



MINUTES

of the April 23, 2009

MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING

held in Espanola's 210 Mead Blvd. DSSAB Boardroom

- Present:** Gary Brown, Jean-Marc Chayer, Ray Chénier, Les Gamble, Dennis Golden, Bruce Killah, David Leonard, Al MacNevin, Jack McMillan, Shelley Quibell, Margaret Tuomi, Dean Wenborne
- Staff:** Gary Champagne, Suzanne Bouchard, Fern Dominelli, Connie Morphet, Jeff Horseman, Peter Bradley
- Consultant:** Aurel Malo, DiBrina-Sure Human Resources Inc.
- Guests:** Kirby Houle, Auditor with Freelandt, Caldwell, Reilly Accountants
Ed Starr, Principal, SHS Consulting
- Media:** Camilla Kirkpatrick, Mid-North Monitor
- Regrets:** Earle Freeborn, Mike Lehoux

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

New Board Member - The Chair welcomed Margaret Tuomi to the Board. Margaret is a Councillor with the Township of Billings. She replaces Lou Addison as the Area #5 appointee to the Board.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair noted the addition of two agenda items:

- 8.4 Social Housing Infrastructure Stimulus Fund
- 8.5 Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Projects

Resolution No. 09-31

Moved by: D. Leonard **Seconded by:** Jean-Marc Chayer
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 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 **Year 2008 Financial Statements** **Freelandt, Caldwell, Reilly Accountants**

Kirby Houle proceeded to give a brief summary of the DSSAB's audited Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2008 which showed an overall surplus of \$742,748.

Resolution No. 09-32**Moved by:** D. Golden **Seconded by:** A. MacNevin

THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB accept receipt of the Audited Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2008, as prepared by the Board's Auditors. **Carried**

Resolution No. 09-33**Moved by:** J. McMillan **Seconded by:** L. Gamble

THAT the audited statement regarding C.A. MacMillan Place as presented by Freelandt, Caldwell, Reilly Accountants be accepted as presented. **Carried**

**4.2 Housing Needs, Supply and Affordability Study
Status Report - Ed Starr, SHS Consulting**

Invited to provide the Board with an update on the progress of his study into the Housing needs of each of our service jurisdiction's four regions, Ed Starr indicated that he had to preface his comments by indicating how astounding it was to see our audited statement speak to a Social Housing bad debt line of less than .5%. Ed indicated he had never seen anything that good in more than thirty years in the housing business. He cited it as an achievement the DSSAB should be proud of.

After speaking to each of the observations noted in his Status Report, Ed proceeded to answer Board member questions. The Q & A portion of his update provided, Ed went on to outline the remaining steps in the study:

- The mid-May completion of the Background research and analysis as well as the completion of a Stage One Report highlighting the Study's key findings and identified potential directions for Strategic Development and consideration;
- To carry out a second round of consultations and discussions with the stakeholders in each of the DSSAB's four planning regions to solicit their views and comments as to the recommended potential directions identified by the consultant;
- To provide a Second Status Report to the Board at its June 25th meeting;
- To complete the Final Report over the summer for presentation of same at the Board's September 24th meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr. Starr for his presentation.

After a 5-minute break, the Board reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

5.0 CLOSED SESSION**Resolution No. 09-34****Moved by:** L. Gamble **Seconded by:** D. Wenborne

THAT the Board move into closed session at 11:10 a.m. to discuss Personnel and Litigious matters. **Carried**

Resolution No. 09-35**Moved by:** J.M. Chayer **Seconded by:** D. Wenborne

To adjourn the closed session at 11:50 a.m. **Carried**

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

During its Closed Session, the Board discussed:

- A Personnel Matter
- Child Care Service Contract
- April 1, 2010 end to Best Start funding

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**6.1 Child Care Service Contract Amendment**

In an April 15th email, the MCYS Regional Office has yet again forwarded our DSSAB a copy of the renewed child care service contract that our DSSAB clearly informed Minister Deb Matthews, in its November 27, 2008 letter to her, it would not sign until it had a meeting with her regarding the DSSAB's inability to accept the Ministry's unilateral amendment to its long standing child care contract with the DSSAB such that it would now state that Family Resource Centres (FRCs) and Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYCs) are one and the same when the Ministry continues to expect the DSSAB, via said contract, to supervise and fund a 20% share of our jurisdiction's FRCs while MCYS supervises and provides 100% funding of OEYCs.

Our DSSAB believes our position on the matter is clear and fails to appreciate how the Ministry's Regional Office can continue to claim, in black and white, that we have agreed to this contract amendment when such is not the case.

