



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 September 27, 2007
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at Espanola's DSSAB Mead Street Board Room

- Present: Lou Addison, Gary Brown, Jean-Marc Chayer, Earle Freeborn, Les Gamble, Dennis Golden, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux, David Leonard, 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; Peter Bradley, Manager, Housing Services
- Regrets: Ray Chénier, Al MacNevin
- Observer: Shelley Quibell, Councillor, Municipality of St. Charles
- Media: Alicia McCutcheon, Manitoulin Expositor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Noting the motivated absence of Chair Ray Chénier, Vice-Chair, Les Gamble presided over the meeting which he called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 07-64

Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Morgan Pitfield
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. 07-65

Moved by: Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Dean Wenborne
THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:05 a.m.

Carried

Resolution No. 07-66

Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Dean Wenborne
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:45 a.m.

Carried

5.0 CLOSED SESSION REPORT

During the Closed Session, the Board discussed:

- the status of its EMS X-border negotiations with the City of Greater Sudbury
- property matters re: its French River and Markstay-Warren located EMS stations
- ODSP funding and delivery
- Statement of Claim re EMS Helicopter Incident

6.0 MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes of June 27, 2007

Resolution No. 07-67

Moved by: Dennis Golden **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah

THAT the Minutes of the June 27, 2007 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1. EMS Funding Formula Changes

The CAO elaborated on the e-mail forwarded to all Board members re: the concerns expressed re: the ongoing changes that the MOHLTC continues to arbitrarily make re: the funding formula applicable to EMS budgets.

A slide was produced to show how difficult these ongoing changes make it to plan and predict what our EMS budget will be from one year to the next; i.e.

- The MOHLTC funds some EMS budget cost items on a January to January basis and again others on an April to April basis with no rationalisation of these different approaches.
- The MOHLTC funds the TWOMO share payable of the EMS budget on yet a third altogether different timeframe;
- The MOHLTC is the only provincial Ministry that determines the TWOMO share payable of a given year's EMS budget the way it does even though the formula specified in the Land Ambulance Act is the same one specified in the DSSAB Act which guides all other ministries in the determination of the TWOMO share payable.
- The MOHLTC is the only Ministry that determines what its share of the provincial-municipal cost shareable contribution will be for a given year, independent of what that figure would be/should be subsequent to the normal yearly budget preparation process applicable to all other provincially cost shared DSSAB programs.

The CAO pointed out the discrepancies in the timeframes that the MOHLTC utilised in determining the EMS FN grant payable to our DSSAB for the 2007 calendar year vs. those applicable to other Designated Delivery agents. The difference sees our DSSAB arguably short-changed when it comes to the FN grant allocation attributed to us for the first three months of 2007. The matter has been raised with the EMS Branch's senior officials.

8.0 REPORTS

8.1. Committee Reports

8.1.1. Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair, Gary Brown, reported that the Finance Committee had met and items addressed included:

- **Setting a 2008 Budget preparation schedule:** the Committee is seeking to recommend a year 2008 Budget to the Board at the November 22, 2007

- Board Meeting;
- A review of the DSSAB Audit Tender process and findings and a Finance Committee proposed resolution to the Board re: same.
 - a progress report on the DSSAB Banking Tender. The DSSAB's retained consultant is awaiting completed submissions from the financial institutions approached.
 - **A Report re: new PSAB 3150 Tangible Capital Assets auditing expectations** that all municipalities, and by extension DSSABs, must begin to comply with as a result of their roles as municipal service managers. A copy was circulated to all Board members, most of whom were familiar with same as it is also a new auditing expectation of all Ontario municipalities. Board members were surprised to hear that DSSABs were not provided any grant funding to assist them with the behind the scenes front end work needed to put in place the internal administrative systems required to meet the year-in, year out demands of this ongoing expectation when financial assistance to that end has been made available to all member municipalities, including the DSSAB's Southern Ontario based CMSM counterparts. (x-reference Committee resolution re: this matter).
 - **A review of DSSAB's 2nd Quarter Report** that was circulated to Board members. The report shows a forecasted surplus of \$81,888.
 - **A review of the Municipal Apportionment Formula** Power Point Presentation (made to the Board on this date) and to be presented to member municipality clerks and CAOs at a coming meeting to be scheduled this fall.

