



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 November 23, 2006
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at Espanola's DSSAB Mead Street Board Room

- Present: Pat Best, Fern Bidal, Ray Chénier, Leslie Gamble, Frank Gillis, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux, Laurier Low, Bud Rohn, Richard Stephens, Maureen Van Alstine, Dale Van Every
- 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; Aurel Malo, HR Services
- Regrets: Earle Freeborn, Dean Wenborn
- Observer: Debbie Law, Councillor, Municipality of French River
- Media: Michael Erskine, Manitoulin Expositor
Kirk Villamarin, Mid-North Monitor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Ray Chénier, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed Debbie Law, Councillor from the Municipality of French River. Ray went on to note that this was a special meeting in that it was very possibly the last meeting of the present Board given the recent municipal elections. He made it a point of thanking all of the outgoing Board members for their contributions over the course of the past three year term of office. He paid particular tribute to outgoing members **Pat Best** and **Dale van Every**, two founding members who had served without interruption since the Board's inception in 1999. He also noted that **Laurier Low**, the outgoing mayor of Killarney, was another founding DSSAB Board member who had served during all but one previous term of office and would not be returning in January. He made it a point of indicating that the work all outgoing members had done was invaluable to the communities they represented and invaluable to the health and wellbeing of all of the residents that called the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts home.

He asked each and every member to be proud of having served on their councils and on the DSSAB Board whether they had or had not again run for elected office, whether or not they had won or lost their elections and whether or not they would again serve on the DSSAB's Board.

He told them to remember that they had done their job and done it well. He said this was particularly important for members who had lost their bid for re-election to keep in mind as tough as that could be. He asked them to keep in mind that they were contributing to the health of the democratic process that makes ours the fine country it is. He reminded them that the best thing in a democracy is to look for self gratification because it can be ingrate in the sense that change often comes when it is least expected and that change does not mean that those who are left behind are not worthy. They are simply subject to changing times, changing people and a very volatile electorate.

He thanked them all and wished the best to those who would not be returning to the Board in 2007.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Add item 8.1. - NOSDA Resolution seeking FONOM support for DSSAB representation at Joint Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review Table.

Resolution No. 06-81

Moved by: Laurier Low **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine

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. 06-82

Moved by: Bruce Killah **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every

THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:05 a.m. to discuss Human Resources and Property matters.

Carried

Resolution No. 06-83

Moved by: Frank Gillis **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal

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

Carried

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

The Chair reported that In Camera discussions involved a short update on the progress of the OPSEU Collective Agreement negotiations.

5.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1. Budget Committee

Budget Committee Chair, Fern Bidal, reported that the Committee had met on two separate occasions since the last Board meeting to continue its work on the DSSAB's 2007 Budget. Fern reported that:

- a) although the Committee had arrived at what it deemed to be an overall acceptable year over year operating budget increase of \$1,171,711 or 3.9%; and
- b) although the Committee had been given the Board set objective of seeing all member municipalities presented with a Board adopted 2007 Operating budget prior to year end,

... the Committee had decided that it could not recommend to the Board that it adopt the responsibly prepared 2007 budget arrived at since two-thirds or

\$777,788 of the \$1,171,711 increase would have to come from municipal property tax coffers with only one third or \$393,923 of the \$1,171,711 increase coming from the province.

Referring to the prepared 2007 budget bottom line of \$31,428, 007, Mr. Bidal noted that:

- i- the province's \$393,923 share of the overall \$1,171,711 increase meant a 1.96% increase to Ontario's share of the year over year increase for a total 2007 federal-provincial share payable of \$21,122,341, while
- ii- the municipal share payable of the overall \$1,171,711 increase meant an 8.16% increase to the municipal share of the year over year increase for a total 2007 municipal share payable of \$10,305,665.

Mr. Bidal repeated that his Committee had concluded that it could not recommend that the Board adopt a budget that called for an 8.16% increase to the municipal share payable even though it was comfortable in recommending an overall budget increase of 3.96%.