Resolution No. 09-36

Moved by: G. Brown **Seconded by:** J.M. Chayer

THAT the Board authorize the CAO to sign the outstanding Child Care Service Contract amendment, making it very clear to the Minister and her Regional Office staff that the DSSAB does not agree with and is excluding its approval of the Appendix which refers to Family Resource Centre and Ontario Early Years Centre funding. **Carried**

Recorded Vote:

Yeas: Gary Brown, Jean-Marc Chayer, Ray Chénier, David Leonard, Al MacNevin, Jack McMillan, Shelley Quibell, Margaret Tuomi, Dean Wenborne
Nays: Les Gamble, Dennis Golden, Bruce Killah

7.0 MINUTES**7.1 Adoption of Previous Board Minutes****Resolution No. 09-37**

Moved by: S. Quibell **Seconded by:** B. Killah

THAT the Minutes of the March 26, 2009 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

8.0 NEW BUSINESS**8.1 Sudbury & District Health Unit (SDHU) -
Food in the Budget Campaign**

Referring to his earlier circulated email re: the SDHU Resolution asking the DSSAB and the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts' 19 municipalities to support the call on the province to provide a \$100 monthly (food) supplement for all adults receiving social assistance, the CAO reiterated his disappointment that the SDHU would not have consulted the DSSAB in its preparation of such a Resolution given that it directly speaks to a program that our DSSAB administers

on behalf of 18 of the 19 municipalities served by the Health Unit and given the recently expressed to the Health Unit indication that it is important that the SDHU and the DSSAB work together on matters of shared importance given the key roles which both the DSSAB and the SDHU are mandated to exercise when it comes to our shared responsibilities when it comes to the maintenance and development of the sound and coordinated community health and social infrastructure of the municipalities which we jointly serve.

In reply to Les Gamble's query as to the municipal cost of such an increase, the CAO indicated that if the resolution spoke only to adults on OW and not also to adults on ODSP, under present funding rules, the DSSAB's 20% share of the \$600,000 (OW) annual increase would represent an additional \$120,000 municipal cost. Les followed up by noting that while there is no disputing that people on social assistance are underfunded, the DSSAB should inform the Health Unit that there is more to the picture than food; there is also clothing, education, housing, municipal ability to pay, etc., and that the DSSAB should be involved in the decision-making process since it administers OW on behalf of 18 of the Districts' 19 municipalities. He expressed the view that the Resolution was a fine one provided that 100% of the necessary additional dollars involved came from the provincial coffers and not from the municipal property tax base.

Jean-Marc Chayer indicated that the Health Unit should have referred municipalities to their DSSAB for its views on the matter given their responsibility for social assistance. He suggested that the CAO prepare a template Resolution that all municipalities could use to express the same view at the same time.

Gary Brown suggested that the CAO should have a face-to-face meeting with the Health Unit to explain the DSSAB's concerns.

Al MacNevin indicated that some municipalities have already expressed their support for the SDHU Resolution.

Jack McMillan advanced that some municipalities might not fully understand what they were supporting. He indicated that the Health Unit's issue appeared to be a very narrow one in the sense that while they are interested in good health, the issue involves more than a health issue. He indicated that he did not share the opinion that it is the DSSAB's job to tell the municipalities what to support, but rather that it is its job to make them aware of what it is that they are supporting.

Ray Chénier summed up the discussions as follows:

- He referenced the recently updated [Living on Social Assistance in 2009 ... Food for Thought](#) document to indicate there is no disputing that people on social assistance have a very difficult time making ends meet when it comes to their basic food, clothing and shelter needs.
- There appears to be a communication issue that requires further discussion with the Health Unit.
- There is a need for the Health Unit to appreciate that since social assistance is not a Health Unit responsibility but a DSSAB responsibility, the SDHU should work with the DSSAB when they delve into social assistance matters.
- While it's fine for the SDHU to pass Resolutions, they are not the ones

who have to pay for the costs and should inform their member municipalities of the cost implications to them when they ask them to endorse SDHU resolutions.

- He suggested that we invite the Medical Officer of Health to the next Board meeting.

Resolution No. 09-38

Moved by: L. Gamble **Seconded by:** D. Golden

THAT the DSSAB's Chair send a letter to the Sudbury & District Health Unit which addresses the concerns highlighted by the DSSAB's Board; and
THAT a copy of said letter be sent to the DSSAB's member municipalities.

Carried

8.2 French River Handi-Transit Resolution

Referencing the [Municipality of French River resolution](#) petitioning the DSSAB to begin consultations and commit to the funding of the transportation services of individuals with disabilities, the Chair reminded Board members that while the DSSAB shares the French River municipality's concerns regarding the lack of transportation services for people with disabilities, and in fact for all people who live in the DSSAB's various municipalities, the provision and the funding of transportation services is not a mandated DSSAB service but is one that rests with municipalities in the mandate of the DSSAB. Before asking the CAO to speak further to the matter, he noted that the decision to fund and/or provide "transportation services" at the local level is primarily one that rests with municipalities.

The CAO noted that the DSSAB has an interest in seeing the residents of its jurisdiction provided the supports they require to live in the communities they have always called home. As previously shared with the Board:

- the DSSAB indicated its concern re: the lack of transportation services with the LHIN at the Manitoulin-Sudbury CAO's table looking into an Aging at Home strategy to relieve the pressures placed on hospital beds occupied by people who could be cared for elsewhere if the proper community supports were available;
- the DSSAB has succeeded in having the LHIN indicate that it is considering making funding available for a transportation needs study in the Manitoulin-Sudbury District;
- our DSSAB had the lead role in the preparation of the [NOSDA Position Paper on the Northern Growth Plan](#) which stresses the importance of ensuring that the infrastructure planning for Northern Ontario address the matter of the public transportation solutions available for Northern Ontario's smaller and more rural communities.