Resolution No. 07-68 Moved by: Gary Brown **Seconded by:** Dennis Golden
THAT the Board accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the firm of Freelandt, Caldwell, Reilly, LLP be appointed as the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB Auditors for the five fiscal years commencing January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2011. **Carried**

Resolution No. 07-69 Moved by: Gary Brown **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn
THAT the Board accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Administration apply to the province for funding to complete the required PSAB Tangible Capital Assets changes expected of DSSABs and municipalities; and THAT a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to member municipalities asking them for supporting resolutions from their Councils. **Carried**

Resolution No. 07-70 Moved by: Gary Brown **Seconded by:** Jack McMillan
THAT the Board accept the Finance Committee Report. **Carried**

8.2 CAO REPORT

8.2.1 Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- **Children's Services Report**
- **Ontario Works Report**
- **Social Housing Report**
- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report**

Children's Services Report**Resolution No. 07-71 Recognising October 24, 2007 as ECE Appreciation Day Moved by:** Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Dean Wenborne

WHEREAS thirty five years of research confirms the benefits of high quality childcare for young children's intellectual, emotional, social and physical development and later life outcomes; and WHEREAS child care promotes the well-being of children and responds to the needs of parents, child care workers and the broader community by supporting quality of life so that citizens can fully participate in and contribute to the economic and social life of their community; and WHEREAS recent studies clearly show trained and knowledgeable Early Childhood Educators and child care workers are the most important element in quality child care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT October 24, 2007 be designated the 7th annual "Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day" in recognition of the influence, dedication and commitment of child care workers to children, their families and quality of life of the community; and

Be it further resolved that the DSSAB forward a copy of this resolution to all member municipalities and ask that they in turn recognize October 24, 2007 as ECE Appreciation Day; and

THAT the DSSAB also forward a copy of this resolution to children's services providers in its jurisdiction as well as to MCYS, OMSSA, AMO and NOSDA.

Carried

Resolution No. 07-72 Recognising November 20th as National Child Day

Moved by: Morgan Pitfield **Seconded by:** Lou Addison

WHEREAS the U.N. General Assembly recommended in 1954 that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day to be observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children and of activity promoting the welfare of the world's children; and

WHEREAS the date of November 20th marks the day in which the U.N. General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989); and

WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada in 1993 declared November 20th each year as National Child Day as enacted in Bill C-371,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB recognizes November 20 of every year as National Child Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB forward a copy of this resolution to all member municipalities and ask that they in turn recognize November 20th as National Child Day; and

THAT the DSSAB also forward a copy of this resolution to children's services providers in its jurisdiction as well as to MCYS, OMSSA, AMO and NOSDA.

Carried

EMS Report

The CAO underlined the fact that the DSSAB's EMS Department underwent a successful Ministry certification review. Our EMS Department, staff and paramedics alike, succeeded in being awarded the maximum three year certification available.

Noting that it is comforting to know that an external accreditation body has confirmed the Board's belief and its administration's assurances that our jurisdiction's EMS personnel are a professional group of people that are up to doing their jobs according to the standards set by their peers and noting that he

was speaking on behalf of the entire Board, Les Gamble asked that the minutes record the Board's congratulations and thanks to all who played a role in making this three year certification possible.

While Board Chair Chénier sent an individual letter of congratulations to each of the following nine paramedics and specifically Michel Bigras, Margaret Cadieux, Léo Clément, Debbie Collin, Mario Danis, Anne Elliott, Jim Kiviaho, John Lanktree and Denis Séguin who were awarded the Governor General's Exemplary Service Medals, I also wanted this noted in the DSSAB's minutes as a record of our Board's acknowledgement of their contributions to the well being of their fellow citizens.

