

## Services board budget increases

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The Recorder

ESPANOLA — Municipalities within the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) will see a slight increase in their share of the 2010 budget.

"We looked at the recommendation from the finance committee, and struck our budget for this year," stated Ray Chenier, chair of the DSB board, after its regular monthly meeting last week. "The increase will amount to 2.87 percent over last year."

Mr. Chenier explained, "the members of the board felt very comfortable

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approving the proposed budget as the finance committee had looked at all aspects of the budget and where cuts could be made."

Fern Dominelli, interim CAO, told the Recorder after the meeting, "there will be an increase of 2.87 percent to the municipalities and unincorporated townships." He explained, "the province has uploaded the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits in the amount of \$1,060,035, so the funding normally provided to the municipalities for this will not be in place starting in 2010. So there will be no

gain for the municipalities with this taking place."

Mr. Dominelli continued, pointing out that the 2009 municipal levy, not including any refunds, was \$9,855,322, and, with the value of the provincial upload of the ODSP benefits, is \$1,060,035, leaving an adjusted 2009 base of \$8,795,287. The 2010 proposed levy, not including any refunds, is \$9,047,623, meaning the true total amount of the increase to the municipalities is \$252,336 (2.87 percent).

Mr. Dominelli explained the main reason for the increase is due to overall wage increases with

employees, as per collective agreements. He also noted, "we will be starting negotiations with OPSEU (Ontario Public Service Employees Union) employees soon, as the employees contract runs out at the end of the current year."

"There were definitely some concerns raised by the board with the increase in the budget, but the finance-budget committee had looked at all facets of the budget, and made the presentation and recommendation on the 2010 budget to the board," said Mr. Dominelli.