



Minutes of the May 25, 2017
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING
held in Espanola's 210 Mead Blvd. DSB Boardroom

Present: Bill Baker, Vern Gorham, Les Gamble, Bruce Killah, David Leonard, Al MacNevin, Ken Duplessis, Eric Russell, Paul Schoppmann, Ned Whynott, Dean Wenborne, Ted Lovelace, Michael Levesque, Ray Dufour

Regrets :

Staff : Fern Dominelli, Donna Stewart, Connie Morphet, Robert Smith, Melody Ouellette, Ehren Baldauf

Media: Alicia McCutcheon, Manitoulin Expositor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Les Gamble, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 17- 31

Moved by: Al MacNevin

Seconded by: Paul Schoppmann

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted.

Carried

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4.0 2016 Audited Financial Statements

Cynthia MacKenzie of Freelandt Caldwell Reilly LLP presented the 2016 Audited Financial Statements.

Resolution 17- 32

Moved by: Bruce Killah

Seconded by: David Leonard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accept receipt of the [Audited Financial Statement](#) for the year ended December 31, 2016, as prepared by the Freelandt, Caldwell, and Reilly Accountants.

Carried

5.0 Closed Session

Resolution 17- 33

Moved by: Ned Whynott

Seconded by: Eric Russell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:20 a.m.

Carried

Resolution 17- 34

Moved by: Ned Whynott

Seconded by: Ray Dufour

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 11:05 a.m.

Carried

6.0 Business Arising from Closed Session

During its Closed Session, the Board discussed Property and Human Resources Issues.

7.0 Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 17- 35

Moved by: Vern Gorham

Seconded by: Al MacNevin

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the [April 27, 2017](#) Board meeting be approved.

Carried

8.0 Committee Reports

Program Planning

David Leonard, Chair of the Program Planning Committee, gave the Board a brief update on the topics discussed at the committee meeting.

8.1 Portable Housing Benefit

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the Portable Housing Benefit – Issue Report.

In a [letter](#) dated April 21, 2017, the Assistant Deputy Minister with the Ministry of Housing provided an update on the Provinces framework for a portable Housing Benefit (PHB) which is an important component of the Long-Term Affordable Housing strategy.

A Portable Housing Benefit would provide a monthly subsidy to low-to-moderate income households to assist with housing costs. Unlike Rent Geared to Income (RGI), the PHB would be tied to the household itself, instead of a physical housing unit.

The PHB would have multiple benefits for recipients:

- It would give people on the social housing wait list a potential option to receive a portable benefit that would give them more flexibility and choice about where they live, perhaps closer to employment, child care, schools or family.
- It could help households who like to remain living where they are but face affordability challenges.
- The calculation for the PHB would be simplified and reassessed annually using income tax information. Thus, recipients would have an incentive to earn income by moving to an annual benefit calculation, rather than experiencing an increased rent with every income change. The PHB would also provide Service System Managers with the opportunity to create more vibrant mixed-income communities due to a greater ability to diversify their housing portfolio.

The province provided a [Summary of the Proposal](#) and is currently collecting feedback in order that would establish the Portable Housing Benefit. The deadline for responses is June 5, 2017.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB staff are recommending that the Board make the following recommendations to the province as they consult on the Portable Housing Benefit:

- That the province ensure significant flexibility is available to the Service System Managers to calculate the Portable Housing Benefit to meet the needs of their community members. A one size fits all solution will not work in Northern, remote and/or rural Ontario.
- To avoid system complexity, the Portable Housing Benefit should be exempt as income from Social Assistance, and if necessary, reconciled within the Portable Housing Benefit system.
- The province should not impose a time limit to the Portable Housing Benefit as it could impose an unintended penalty upon the household. Currently RGI assistance is not time limited and any move to impose a time limit on the Portable Housing Benefit would discourage current RGI tenants from considering a move to private accommodations freeing up RGI units for others in need. Staff could not, in good conscious, recommend that a household move out of RGI housing to a private accommodation knowing full well that the Portable Housing Benefit was time limited and could leave the household worse off in the end.
- Payments to landlords should only be made by exception, and for a pre-determined timeframe to support the Household in becoming self-sufficient.

- Service System Managers should have the ability to calculate adjusted family net income based on other means besides Income tax system. This strict condition could lead to eligibility issues and impose financial hardship on families reliant upon the PHB, and could result in homelessness.
- The adjusted family net income of all family members over the age of 16 is proposed for the Portable Housing Benefit. Consideration should be given to adopting the same income rules used in RGI calculations for members over the age of 16. This would alleviate the potential of penalizing students who are saving to attend post-secondary education.

Resolution 17- 36**Moved by:** David Leonard**Seconded by:** Michael Levesque

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Portable Housing Benefit – Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [Portable Housing Benefit – Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried**8.2 Home for Good Proposal**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Home for Good Proposal](#) submitted to the Ministry.