Housing Report

Resolution No. 07-73

Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Dean Wenborne

THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Administration Board approve that the uncommitted \$19,200 of our MMAH allocated Housing Allowance funds and the uncommitted \$54,000 of our MMAH allocated Homeownership funds be transferred to our DSSAB's Northern Housing Repair fund thus bringing to \$1,073,200 the total funding available in the Northern Housing component; and THAT the \$2,400 Funding Allocation for Victims of Domestic Violence identified in the initial Housing Allowance allocation not be reduced by this transfer and that attempts be made to allocate these funds as intended. **Carried**

OW Report

New Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) Program - Fern Dominelli sought to highlight that part of his OW Report that speaks to the Ontario government's recently announced introduction of a new Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) Program. Although all the details have yet to be known, it would appear that as of August 1, 2008, the funding children are entitled to will no longer be provided to custodial parents via a family's social assistance cheque. This change will effectively take municipalities (DSSABs) out of that equation. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Reporting that the new Water Filter Fund which the province has told CMSMs and DSSABs to administer is to our knowledge a one time funding initiative which allows us to provide a \$100 grant to families who have a high level of lead in their water, Fern asked Board members to let his office know of anybody who may qualify for this funding as a result of high lead levels in their water. Fern indicated that all member municipalities had been informed of this new fund.

8.2.2. Strategic Issues Report

8.2.2.1 Child Care Funding Issues

The CAO spoke to the concerns his administration had with the strings and constraints tied to the permissible uses of the dollars flowed to the DSAB for childcare/Best Start purposes.

He spoke to the concerns that the DSSAB had with the advice that the Ministry was providing our DSSAB to not direct these sums to purposes and practices that it was permitting other CMSMs and DSSABs to continue with.

He noted that the concern was particularly problematic when one looked at the struggles our jurisdiction's child care operators experience when it came to keeping their doors open, struggles that would be greatly eased if the Ministry of

Children and Youth Services (MCYS) applied the same rules across all CMSM/DSAB jurisdictions.

There are other areas where the DSSAB could use the money and recommendations and requests have been made to the government re these possible uses of the monies, but there have been no positive answers received.

8.2.2.2 Power Point Presentation (PPP) on the *Impact Social Assistance (OW & ODSP Recipients) Rent Scales have on Social Housing Net Costs and what this costs our member municipalities*

The CAO walked Board members through a PPP that he, Peter Bradley and Fern Dominelli prepared on housing rental cost rules set by the Province that are **only applicable to OW & ODSP recipients**:

- *If they live in social housing units under the service management of CMSMs/DSSABs but not if they live in private sector owned and operated housing units;*
- *and costs this DSSAB's member municipalities over \$300,000 per year* of 100%, non-cost shared, municipal dollars that municipalities do not have to pay if these same people live in comparable housing units owned and operated by private landlords.*

*Province-wide, it is estimated that these provincially set rules cost municipalities more than over \$175 Million per year.

Resolution No. 07-74

Moved by: Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Dean Wenborne

WHEREAS the Provincial government has announced that the municipal share of the ODSP costs will be uploaded over a four year period; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB's share of the \$935 Million of those ODSP costs that will be uploaded represents a projected annual municipal savings of \$2,749,745; and

WHEREAS it is the contention of the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB that the municipal share of the ODSP upload will not be complete until such time as the province also uploads that portion of the shelter cost of persons on ODSP that is 100% borne by municipalities if these persons live in social housing units administered by Service Managers rather than live in private sector housing units; and

WHEREAS it is since 1998, that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB and its 46 CMSM/DSSAB counterparts across the province have been subsidizing OW/ODSP with 100% municipal social housing dollars to make up the difference between the true rent payable and the low RGI rents that the province permits to be charged to OW & ODSP tenants if and only if they reside in social housing units; and

