



MINUTES
of the March 27, 2008
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held in Espanola's DSSAB Mead Street Boardroom

Present: Lou Addison, Gary Brown, Jean-Marc Chayer, Ray Chénier, Les Gamble, Dennis Golden, Earle Freeborn, Mike Lehoux, David Leonard, Al MacNevin, Jack McMillan, Morgan Pitfield, Shelley Quibell

Staff: Gary Champagne; Suzanne Bouchard; Peter Bradley; Fern Dominelli; Jeff Horseman; Connie Morphet.

Regrets: Bruce Killah

Media: Alicia McCutcheon, Manitoulin Expositor
Roz Raby, Mid-North Monitor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ray Chénier called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA Resolution No. 08-26

Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Les Gamble
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried**

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4.0 DELEGATIONS

**4.1 Year 2007 Audited Financial Statements -
Freelandt Caldwell Reilly Accountants**

The Chair introduced Kirby Houle, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB's Auditor. Kirby circulated the year **2007 DSSAB Financial Statements** and proceeded to give an overview of the highlights contained in the Statements. Once again this year, the DSSAB is in a surplus position showing a surplus of \$637,861. Kirby reported that the audit process went very well this year, the staff was well prepared and Connie's papers were in good order. There were no major issues or problems to report to the Board. Kirby indicated that he felt that the DSSAB was in a good, stable and solid financial position.

Resolution No. 08-27

Moved by: Morgan Pitfield **Seconded by:** David Leonard
THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB accept receipt of Audited Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2007, as prepared by the Board's Auditors. **Carried**

2007 Surplus

Board members discussed the allocation of the 2007 Surplus and the following motion resulted.

Resolution No. 08-28

Moved by: Jack McMillan **Seconded by:** Dennis Golden

WHEREAS the audited financial statements for the operating year ended December 31, 2007 saw the DSSAB close the year with a working surplus of \$637,861;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT \$37,354 be held in reserve to be issued to families in the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts who will not be receiving this year's Winter Clothing & Back to School Allowances if the Ontario Government does not reconsider the decision to eliminate the funding of these two allowances to the children of otherwise eligible families in 2008; and

THAT A FURTHER \$200,507 be directed to the DSSAB's Working Reserve in order to bring it to the 15% that the Board, per Board policy, has resolved should stand at 15%; and

BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the remaining \$400,000 be distributed to the DSSAB's member municipalities as per the apportionment formula in place in the year 2007. **Carried**

Commenting on the results before him, Jack McMillan indicated his wish to indicate that on the strength of his years of public sector experience, "these kinds of results don't just happen by accident". He attributed them to the strong leadership and competent management of a "first rate administration". With other Board members concurring and Earle Freeborn adding that we should not forget the hard work of the Board's Finance Committee, the Chair brought the discussions to a halt. Musing that he did so because "we are all patting ourselves on the back", Chair Chénier remarked that our DSSAB had a solid "second to none" administration that definitely merited to be congratulated.

4.0 CLOSED SESSION Resolution No. 08-29

Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Les Gamble

THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:30 a.m. to discuss Labour Relations matters. **Carried**

Resolution No. 08-30

Moved by: E. Freeborn **Seconded by:** Morgan Pitfield

THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 11:05 a.m. **Carried**

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

The Chair reported that during its Closed Session, the Board discussed:

- HR Committee Meeting discussed items of a Labour Relations nature
- The CAO Performance Appraisal

5.0 PREVIOUS BOARD MINUTES Resolution No. 08-31

Moved by: David Leonard **Seconded by:** Al MacMillan

THAT the Minutes of the February 28, 2008 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Costs Inadvertently Passed on to Municipalities

Referring Board members to the CAO's email on this subject, the Chair asked the CAO for an update.

Gary indicated the matter was one that Northern municipal service managers had discussed at their last NOSDA meeting. There is a growing concern that DSSABs, and consequently their member municipalities find themselves increasingly obliged to pay the fees associated with the cost of discretionary supplies and support services (e.g. wheelchairs and crutches) previously provided free of charge for longer periods of time than is now the case by other community support agencies (e.g. CCAC).