After a few brief comments from members, the Chair noted that Gary would be attending that evening's SEMA meeting:

- to share the above with its four member municipalities;
- to clarify if the French River proposal was intended to include all of Sudbury-East or all of the DSSAB's jurisdiction;
- to determine the extent to which the other municipalities in the Sudbury-East region shared the French River view of the matter, the extent of their willingness to co-fund a study;
- to indicate that the DSSAB was willing to play a lead role in the coordination of a transportation study undertaken in partnership with involved interested

municipalities; a study that would also involve bodies such as the LHIN and other affected health and social services providers.

8.3 NOSDA Resolution re OW Cost of Administration

Resolution No. 09-39

Moved by: G. Brown **Seconded by:** D. Wenborne

WHEREAS there is presently no systemic approach that the province utilizes when it comes to the means by which it determines the provincial share of the funding it provides each of Ontario's forty-seven municipal service managers for their Ontario Works (O.W.) Cost of Administration purposes; and
WHEREAS the current means of funding the Ontario Works Cost of Administration is wholly inadequate; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, AMO and the City of Toronto, by way of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Services Delivery Review (PMFSDR) have agreed to undertake a review of the Ontario Works Cost of Administration, including updated cost information in time for the 2010 Ontario Works benefit upload; and
WHEREAS past attempts to arrive at a provincial formula have traditionally seen Ontario advance that a simple cost per case funding formula be the formula implemented; and

WHEREAS the arbitrary determination of an OW Cost of Administration on a Cost per Case basis by the province is a wholly unacceptable and inequitable manner of fairly dealing with this matter; and

WHEREAS there is no incentive in the existing system for the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) to reduce the administrative complexity of the program; and

WHEREAS a negotiation process with the Ministry is the preferred method of arriving at a fair determination of the share of a service manager's OW Cost of Administration that the province will assume if the aim is to ensure a degree of equity across the breadth of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Province already has a fair and equitable funding formula in place when it comes to its funding of the province's seventy-two school boards, an approach known as the Rozanski approach; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) is of the opinion that a "fit to the OW context" modification of the Rozanski approach should be recommended as the funding framework that Ontario uses as the basis of any new provincial-municipal cost sharing agreement when it comes to the determination of the province's share of the Ontario Works Cost of Administration;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB put a resolution to that effect before NOSDA at its 2009 AGM for its support and an indication of its readiness to advocate same with AMO, the City of Toronto and Ontario. **Carried**

8.4 Social Housing Infrastructure Stimulus Fund

Resolution No. 09-40

Moved by: Al MacNevin **Seconded by:** Les Gamble

WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial Governments will jointly invest dollars in Infrastructure Stimulus Fund; and

WHEREAS the DSSAB staff has identified two projects that meet the criteria outlined; and

WHEREAS the application requires that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB identify construction ready projects that could be completed by March 31, 2011;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB approve application for the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, under the municipal building criteria of the guidelines, the application to be submitted to the Ministry before May 1, 2009. **Carried**

8.5 Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Projects

Resolution No. 09-41

Moved by: G. Brown **Seconded by:** J. McMillan

WHEREAS the Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in her correspondence dated April 17, 2009 confirms the Federal and Provincial Governments will jointly invest \$1.2 billion in social and affordable housing and that \$704 million of that total will be invested in Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit projects;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is requesting Service Managers identify construction ready projects that could proceed in the Spring and Summer of 2009;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board (the DSSAB) enthusiastically welcomes the opportunity to participate in this program recognizing the benefit that will befall our local communities and the improvements that will be made to our physical assets;

AND WHEREAS the DSSAB Housing Department staff has identified a number of worthwhile construction ready projects that meet the criteria outlined in the Assistant Deputy Minister's correspondence;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB advise the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing of our interest, willingness and ability to move immediately on our proposed list of construction ready projects and that the list of construction ready projects be submitted to the Ministry before May 8, 2009. **Carried**

Other Possible Funding Initiatives

Les Gamble informed the Board that there had also been an announcement made recently regarding funding for accessibility projects.

Since these and other funding initiatives seem to be coming in with very short notice for preparation of applications, Ray Chénier suggested, and the Board concurred, that the DSSAB's Administration monitor the initiatives offered, and should they identify what they deem to be worthwhile funding opportunities appropriate to pursue, that they do so and convey such to the Board verbally or electronically for agreement to be ratified at the next Board meeting.

9.0 REPORTS

9.1 CAO REPORT

9.1.1 Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- **Children's Services Report**
- **Ontario Works Report**
- **Social Housing Report**
- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report**
- **First Quarter Financial Report**

There were no questions concerning the Operational Management Reports.

Resolution No. 09-42

Moved by: J. McMillan **Seconded by:** A. MacNevin
THAT the CAO report be accepted.

Carried

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 09-43

Moved by: J.M. Chayer

THAT we do now adjourn at 12:50 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Blvd. Boardroom on May 28, 2009.

Carried

Chair

CAO (Secretary-Treasurer
of the Corporation)