WHEREAS it has been estimated that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB and its 46 CMSM/DSSAB counterparts across the province have been paying as much as \$175 million more than they should have for the shelter costs of some 55,000 OW/ODSP clients province-wide who live in social housing units but would not have to have paid if these same social assistance recipients lived in private sector housing units; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB has estimated that the annualized financial share of the \$175 million sum that Ontario's municipalities must pay

100% of to offset the lost rental revenue that they cannot charge to OW & ODSP tenants due to artificially low RGI scale limits that they must adhere to but that private sector housing landlords have no obligation to recognize when it comes to these same persons, costs our DSSAB's member municipalities **\$311,448 per annum**; and

WHEREAS the social housing unit residents who are in receipt of ODSP account for 82% or \$255,162 of that \$311,448; and

WHEREAS this lost operating revenue is 100% subsidised by the DSSAB's member municipalities; and

WHEREAS social housing operating expenses continue to increase every year while Rent Geared to Income (RGI) rent scales stay the same; and

WHEREAS the OW/ODSP RGI scales have been historically set artificially low by the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Province's established RGI scales have not been revised in well over a decade; and

WHEREAS the current methodology allows OW/ODSP housing tenants who live in private sector housing to receive the full maximum shelter allowance allowed for OW/ODSP recipients, while this is not the case for OW/ODSP tenants who reside in social housing units under CMSM and DSSAB Service Management;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB ask the Province to review the maximum OW/ODSP shelter component as the amounts have not kept pace with marketplace rents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB ask the Province to amend its RGI rent scales to match the maximum shelter rate for all OW/ODSP recipients; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Ministers of Community & Social Services, Municipal Affairs and Housing and Finance as well as the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Services Review Table for their action; and

THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB ask all Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB member municipalities, AMO, NOMA, FONOM and all CMSM/DSSAB's to signal their support by passing a similar resolution. **Carried**

Resolution No. 07-75

Moved by: Jack McMillan **Seconded by:** Dennis Golden

WHEREAS the Provincial government has announced that the municipal share of the ODSP costs will be uploaded over a four year period; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB believes the funding for income support programs should be borne 100% by the Province; and

WHEREAS the DSSAB believes it is effective, efficient and economical to Ontario taxpayers to see income support services administered by one order of government rather than the two orders of government as is presently the case; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB believes that local CMSM/DSSAB are in the best position to deliver income support programs to its residents; and

WHEREAS the Provincial government already has many programs that are 100% Provincially funded, delivered by local CMSM's and DSSAB's; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB already delivers the Homeless, Rent Bank, Energy Fund programs to ODSP clients which are all 100% provincially funded; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB already serves the ODSP clients on a daily basis in relation to the provision of a whole host of discretionary benefits;

and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is providing employment support services the ODSP spouses and dependent adults; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is in a better position to provide a wider range of direct services from local persons and local offices that will assist ODSP clients to become financially independent through employment which in turn would provide saving to the taxpayers of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is already providing Subsidized Housing to over 70 ODSP clients and their families through its Social Housing Department; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is providing services to the children of ODSP clients through its Child Care programs and the National Child Benefit Reinvestment fund; and

WHEREAS the only ODSP local/satellite office located within the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB's catchment area is already co-located within the DSSAB's satellite office in Little Current;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the CAO enter into discussions with the Province to see the DSSAB directly deliver the ODSP program within the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB catchment area on a pilot project basis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB, indicate that it would be prepared to offer a secondment to any Provincial staff that may be affected during this pilot project.

Carried

Resolution No. 07-76

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

THAT the CAO's Report be accepted.

Carried

9.0 UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

FONOM Leaders Summit, Timmins, October 17, 18, 19

The CAO informed Board members that he and the Chair would be attending the Leaders' Summit in Timmins. If there are any other Board members who wish to attend, they are to contact Gary.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT Resolution No. 07-76

Moved by: Morgan Pitfield **Seconded by:** Lou Addison

THAT we do now adjourn at 12:15 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on October 25th in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Blvd. Boardroom.

Carried

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)