



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
DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at the Espanola Regional Recreation Complex
May 22, 2003

Present: Jack Barr, Pat Best, Gary Brown, Ray Chénier, Ken Ferguson
Earle Freeborn, Les Gamble, Frank Gillis, Vince Lacroix,
Willy Léveillé, Marcel Rancourt, Ray Vaillant, Dale Van Every

Regrets: Jim Gerhart

Staff: Gary R. Champagne, CAO
Suzanne Bouchard, E.A. (Recording Secretary)
Connie Morphet, Director of Finance
Peter Bradley, Housing Services Manager
Dan Hammond, Land Ambulance Services Director
Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services

Press: Cindy Laundry
Mike Erskine

Observers: Laurier Low
Diane Charlebois

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Frank Gillis, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Chair indicated that there would not be any In Camera session this day.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 03-62 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Willy Léveillé
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried**

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest declared.

4.0 MINUTES

4.1. Adoption of Minutes of April 24, 2003

Resolution No. 03-63 Moved by: Ken Ferguson **Seconded by:** Jack Barr
THAT the minutes of the April 24, 2003 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

4.2. Business Arising from the April 24, 2003 Board Minutes

4.2.1. Area 2 Board Member Replacement

The three municipalities in Area 2 (Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers, Township of Nairn & Hyman and Township of Baldwin) have provided the DSSAB with their Councils' Resolutions indicating that Mr. Jim Gerhart, Reeve of the Township of Nairn & Hyman is the elected municipal official filling the Area 2 Board position left vacant as a result of Janet Whissell's resignation from office.

4.2.2. Second Avenue (Espanola) Property Purchase & Renovations

The Chair reported that the purchase is complete and that renovations planning is proceeding as planned with the requests for tenders for all facets of the work soon to go out.

4.2.2. EMS Cross-Border Billing

EMS Cross-Border Billing invoices have been sent out to neighbouring CMSMs/DSSABs. Reactions have been mixed with no payments yet received. An Administrative Memo was also sent to the MOHLTC's EMS Regional Office seeking to know if the MOHLTC is prepared to support and enforce the payment of the legislatively permissible late charges that the DSSAB's Board may elect to impose on outstanding accounts. There has as yet been no reply to this enquiry and our DSSAB has yet to receive a Cross-Border invoice from any of the other CMSMs/DSSABs.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1. Board Committee Reports

5.1.1. H.R./Policy Committee

A meeting of the H.R./Policy Committee was held last night, May 21, 2003. Committee Chair, R. Chénier verbally reported on:

- the status of EMS Transition Plan EMS Management hirings;
- the status of the H.R. Manager interviews that have resulted in the identification of the preferred candidate that the CAO will be negotiating the terms of employment with. It is understood that the agreed to terms of the employment offer will be subject to the Board's ratification at its June 26th meeting;
- the completion of the Consultant's work on the draft Human Resources Policy Manual which will now go to the DSSAB's Administrative Management team for their review and comment before being presented to the Committee and then the Board.

5.2. CAO Report

5.2.1. Operational Management Reports

5.2.1.1. Children's Services - there was no written report circulated.

5.2.1.2. EMS – In response to Dale Van Every's enquiry re: the status of the EFRT services on Cockburn Island, Dan Hammond reported that it was especially important to this community, with no accessible Land Ambulance station, to try to maintain an appropriately trained Emergency First Response Team. Dan elaborated upon the status of EFRT training requirements in light of the latest SARS expectations and directives. There were no other questions re: the circulated report.

5.2.1.3. Social Housing Services

Expanding upon the circulated report, the CAO reported that progress on the Sultan & Foleyet property "subdivisions" is progressing though slowly. Housing arrears, down to 1%, are being managed very well.

5.2.1.4. Ontario Works

Fern Dominelli chose to highlight the circulated report's reminder that the DSSAB is able to offer municipal staff no-cost First Aid training, WHMIS training and other identified training in exchange for free municipal space where this DSSAB training can be offered in their municipality. Fern thanked those municipalities who have already participated in this win-win exchange.

5.2.1.5. Finance & Administration

The CAO reported that the DSSAB's new General Insurance Broker for Property and Board Liability insurance purposes is James Bousquet Insurance from Little Current.

5.2.2. Strategic Issues Report

The CAO reported that he would be speaking to this subject in greater detail later on in the day as part of the 2nd Annual Member Municipalities Information Meeting.

