on which they might be available for a 2-day Board Strategic Planning Session. He will be contacting Board members so that the planning can begin.

**Resolution No. 07-24 Moved by:** Morgan Pitfield **Seconded by:** Mike Lehoux  
That the CAO's Operational and Strategic Management Reports be accepted.

**Carried**

**9.0 CORRESPONDENCE****9.1. Children's Aid Society re CAS Board Representation**

The Chair read a letter from Ashley Thomson, President of the Board of Directors of the Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin, asking the DSSAB Board to give approval for Mr. Frank Gillis to continue on their Board. Ray explained to Board members that Mr. Gillis had represented the DSSAB on the CAS Board for several years, that the CAS greatly values his input and that the CAS is changing its Board Membership Bylaw to enable the DSSAB to allow Mr. Gillis to remain on the CAS Board.

Board members discussed the possible implications of nominating someone who is not a member of the DSSAB to a position on another organization's Board and felt that this was not a precedent that the DSSAB should undertake.

**Resolution No. 07-25**

**Moved by:** Gary Brown **Seconded by:** Jean-Marc Chayer

THAT the Chair reply to the Children's Aid Society's Chair explaining that the DSSAB is not in a position to meet their request for the DSSAB's approval to have Mr. Gillis continue on their Board.

**Carried**

**9.2. Manitoulin Municipal Association Resolution re Pandemic Planning**

The Chair read a letter and Resolution from the MMA asking the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB to be the Manitoulin District's liaison/communication link in the event of a pandemic.

It was agreed the CAO should find out more from the relevant provincial authorities as to exactly what responsibilities and liabilities came with the role should the DSSAB accept to take it on. Gary is to also find out what resources and funding would have to be committed to this responsibility if the Board were to assume that function in each of the four regions within the DSSAB's service jurisdiction.

**10.0 OTHER BUSINESS****10.1. Board/Employee Communication Policies**

The Chair referred Board members to his February 8<sup>th</sup> memo to them regarding the DSSAB's "**Political Contact Protocol**" policy as well as its "**Employee Complaint Resolution**" policy. He indicated both policies had been put in place to guide Board members when it came to any questions they might have or be confronted with re: the management of the DSSAB's operations.

Ray suggested they should always feel comfortable to direct any questions or concerns they have directly to the CAO or the Chair.

### 10.2 In Camera Matters

There was some discussion of possible inconsistencies between the information provided to municipalities re: in camera discussion disclosures by the MMAH and the information provided to the DSSAB by its solicitors.

The CAO will be inviting both our solicitor and a representative from the MMAH to our next meeting to discuss this matter.

## 11.0 UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### 11.1 NOSDA Annual General Meeting, North Bay, April 2-4, 2007

The CAO gave a brief overview of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association. NOSDA is a 12-member organization (10 DSSABs, the Greater City of Sudbury and the District of Muskoka) that looks at issues common to them as Northern Ontario's Municipal Service Managers. Each member is entitled to two voting delegates from their Board or Council at the AGM. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB has always had two Board members present at NOSDA's AGM.

#### Resolution No. 07-26

**Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Dennis Golden

THAT the Chair and Vice-Chair be the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB's two voting delegates at the 2007 Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association Annual General Meeting to be held in North Bay, April 2 – 4, 2007

**Carried**

### 11.2 Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) Representation

Gary explained that the SHSC is a respected provincial-in-scope Non-Government Organisation that has a lot of influence with the province when it comes to the social housing management concerns and interests of municipal housing managers such as our DSSAB. It is mandated to negotiate province wide bulk buying rates when it comes to the utility, property insurance and investment needs, etc. of social housing providers. It also plays an important "policy influence" role vis-à-vis the "Housing" side of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The North's DSSABs have one seat on the SHSC Board of Governors. Its present representative is David Court, Algoma DSSAB CAO who will be retiring before the year's end. DSSABs interested in making a nomination to the Board are asked to indicate their nominee to the SHSC via NOSDA.

**Resolution No. 07-27 Moved by:** Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Al MacNevin

THAT Gary Champagne be the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB's nominee to serve on the Social Housing Services Corporation Board of Directors for a two and a half year term commencing June 30, 2007 and ending December 31, 2009 and that NOSDA be informed of same.

**Carried**

## 12.0 ADJOURNMENT

**Resolution No. 07-28 Moved by:** Earle Freeborn

THAT we do now adjourn at 11:40 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on March 22, 2007 in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room.

**Carried**

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Chair

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Chief Administrative Officer