



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DES SERVICES
SOCIAUX DU DISTRICT DE MANITOULIN-SUDBURY

210 Mead Boulevard, Espanola, ON P5E 1R9
Telephone: (705) 862-7850
Facsimile: (705) 862-7805
<http://www.msdsab.net>

210, boulevard Mead, Espanola ON P5E 1R9
Téléphone: (705) 862-7850
Télécopieur: (705) 862-7805
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MINUTES
of the
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at the Espanola DSSAB Board Room
February 24, 2005

Present: Pat Best, Collin Bourgeois, Earle Freeborn,
Leslie Gamble, Frank Gillis, Bruce Killah, Laurier Low, Bud Rohn,
Richard Stephens, 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
* Aurel Malo, HR Services Consultant (on contract to DSSAB)

Observers: Mayor, Claude Bouffard, Municipality of French River:
Councillor Dave Wenborn, Municipality of French River:
Michel (Mike) Monette, Clerk, Municipality of French River

Press: Michael Erskine

Regrets: Fern Bidal, Ray Chénier, Mike Lehoux, Maureen Van Alstine

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Frank Gillis, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair asked that the Board permit a couple of changes to the Agenda:

- (i) to have the Closed Session moved to the end of the meeting in order not to keep guests and press waiting; and
- (ii) the addition of Item #5.2. Adoption of February 16, 2005 Board

Resolution No. 05-15 Moved by: Bruce Killah **Seconded by:** Laurier Low

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Collin Bourgeois expressed a Conflict of Interest re Item #6.2. dealing with the Funeral and Burial Costs for Non-Social Assistance Recipients.

4.0 MINUTES

4.1. Adoption of Minutes of January 27, 2005

Bruce Killah indicated that item 3.2 incorrectly listed him as a nominee for the Vice Chair.

Resolution No. 05-16 Moved by: Bruce Killah **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every

THAT the minutes of the January 27, 2005 Board meeting be approved as amended.

Carried

4.2. Adoption of Minutes of February 16, 2005 Special Board Meeting

Resolution No. 05-17 Moved by: Pat Best **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn

THAT the minutes of the February 16, 2005 Board meeting be approved.

Carried

5.0 BUSINESS ITEMS

5.1. 1st & 2nd Reading—Draft Policy on Funeral and Burial Costs for Non-Social Assistance Recipients

G. Champagne and F. Dominelli briefed members on the background of the proposed draft policy. Briefly stated, the public management and payment of the funeral and burial costs for indigents has always rested and continues to rest with municipalities. While all CMSMs and most DSSABs assume the management and the payment of these costs, our DSSAB chose not to go that route. The Board members of the day chose to leave the responsibility for the management and payment of these costs with the given municipality where the individual happened to be at the time of death. While the number of such cases have been few and far between over the last six years, when they do come up they often lead to a good deal of confusion for those who are trying to see the matter properly managed. (E.g. - Calls to the DSSAB are referred to the municipality in question which then often refers the inquiring party back to the DSSAB.) (The matter was the past subject of a rather scathing – though ill founded – letter to the DSSAB re: its negligence in not dealing with these cases when they arise.) The situation is now again before us as there is presently a funeral home in Sudbury that is holding the corpse of an individual who died within the jurisdictional boundaries of one of our member municipalities but facing what appears to be that given municipality's refusal to meet its legislated cost obligations in such situations.

The policy that the DSSAB's Administration is advancing for the Board's consideration would see the DSSAB assume the management and the costs associated with such deaths, with the associated funeral costs simply prorated to all of the DSSAB's member municipalities – just as it now does when it comes to the death of OW and ODSP clients in our catchment area.

From his estimate of the few and sporadic number of cases involved, Fern has estimated that the DSSAB could absorb these costs within its present OW budget.

As Board members expressed differing opinions on the matter, it was decided that they should bring the proposed Policy to their municipalities for consideration.

Resolution No. 05-18 Moved by: Laurier Low **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn

THAT the Board give its First and Second Readings of the proposed Policy on Funerals of Deceased Persons not on OW/ODSP.

Carried

5.2. 1st & 2nd Reading—EMS Policy on Short Notice Vacancy

Resolution No. 05-19 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Richard Stephens

THAT the Board give its First and Second Readings of the proposed EMS Policy on Short Notice Vacancy for Emergency Medical Services.

Carried

Gary explained that the reason for this policy is to allow EMS Managers to down staff ambulance attendants when they find it impossible to replace a medic who has given short notice of absence. Board members generally felt that the policy was well thought out but asked for a definition of "Short Notice".

6.0. REPORTS

6.1. BOARD COMMITTEES

6.1.1. Budget Committee

In the Budget Committee Chair's absence, Frank Gillis called upon the CAO to speak to the highlights of the Budget Committee's recommendation that the Board accept the proposed 2005 Budget outlined in the circulated [Budget Paper](#). Gary noted that:

- while the budget calls for an overall Year over Year increase of 3.47%, it does see the Year over Year municipal share payable increase by 6.98%.
- the programs where a municipal increase are projected are:
 - the MCSS managed ODSP program which is 50-50 funded by municipalities and where a 3.49% municipal share increase is projected;
 - the DSSAB managed EMS program where a 23.36% municipal share increase is projected (due primarily to 13.82% paramedic wage settlement which is only 1% cost-shared by the Ministry of Health as well as to additional dollars needed to enhance Gore Bay onsite service coverage);
- the programs that are seeing a municipal cost share decrease are:
 - the DSSAB managed OW program where a 1.28% municipal share decrease is projected;
 - the DSSAB managed Child Care dossier where an 8.02% municipal share decrease is projected;
 - the DSSAB managed Social Housing programs where a 2.69% municipal share decrease is projected.