On March 27, 2017, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB staff received a [letter](#) from the Ministry of Housing Assistant Deputy Minister Janet Hope in regards to the Province's new investment in supportive housing.

Under the new program Home for Good, an investment will be made to support the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025. The program will provide housing assistance and support services to people within the following four provincial priority homelessness areas:

- Chronic homelessness,
- Youth homelessness,
- Indigenous homelessness, and
- Homelessness following transition from provincially-funded institutions and service systems.

The Ministry of Housing will distribute two years of funds dedicated for Service Managers through an Expression of Interest process.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has put forth a proposal for a two-part project:

- A Transitional Community Support Worker for Manitoulin Island as we would like to expand this program to other residents in other parts of our jurisdiction; and
- A .5 full-time position to support 4 rent supplement units and in turn the NE-LHIN has agreed to match this proposal if the Home for Good Proposal is accepted by the Ministry of Housing.

On May 18, 2017, Louise Paquette, Chief Executive Officer of the NE-LHIN submitted a [letter](#) to the Ministry of Housing stating that they are in full support of the applications submitted by the eight area Service Managers to Home for Good Expression of Interest. Staff from the NE LHIN have met with each of the District Social Services Administration Boards for the Algoma, Cochrane, City of Greater Sudbury, Manitoulin-Sudbury, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sault Ste. Marie, Timiskaming and the City of Greater Sudbury Service Managers and/or Chief Administrative Officer to discuss the continued partnership.

Because of the collaboration, the NE LHIN has committed to providing funding for .5 full-time employee and four rent supplements in each of the eight Service Manager areas. In return the eight Service Managers have agreed to match this funding through the Home for Good – Expression of Interest. This will enable both agencies to leverage the LHIN funding and Ministry of Housing funding available through Home for Good.

8.3 Homelessness Enumeration

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Homelessness Enumeration – Issue Report](#).

Further to the Issue Report presented to the Board on February 22nd, 2017, amendments to the Housing Services Act regulations directs Service System Managers to conduct an enumeration of persons who are homeless in their respective Service Area.

To effectively do this work, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB will require specialized services to assist the organization with completion of this task.

The DSB staff are requesting that the Board to consider issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek eligible proponents.

Resolution 17- 37

Moved by: David Leonard

Seconded by: Bruce Killah

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Homeless Enumeration – Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [Homeless Enumeration – Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried

9.0 New Business

9.1 2017 CAO First Quarter Activity Report

Fern Dominelli, CAO, walked the board through the CAO Quarterly Report. This report will be shared with member municipalities who are encouraged to add it to Council agenda packages.

Resolution 17- 38

Moved by: Bill Baker

Seconded by: Dean Wenborne

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the [2017 CAO First Quarter Activity Report](#) be approved as presented.

Carried

9.2 2017 First Quarter Financial Report

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, walked the Board through the 2017 First Quarter Financial Report which is projecting a **year-end surplus of \$140,359**.

Resolution 17- 39

Moved by: Eric Russell

Seconded by: David Leonard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the [2017 First Quarter Unaudited Financial Report](#) be approved as presented.

Carried

9.3 Annual Report on Reserves

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, walked the Board through the Annual Report on Reserves, highlighting the following recommendations:

- The Board authorize the transfer of \$400,000 from the Working Funds Reserve to the Benefits Reserve to cover future unbudgeted WSIB NEER costs due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The Board reaffirms its existing policy related to the working fund reserve.
- The Board authorizes to change the name of this reserve to DSB Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Committed Reserve (Revolving) and to transfer the Paramedic Services Equipment Replacement Reserve to this reserve in 2017.

- The Board authorizes the elimination of the Paramedic Services Equipment Replacement Committed Reserve (Revolving) and the balance of \$122,226 be transferred to the DSB Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Committed Reserve (Revolving) in 2017.
- The Board authorizes the transfer of \$400,000 from the Working Funds Reserve to the Benefits Reserve to ensure the costs of future PTSD WSIB claims can be managed without significant one-time increases to municipal budgets. The Board authorizes the maximum limit of \$100,000 for this reserve be removed.

Resolution 17- 40**Moved by:** Bill Baker**Seconded by:** Paul Schoppmann

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Board has reviewed the 2017 Annual Report on Reserves.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB approves the [2017 Annual Report on Reserves](#) and authorizes staff to action the recommendations contained with the report.

Carried**9.4 2016 Fourth Quarter Audited Financial Report**

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance and Administration, walked the Board through the 2016 Fourth Quarter Audited Financial Report which shows a **year-end surplus of \$343,910.**

Resolution 17- 41**Moved by:** Al MacNevin**Seconded by:** Ted Lovelace

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the [2016 Fourth Quarter Audited Financial Report](#) be approved as presented.