- **InterMinisterial/DSSAB CAOs Table Progress** – Gary did mention that progress was being made on NOSDA's efforts to see an InterMinisterial/DSSAB CAO Working Group established to deal with issues that are particular to Northern Ontario's 10 DSSABs given that their differentiated status as the only Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (of Ontario's 47 CMSMs) that exist by virtue of a Northern Ontario specific piece of legislation known as the DSSAB Act.
- He updated members on the May 16, 2003 meeting that he, Parry Sound DSSAB CAO Mark Fisher and SSM DSSAB Commissioner Dave Overboe had with Barry Whalen, ADM and Cliodhna McMullin from MCFCS regarding the Terms of Reference and composition of the confirmed InterMinisterial-DSSAB Working Group that the Province has agreed to establish as a 6th sub-committee of the Municipal-Provincial Social Services Working Group (MPSSWG) co-chaired by MCFCS Deputy Minister John Fleming and Region of Niagara CAO, Michael Trojan.

Resolution No. 03-64 Moved by: Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every
 THAT the DSSAB's Operational Management and Strategic Issues Reports be accepted.
Carried

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**6.1. Premier Eves' Letter re: Cochrane DSSAB Pension Plan concerns**

The Premier has acknowledged receipt of our DSSAB's letter of support for the Cochrane DSSAB Resolution re: the matter.

6.2. Township of Baldwin Letter re: Charity Casino

Board Members discussed the Township of Baldwin's letter requesting the DSSAB's support for their application for a Charity Casino to be located at the junction of Highways 6 & 17. It was agreed the matter is one the DSSAB should refrain from commenting on given the matter is one that has been individually addressed by those of the DSSAB's member municipalities that the Township of Baldwin has already contacted for support. It was believed the matter should remain within the realm of individual municipalities to comment on.

Resolution No. 03-65 Moved by: Jack Barr **Seconded by:** Vince Lacroix
 THAT the Township of Baldwin's request for a letter of support for their Charity Casino application be tabled as information only.
Carried

6.3. Regional Municipality of Durham Resolution re: Zero Tolerance Policy

Background - The Regional Municipality of Durham, as one of the 47 CMSMs/DSSABs to whom the Province has vested responsibility of the delivery of Ontario Works, has chosen to circulate a copy of its Resolution re: this matter to all of the province's 47 CMSMs/DSSABs; thus its presence at our DSSAB Table. The Durham Resolution comes as a result of its reading of the Kimberley Rogers Inquest. Durham is recommending to the Premier that Ontario make changes to the province's Zero Tolerance Policy re: "Welfare Fraud".

Board members had mixed reactions to the clauses found in the Durham Resolution. Jack Barr clearly indicated that he could not feel comfortable with any change that could be interpreted as an endorsement of "Welfare Fraud." Dale van Every noted that where he was not in favour of welfare fraud and that those who defraud the system should be punished, lifetime ineligibility did appear rather severe given that Ontario Works is the last government resort available to Ontarians for food, clothing and shelter. Raymond Chénier spoke to the concern that "Sudbury" – and we in Manitoulin-Sudbury - have been negatively and unjustly viewed by many across Canada as a harsh and uncompromising community given the negative and often inaccurate portrayal of the facts and circumstances surrounding the tragic death of the individual at the heart of the Inquest. The City of Sudbury did exactly what it had to and what this DSSAB or any other CMSM has to in its administration of the Ontario Works regulations they are accountable to manage.

Fern Dominelli clarified the present procedures in place within our DSSAB. He explained that the DSSAB currently has a way of addressing the "zero tolerance lifetime ban" issue. In suspected fraud cases forwarded to the police, it is our DSSAB's practice of now including a letter indicating that the DSSAB would not object to the Court's imposition of a conditional discharge. A conditional discharge allows the DSSAB to be repaid any amounts received fraudulently and also does not result in a criminal record for the accused. Without the criminal conviction, the zero tolerance lifetime ban does not come into effect. The discretion to grant a conditional discharge rests with the court system but once a participant is convicted of fraud, the Ontario Works lifetime ban must be imposed.