Gary reminded the Board that, in accepting the budget committee's proposed resolution they were also directing the DSSAB's Administration to proceed with the implementation of the EMS services reorganisation referenced in the Board's February 16th minutes and identified as Option 2.

As a final comment Gary reminded the Board that, as determined by the Double Majority vote of member municipalities, the apportionment formula for 2005 and beyond now included consideration of the power dam grants received by some of our member municipalities.

Resolution No. 05-20 Moved by: Les Gamble **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board's Budget Committee has presented the Board with a Year 2005 DSSAB operating budget in the amount of \$28,890,024; and

WHEREAS it is understood that this \$28,890,024 amount represents an overall year over year total budget increase of 3.47% over the DSSAB's 2004 approved operating budget; and

WHEREAS it is understood that the approval of this budget means that the municipal share payable by, and apportioned to, the DSSAB's member municipalities for the Year 2005 operating year is in the amount of \$9,135,959; and

WHEREAS it is understood that this \$9,135,959 amount represents an overall year over year municipal share payable increase of \$595,864 or 6.98% over the municipal share payable in 2004;

IT IS HEREIN RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board accepts its Budget Committee's recommendation that it adopt the 2005 Budget in the amount of \$28,890,024.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Pat Best, Earle Freeborn, Frank Gillis, Bruce Killah, Laurier Low, Bud Rohn, Richard Stephens, Dale Van Every

Nay: Collin Bourgeois, Les Gamble

Carried

Frank Gillis reminded members that the new EMS scheduling system is to be in place on a one year trial basis. He added that it will be reviewed as needed and that if the new system is not working, it will be reassessed.

He added that the DSSAB would be closely monitoring its response times data since it had no intention of not meeting its legislated obligations on that front.

6.2. CAO Report

6.2.1. Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- **Ontario Works Report**
- **Children's Services Report**
- **Social Housing Report**

There were no questions regarding the Operational Management Reports circulated.

6.2.2. Strategic Issues Report

6.2.2.1 Social Housing Benchmarks

Gary informed the Board that when the Social Housing portfolio was downloaded to municipalities, CMSMs were told that "benchmarks" would be brought in at some point in the future. The introduction of benchmarks was included in the legislation that accompanied the downloading. The province has now informed us that the "benchmarks" will come into play in establishing housing budgets effective January 1, 2006. As eager as a number of larger CMSMs were to see the province bring in the Benchmarks, a number of them are no longer as eager to see them implemented now that the province has indicated how these benchmarks will be implemented. More will be said about the Social Housing benchmarks at our next regular Board meeting.

6.2.2.2. Early Learning and Child Care

Building on the comments of his prior month's comments on the matter, Gary repeated that as exciting as the initiative was given the federal/provincial agreement on Early Learning and Child Care was, there was still a lot that needed to be known re: the role Ontario wants us to play on the dossier and the potential cost implications for municipalities. It is a very important dossier and one that we will learn more about as it unfolds.

6.2.2.3. Finance and Administration

Our DSSAB, and others, have recently been getting a lot of enquiries from the Ministry of Finance re TWOMO allocations: how much we are charging, how we came to those calculations, etc. Gary suspects that these questions and developments on the Provincial Land Tax front, leave him to anticipate that changes on both counts are in the offing.

Resolution No. 05-21 Moved by: Collin Bourgeois **Seconded by:** Richard Stephens
THAT the CAO's Operational Management and Strategic Issues Reports be accepted.

Carried

7.0. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Municipality of French River re New Multi Purpose Complex

The Municipality of French River is planning the construction of a new Multi Purpose Complex. It is seeking to know if the DSSAB would be prepared to see the complex house a new ambulance station. Collin Bourgeois indicated that the project is in its very early stages, but that an indication from the Board whether they would consider the request would be appreciated.

Frank indicated that the matter would be tabled for further discussion. He noted that the DSSAB's Administration would have to prepare a Pros and Cons paper on the matter for the Board to go over before the DSSAB would be able to provide the French River municipality any definite answers on the matter.

8.0. CLOSED SESSION

The Chair thanked the guests for attending the meeting and, at 11:40 a.m., asked for a resolution to go in camera after a short break.

Resolution No. 05-22 Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah
THAT the Board move into closed session to discuss Human Resources and Property matters.

Carried

Resolution No. 05-23 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 1:00 p.m.

Carried

8.1. Business Arising from Closed Session

Earle Freeborn reported on the prior evening Committee meeting's conclusions.

Resolution No. 05-24 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every
THAT the Human Resources Committee recommendation be accepted as presented.

Carried

9.0. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 05-25 Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
THAT we do now adjourn at 1:10 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on March 24, 2005 in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room.

Carried

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)