While the DSSAB appreciates that others (e.g. CCAC and hospitals) may be trying to reduce costs and thus charge fees where none previously existed, the simple fact is that families on OW and "the working poor" who cannot afford those needed services and supports are turning to the DSSAB for help with the associated costs.

Gary assured Board members that the matter is being looked into, that meetings re: same are being set up with some of the community support agencies involved, that the matter has been drawn to the LHIN's attention and that Board members will be kept abreast of developments.

7.0 REPORTS

7.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1.1 Human Resources Committee

7.1.1.1 Policy re Personal Security Checks

Reporting on the prior evening's Committee discussion of those matters not dealt with in Closed session, Earle Freeborn indicated that the Committee had discussed Ontario's new directive that all DSSAB employees granted direct access to certain specific federal databanks (e.g. CRA, EI data) will be required to comply to the same security background checks and secrecy obligations applicable to federal employees with the same access rights. The DSSAB's Administration is working with Aurel and our HR solicitor to ensure that this directive which applies to all OW offices in Ontario and which will currently affect three to five of our OW office employees is duly implemented and that the necessary Board policy re: same is considered (1st and 2nd readings in April) and approved by the Board (3rd reading in May) to comply with Ontario's June deadline expectations. We have shared the directive with the Union that represents our affected employees (CUPE) and are meeting with them on this matter on April 4th.

7.1.1.2 DSSAB Strategic Planning Process Resolution No. 08-32

Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Al MacNevin

THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB accept the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee that the CAO proceed with the implementation of the proposed Strategic Plan as discussed with the Board. **Carried**

7.2 CAO REPORT

7.2.1 Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- [Children's Services Report](#)
- [Ontario Works Report](#)
- [Social Housing Report](#)

- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report**

There were no questions on the Children's Services and OW Reports.

7.2.1.1 EMS Report

Hagar Ambulance Station

Jean-Marc Chayer provided the Board with a number of reasons for believing that the time had come for the DSSAB to see the Hagar EMS station become a 24/7 station. The Chair referred the matter to the EMS Planning Committee for their review and comment.

Link to Life (Fridge magnet) Program

Responding to a query from Jean-Marc Chayer re: the Link to Life fridge magnets discussed at the February Board meeting, Jeff Horseman indicated that the magnets were available to the public at all Health Unit offices, DSSAB offices, ambulance stations and directly from paramedics.

7.2.1.2 Social Housing Report

Jack McMillan indicated that the Espanola Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation is facing a great deal of repair expenses and wondered how it might go about accessing some of the \$100 Million Ontario announced would be available to Service Managers for housing infrastructure repairs. Peter Bradley indicated that the DSSAB was well aware of the repair needs of the Espanola Housing Corporation and for that matter the infrastructure repairs needs of all of the social housing units across the District.

While he assured Jack that the DSSAB would be working closely with all Non-profit providers the DSSAB is ultimately accountable for to acquire the funding required, all indications were that the DSSAB's apportioned share of the \$100 Million would be nowhere near the sum needed to meet the estimated cost of the infrastructure needs of the social housing stock across our two Districts.

Gary added that the only other known "social housing infrastructure funding earmarked to that end" for service managers consisted of the OSIFA "social housing" funding loans that were not at this time available to Northern Ontario's ten DSSABs but which are available to our thirty-seven Southern Ontario service manager counterparts, a situation our DSSAB has been lobbying the province to change.

Resolution No. 08-34

Moved by: Gary Brown Seconded by: Dennis Golden

THAT the Board Committee and CAO's Reports be accepted.

Carried

8.0 UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

NOSDA Annual General Meeting 2008

The Chair announced to the Board that the 2008 NOSDA AGM has been postponed until November.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 08-33 Moved by: Al MacNevin

THAT we do now adjourn at 11:35 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held

on April 24, 2008, in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Blvd. Boardroom. **Carried**

Chair

CAO (Secretary Treasurer of
the Corporation)