Noting that the Durham Region letter was not actually asking for support from the DSSAB, and satisfied with the flexibility that Mr. Dominelli spoke to, the Board decided to simply acknowledge receipt of the Durham correspondence.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Hagar EMS station coverage

The Chair opened the item by asking the CAO to provide the background to this new business. As Background to the matter, the CAO indicated that:

- the matter first came to the DSSAB's attention by way of its Director of EMS' copy of the February 13, 2003 letter of concern that the Municipality of St. Charles forwarded to its neighbouring communities, MP and MPP as to the sufficiency of the EMS coverage that the French River EMS services were providing from the Hagar Land Ambulance station;
- the DSSAB's Administration, per its Board's instruction, addressed the matter at the SEMA meeting held on April 24, 2003;
- the DSSAB's Administration had requested that the French River EMS provide the DSSAB with their comments as that area's EMS operator, as to their views on the

- matter;
- the matter was now being presented as new business at the request of Board member Vaillant's indication to the CAO that the matter was to be the subject of a municipality of St. Charles resolution to be discussed at its May 14, 2003 Council meeting;
 - the DSSAB's Administration did not have any additional information or documentation from St. Charles to provide members on the matter.

The Chair thanked the CAO and turned the floor over to Ray Vaillant.

Ray Vaillant opened his remarks on the matter with the following Resolution.

Resolution No. 03-66 Moved by: Ray Vaillant **Seconded by:** Vince Lacroix
THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB agree to accept the additional costs, as presented by EMS Department Head, associated with increasing the EMS coverage to Hagar Station. The costs are estimated at \$104,000.00, 50% to be incurred by the DSSAB. This will represent 16 hours on site and 8 hours on call. **Tabled**

Speaking to his Resolution, Ray Vaillant proceeded to:

- distribute a map of the DSSAB area ambulance coverage;
- indicate that Sudbury East has a 300 sq. mi. area to be covered by only one ambulance station during the period from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.;
- indicate that an average call takes approximately three hours which leaves the whole area uncovered during that period;
- the Hagar area of coverage has to rely on Sudbury and West Nipissing when the Noëlville ambulance is out on call at night, or the resident has to wait for the Noëlville ambulance to be available;
- that the Hagar Ambulance Station is the only station on Trans-Canada Hwy 17 which is not open 24 hours/day;
- in 2002, there were roughly 100 calls in that area and 60% were handled by Sudbury EMS and West Nipissing EMS. The DSSAB will therefore probably be paying these two outside EMS providers up to \$30,000 for cross-border services. At an average cost of \$200 per call, if handled by Hagar Station, the cost would be approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Vaillant went on to quote the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB's EMS Mission Statement:

Mr. Vaillant stated that he believed that the Sudbury East region is very much lacking in ambulance services and asked Board members whether they would support having ambulance stations close down at 7:00 p.m. in their respective regions.

The Chair thanked Mr. Vaillant and asked members to comment.

Ray Chénier stated that he considered Mr. Vaillant's proposal rather unusual and, in his opinion, Out of Order. He indicated that he had a lot of difficulty seeing this matter raised, at the Board, by a member who is also a paramedic employed to provide land ambulance services in the area in question by the contracted Ambulance Services operator responsible to the DSSAB. He indicated the Board should not be asked to make a decision on a substantive money matter on the strength of information it has not seen before and that its Administration has not had a chance to see, much less comment on.

Les Gamble asked if the Hagar Station is in fact the only ambulance station that is not covered 24-7 on the Trans-Canada Highway. The CAO replied that neither he nor Mr.

Hammond had heard this comment before and were as such not in a position to substantiate its accuracy or inaccuracy.

Ken Ferguson indicated that he was of the opinion that since this was all new information, it should be referred to the proper channels.

Earle Freeborn stated that it was not fair or proper that Ray Vaillant, as an ambulance employee, should have to present this item to the Board on behalf of his municipality.

He suggested that the matter should first be referred to the DSSAB's EMS Committee thereby allowing the Board's Administration to thoroughly comment on the matter and allow the Committee to bring a recommendation to the Board.

Frank Gillis stated that, in fairness to Board members, more information should be provided, and that perhaps the whole issue of ambulance coverage should be looked at.

Frank Gillis thought that the proper action would be to defer the motion until more information and statistical data can be provided, and that it be brought back to the next Board meeting for reporting, action and a resolution.

Resolution No. 03-67 Moved by: Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Ray Vaillant
THAT Resolution No. 03-66 be tabled until the next Board meeting so that the proper information can be brought to the Board for discussion. **Carried**

7.0 NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 03-68 Moved by: Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Ken Ferguson
THAT we do now adjourn at 10:25 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on June 26, 2003 commencing at 10:00 a.m. in the Espanola DSSAB Office Boardroom. **Carried**

Summer Meetings - There was discussion regarding the July and August meeting dates. It was left that the summer meeting would be at the call of the Chair.

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)