Carried**9.5 DSB Surplus for the 2016 Calendar Year****Resolution 17- 42****Moved by:** Dean Wenborne**Seconded by:** Vern Gorham

WHEREAS the audited financial statements for the operating year ended December 31, 2016 recorded a surplus of \$343,910; and

WHEREAS the Board by [Resolution # 02-97](#) dated May 23, 2002 has approved a Working Funds Reserve to a maximum of 15% of the municipal share of annual operating budget, which based on the 2017 operating budget of \$10,422,165 would be a maximum of \$1,563,325.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$ 0 dollars be directed to the DSB's Working Reserve in order to bring it to the 15% that the Board has established; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$343,910 be distributed to the DSB's member municipalities as per the apportionment formula in place in the year 2016.

Carried

9.6 Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Development

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Conversations with Employment Ontario Service Providers Report](#).

On May 4, 2017, the staff received a [letter](#) from Shelley Unterlander, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development to advise us of the release of the Ontario Centre for Workforce Innovation's report entitled "Conversations with Employment Ontario Service Providers".

The Ontario Centre for Workforce Innovation was formed to provide coordinated leadership on innovative, evidence-based approaches to employment and training programming and service delivery. The Centre's mandate requires it to engage with the Employment Ontario (EO) network directly to identify needs and opportunities within the EO system.

In December 2016, as part of its strategic priority setting exercise, the Centre contacted over 130 EO service providers, with over 200 employees interviewed. The insights gained from the discussions regarding the EO network will help inform the Centre's prioritization of its research, knowledge transfer, and capacity building exercises.

The Centre's engagement with service providers provided an opportunity to hear different perspectives on areas where further capacity-building is needed, as well as where there may be strategic alignment opportunities for the Ministry. For example, feedback was received from many about the need to increase capacity to support persons with disabilities, individuals facing multiple barriers, engaging employers and the importance of providing digital literacy training and other targeted programs.

Since the findings of the report are very broad, the Ministry will be asking the Centre to develop, through its research, a more in-depth description and analysis of challenges that service providers face in delivering EO supports and services.

The Ministry supports the Centre as it continues engaging with us – the EO service providers and other EO stakeholders such as employers and training agents – and the Ministry is committed to continued dialogue with the Centre about opportunities to move forward.

Input from service providers helps form the basis of the Centre's research and allows it to fulfill its mandate to conduct further research and analysis to help inform employment and training issues that are of importance to the EO network.

9.7 Ministry of Education – 2017 Child Care and Child and Family Program Allocations and Service Agreement Package

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [2017 Child Care and Child and Family Program Allocations and Service Agreement Package](#).

On September 12, 2016, the government made a historic commitment in announcing a major Child Care Expansion Plan ("Expansion Plan"). This plan will create access to licensed child care for 100,000 more children aged 0-4 years old over the next five years.

In the first year of this expansion plan, this substantial new funding for licensed child care will support approximately 16,000 more children 0-4 years old. This funding will support new child care fee subsidies, expand access to affordable licensed child care spaces and reduce fee subsidy waitlists to help parents access quality child care. For the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, the expansion plan allocation is \$504,820.00.

In addition to this historic investment for the expansion plan, the province continues to work with the Federal government on the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Framework.

The 2016 Federal Budget committed \$500M in 2017-18 to support the establishment of an ELCC, including \$100M for Indigenous child care and early learning on-reserve.

On March 22, the 2017 Federal Budget committed an additional \$7 billion over 10 years, starting in 2018-19, to support and create more high-quality, affordable child care spaces across the country

In total, the DSB received a total of \$5,223,085 for the child care allocation which is an increase of 12.14% total in our 2017 allocations in comparison to 2016's allocation. This is largely due to the expansion plan allocation which I already explained earlier.

There is no change in the allocation for the family support program allocation for 2017.

9.8 DSSAB Act Review Update

Fern Dominelli, CAO, briefed the Board on a [letter](#) received from the Ministry.

The Ministry sought input on key review parameters, including scope, engagement and timing from the Northern Ontario Service Deliverer's Association, the Executive of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM).

The Ministry has worked closely with their partners across ministries to ensure support and commitment to the review process and objectives.

The Ministry has confirmed that they have now finalized parameters for the review and are currently working through formal procurement processes to secure a third-party reviewer by June 2017.

The reviewer will develop and implement a comprehensive consultation and stakeholder engagement plan, with in-person consultations expected to occur through summer and early-fall in each of the 10 districts.

Consultations will include discussions with DSSAB board members and staff, and targeted information/discussion sessions with elected municipal representatives and TWOMO representatives.

Municipalities will also have an opportunity to provide input through a formal, council-endorsed written submission.