Mr. Bidal was quick to report that there were two prime factors for the significant increase in the municipal share payable and that the DSSAB had no control over either of these two factors.

- 1- **Provincial government decision to reduce the First Nations Land Ambulance (EMS) grant funding provided to the DSSAB by \$333, 917.** (Mr. Bidal pointed out that while the year-over-year increase to the EMS portion of the DSSAB's budget was projected to be in the order of 3.65%, *the municipal share is projected to increase by \$563,638 or 17.9%* with the province's share payable decreasing by some 5.7%. (The \$333,917 grant reduction accounts for close to 60% of the \$563,638 municipal share increase).
- 2- **7.14% increase to municipal share payable of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)** - The ODSP program is directly run and operated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The ODSP caseload is growing province wide. The DSSAB's municipalities, like all Ontario municipalities, have no choice but to pay the Province their invoiced share of the costs billed to the DSSAB. The program's overall year over year costs are projected to increase by 7.7% in 2007 with the DSSAB's apportioned municipal share increasing by 7.14% or \$169,003 in 2007.

The DSSAB's issues with the EMS funding formula and the changes to the First Nation EMS grant funding formula are before the Ministry of Health (MOHLTC) and well known to all of our MPPs. Member municipalities and affected First Nation communities alike have been informed.

While we are striving to see the Province recognise the legitimacy of the changes that we believe are needed to "correct the errors" in their FN funding formula calculations, nothing has yet been resolved.

Mr. Bidal indicated that it is the Budget Committee's recommendation that an Open Letter be sent to member municipalities explaining the predicament.

Some points of discussion and recommendation of the Board:

- The cost items that are within the DSSAB's control are coming in within very acceptable percentage increases.
- The EMS funding formula has been flawed (TWOMO and x-border and now First Nations) since it was put in place
- Government's First Nation grant calculations based on wrong data (cross reference CAO's [Notes on First Nations Funding Allocation](#) circulated on October 20, 2006).
- Outstanding x-border billing issue remains unresolved and invoices unpaid
- Ontario has never lived up to 50-50 EMS funding commitment: Premier indicated province will get there by end of 2008
- FN Funding changes are not discussed with municipalities/DSSABs before they are implemented

Resolution No. 06-84

Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Frank Gillis

THAT the Board instruct Administration to send a letter to member municipalities and First Nations indicating very clearly the dilemma that the DSSAB is in with the 2007 Budget, explaining the reasons for the dilemma and stating the DSSAB's reluctance to strike a 2007 budget that calls for an 8.16% increase to the municipal share payable for the year 2007; and

THAT a letter be sent to the Premier appraising him of the EMS funding issues and specifically the First Nations grant funding formula issues raised with the MOHLTC and in need of his attention; and

THAT member municipalities be asked to also lobby the Premier to support the DSSAB's position; and

THAT other DSSABs, FONOM and AMO also be asked for their support.

Carried

Mr. Bidal thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with them as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Laurier Low asked whether Gary would be able to make a presentation to municipalities/municipal organizations regarding the budgetary problems. Gary said that he would be happy to attend such information sessions and to contact him with times and dates.

Resolution No. 06-85

Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah

THAT the Board accept the Report of the Finance Committee.

Carried

6.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1. Adoption of Minutes of October 26, 2006

Resolution No. 06-86

Moved by: Pat Best **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine

That the October 26, 2006 Board meeting minutes be approved.

Carried

7.0 REPORTS**7.1. CAO REPORT****7.1.1. Operational Management Reports**

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- **Children's Services Report**
- **Ontario Works Report**
- **Social Housing Report**
- **Emergency Medical Services Report**
- **Third Quarter Finance Report**

Child Care Eligibility Income Testing Changes

Fern Dominelli reported that the proposed regulations on child care eligibility income testing had been approved and that the new system will begin on January 1, 2007. OW staff has been attending training sessions in order to get ready for the new changes. There is no anticipated increase in costs due to the new system.

EMS Report**Cross Border Billing**

Gary reported that the EMS and Finance Departments had calculated what they believe is owing to this DSSAB for Cross Border Emergency Medical Services provided in 2005.

Resolution No. 06-87

Moved by: Frank Gillis **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah

WHEREAS the DSSAB's Administration has calculated the amounts that it believes neighbouring DDAs owe to our DSSAB for EMS Cross Border Billing purposes in the 2005 budget year,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Board again this year authorizes the DSSAB's Administration to send invoices to those Designated Delivery Agents/municipalities that owe the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB for those cross-border Emergency Medical Services provided in their EMS jurisdiction and that they similarly be requested to invoice our DSSAB for those cross-border Emergency Medical Services that they believe are payable to them for services that they delivered in our EMS jurisdiction.

Carried

Finance & Administration

The Third Quarter Report was circulated to Board members.

Resolution No. 06-88

Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Laurier Low

That the CAO's Operational Management Reports be accepted.

Carried

8.0. NEW BUSINESS**8.1. NOSDA Resolution requesting FONOM support to see DSSABs represented as members at Joint Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review Table**

Gary spoke to the NOSDA concerns that DSSABs should have a seat at the proposed Joint Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review table if their direct interests and concerns as the agents who deliver many of the services in question across most of Northern Ontario are to be fully appreciated

and NOSDA's request that FONOM support NOSDA's lobby to see DSSABs represented at that table.

Chair Chénier noted that this matter had been previously raised with Mr. Gillis who sits at the FONOM table and who shares the concerns re: the need to level the playing field between DSSABs and their primarily Southern Ontario based CMSM counterparts.

Resolution No. 06-89

Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine

WHEREAS Premier McGuinty announced, at Ottawa's AMO AGM, that the government of Ontario would be undertaking a joint provincial-municipal fiscal and service delivery review of provincial health and social services over the course of the coming 18 months and that the review would conclude with the release of a report in the spring of 2008; and

WHEREAS it was further indicated that this review would jointly conducted by both the provincial and municipal orders of government; and

WHEREAS CMSMS and municipalities will definitely have members at the joint review table by virtue of their status as AMO member municipalities, the North, in the opinion of NOSDA, risks being short-changed if DSSABs do not also have a seat at the table to speak to the specific-to-the-North fiscal and operational interests and concerns that its ten (10) DSSABs encounter as the "municipal service system managers" accountable for the delivery of the vast majority of the municipal services that are the subject of this joint review; and

WHEREAS NOSDA has requested that both NOMA and FONOM provide their support and assistance in advancing the merits of NOSDA's claim that DSSABs should be granted a seat on the joint Provincial-Municipal body created to conduct the review; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB shares the opinion of NOSDA when it comes to the importance of DSSAB membership on the joint provincial-municipal fiscal and service delivery review body;

BE IT HEREIN RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB ask that FONOM support NOSDA's request to see DSSABs included as members of the joint provincial-municipal fiscal and service delivery review body responsible for this fiscal and service delivery review over the course of an eighteen month period.

Carried

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. Board Computers

The DSSAB IT Department will be contacting Board members regarding the retrieval of DSSAB computers from those who will not be returning to the Board in 2007.

9.2. Best Wishes and Farewells

Known outgoing Board members, **Dale Van Every, Pat Best, Laurier Low, Bud Rohn, Maureen Van Alstine, Richard Stephens and Fern Bidal** expressed their thanks to all Board members and staff for the opportunity to have worked with them over the course of the past three years. .

Gary also expressed his thanks to all Board members for their participation and dedication to the DSSAB over the past three years and stated that although the business at hand is usually of a very serious nature, it was always pleasant, as it

was during today's discussions of the EMS funding situation, to see that members could also engage in a good deal of laughter around the table during their deliberations.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 06-90 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
THAT we do now adjourn at 11:30 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on January 25, 2007 in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room. **Carried**

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)