Other stakeholders and the public will also have an opportunity to provide input to the review.

The Ministry understands that it will be important to ensure Boards, staff, and municipal, TWOMO representatives have sufficient advance notice of consultation plans and timing to support full and meaningful engagement.

The Ministry will work with the reviewer to make sure you stay informed and receive preparatory material (e.g. discussion and written submission guides), in advance of the consultation.

9.9 2017 Provincial Budget

Fern Dominelli, CAO, gave a summary of the 2017 Provincial Budget and its effect on the DSB and the people they serve. Highlights include:

- Continued progress uploading social assistant benefit costs.
- \$45 million over three years to create up to 1,150 additional supportive housing units for those with serious mental illness or addictions who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

- \$200 million in funding over three years to improve access for up to 6,000 families and individuals to housing assistance and services such as counselling, medication and life skills training.
- Investing \$30 million over three years in the Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit Pilot to eventually support up to 3,000 survivors of domestic violence. The goal is to provide them with the flexibility to choose where they want to live. The government is also seeking consultation on a potential portable housing benefit for others in need of affordable housing.
- \$90 million to Community Homelessness Prevention Initiatives (CHPI) over the next three years.
- \$640 million Social Infrastructure Fund to support the repair and modernization of community infrastructure between 2016-17 and 2018-19. Affordable housing and shelter projects are eligible for this fund.
- Moving forward with a Basic Income Pilot to explore how we can provide more consistent and predictable support to those with low incomes, including those who may be precariously employed. Testing how a Basic Income pilot may improve health, employment and housing outcomes are all part of our efforts to promote a growing economy that benefits all Ontarians." (Quoted from 2017 budget)
- Effective January 1, 2018 a new drug benefit program that fully covers the cost of prescription medications for everyone aged 24 and under, regardless of family income. This program -- the first of its kind in Canada will ensure that young adults have access to universal drug coverage and parents never have to choose between paying for their children's prescription drugs and providing other essentials.
- \$200 million to support 24,000 children getting access to affordable, quality licensed child care through fee subsidies and spaces in schools to reduce waiting lists. The goal is to eventually reach a total of 100,000 new spaces.
- Reducing household electricity bills by an average of 25% this summer. This includes removing the 8% provincial portion of the HST.

Ontario is increasing health care investments by \$11.5 billion over the next three years. The 2017 balanced Budget plan includes a new \$7-billion booster shot to health care, building on the commitment made in the 2016 Budget. This investment will improve access to care, expand mental health and addiction services, and enhance the experience and recovery of patients. It includes \$1.3 billion to further reduce wait times.

Although there was good news in the budget for Health Care, there was nothing specific for Paramedic Services.

9.10 Container Gardening

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, informed the Board of the upcoming Container Gardening Events being held in Espanola and Chapleau.

Community Container Gardening Event for Espanola:

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board and the LaCloche Best Start Hub will be hosting its sixth annual Family Container Gardening Event on Saturday June 3, 2017 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Red McCarthy Memorial Ball Fields Pavilion. This Community Event is open to families with children to learn basic container gardening skills and engage in fun activities!

Last year's numbers were 106 adults and 106 children, a total of 212 (17 more than last year).

The Espanola Horticultural Society have confirmed their attendance at the Event this year to assist with teaching the junior gardeners valuable growing skills to ensure the best environment for their garden container.

Community Container Gardening Event for Chapleau:

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board and the Sudbury North Best Start Hub will be hosting our fourth annual Family Container Gardening Event on Thursday June 1, 2017 from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm on-site at the DSB Housing building (78-80 Pine Street).

Last year's numbers were 52 adults and 42 children, a total of 94 (15 more than last year).

The Events in both locations provide a free barbecue to participants in attendance.

Police, Fire and Paramedic Services have been invited to be on site for both events and allow children and adults alike to view the equipment, provide demonstrations and actively use the horns and sirens! It is always a well-received addition to the event.

Funding for the Event

To control costs, local business owners are made aware of the event and have been requested for continuing support as they have been very generous in their donations in past years. We are hoping again for their participation in the event.

9.11 Paramedic Week May 28 to June 3, 2017

Les Gamble, Board Chair, thanked the paramedics for their dedication, devotion and commitment to the profession and the people they serve.

Les Gamble, sent a [memo](#) to all Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB paramedics acknowledging their continued service and dedication to the health and wellbeing of our citizens living in and visiting our communities.

10.0 Other Business

11.0 Next Meeting – June 22, 2017

12.0 Adjournment

Resolution 17- 43

Moved by: Al MacNevin

Seconded by: Ray Dufour

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 12:00 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held, in the DSB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room on June 22, 2017.

Carried



Chair



CAO (Secretary-Treasurer
of the Corporation)