



MINUTES
of the REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD
THURSDAY, February 19th, 2009

RRDSSAB Office, Fort Frances, ON 6:30 p.m.
MEETING #02/09

- PRESENT:** Peter Van Heyst, Township of Chapple
Gary Judson, Township of Emo
Ross Donaldson, Township of LaVallee
Gary Gamsby, Township of Morley
Debbie Ewald, Town of Rainy River
John Callan, Rainy River Central
Michael Lewis, Rainy River East
Wade Desserre, Rainy River West
Dennis Brown, Township of Atikokan
Sharon Tibbs, Town of Fort Frances
Linda Armstrong, Township of Dawson
- REGRETS:** Barbara Cournoyer, Township of Alberton
Valerie Pizey, Township of Lake of the Woods
- STAFF:** Donna Dittaro, Secretary-Treasurer
Leanne Eluik, Manager of Finance
Dawn Galusha, Assistant Manager of Finance
Mildred Beck, Children's Services Manager
Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager
Dianne Lampi, RRDSSAB Housing Manager
Sandra Weir, Non-Profit Housing Manager
Rick Bliss, Maintenance Coordinator
Judy Koski, Recorder

1. Call to Order

Mike Lewis, Chair, called the meeting to order.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution #06/09 MOVED BY D. Ewald and SECONDED BY D. Brown:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* approve the agenda of February 19, 2009.

Carried.

4. Presentations/Delegations

None.

5. In Camera

Resolution #07/09 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY D. Ewald:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* now meet in camera in order to address a matter pertaining to:

* *Labour relations or employee negotiations.*

Carried.

The Chair reconvened the meeting to its regular session.

Resolution #08/09 MOVED BY G. Judson and SECONDED BY D. Ewald:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* appoints the following persons as members of its Negotiating Committee to bargain collectively with the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 4807:

Mike Lewis	Board Chair
Gary Gamsby	Chair, Land Ambulance Committee
John Callan	Land Ambulance Committee Member
Val Pizey	Land Ambulance Committee Member
Dan McCormick	Health Services Manager
Mark Mason	Resource, Hicks Morley
Joanne Spence	Recorder/Resource

Carried.

6. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #09/09 MOVED BY D. Ewald and SECONDED BY D. Brown:

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the *Annual Board Meeting* held January 15, 2009, be approved.

Carried.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 KidSport

At the last meeting of the Board, the Children's Services Manager was asked to obtain information with regard to funding for children's activities after the Fort Frances chapter of KidSport had requested financial assistance for their group. After the review of her memo to the CAO, the Children's Services Manager was directed to suggest to that organization that local municipalities be approached for funding as the DSSAB is unable to provide any financial assistance at this time.

7.2 Defibrillator Training/Distribution of Defibrillators

A memo received from the Health Services Manager was reviewed which explained that there were not enough defibrillators for all schools in the area and sites were actually chosen after discussions with the representatives of each School Board.

Training will be provided once all signed contracts are received. The receipt of one signed contract is currently outstanding. A memo will be sent out to the municipalities and it is their responsibility to set up the training with the trainer. An extra course could be set up if necessary.

8. New Business

8.1 Mileage Rate

A memo from the CAO was reviewed. The Board had previously asked that the mileage rate be revisited every six months. A further survey has been conducted and the CAO recommends that the mileage rate be lowered to .45 cents per kilometer as of April 1, 2009, due to dropping gasoline rates.

Resolution #10/09 MOVED BY L. Armstrong and SECONDED BY W. Desserre:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* decrease its mileage rate from .50 cents per kilometer to .45 cents per kilometer, effective April 1, 2009.

Carried.

8.2 2009 Draft Homelessness Plan

A draft of the 2009 Homelessness Plan was reviewed by the Board. The Children's Services Manager explained that a Call for Proposals was sent out and those listed were the parties which responded. The Atikokan participants did not ask for increases in their allotment. The CAO noted that programs such as the Rent Bank Fund and the Emergency Energy Fund could also be accessed for those meeting the criteria for those programs.

Resolution #11/09 MOVED BY W. Desserre and SECONDED BY L. Armstrong:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* accept the 2009 Homelessness Prevention Plan, as presented.

Carried.

8.3 2009 Draft Budget Presentation

The Manager of Finance presented the 2009 Budget to the Board. She advised that the Board Committees have reviewed each of their respective Program Budgets and have recommended that the Board accept them as presented. She explained that this year's Budget results in a 1.06% increase in the municipal share. With respect to the Child Care Program, the Children's Services Manager noted that without the RRDSSAB's integrated service system, this program would not function. There has been no increase in funding since 2004, at which time a minimal increase in the sum of \$3,456 was received. The Children's Services Manager stated that she, along with her counterparts in the province, will continue to address the underfunding of administration with the Ministry of Children & Youth Services. With respect to the Land Ambulance Program, a 50/50 cost share has been reached and therefore, any new monies received from the province must be matched by the municipalities. The recent funding adjustment of \$155,189 from the province will only be partially utilized for that reason. With respect to the Social Housing Program, it has been recognized that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing did not provide adequate capital funds at the time of devolution and we are now faced with buildings requiring extensive capital work due to their age. With respect to Ontario Works, the upload of administration did result in savings for the program. An overall decrease has resulted this year.

Wade Desserre questioned whether the increase in the TWOMO share was a result of reassessment or new assessment. The Manager of Finance advised that she has called MPAC with that question, however, she is still awaiting an answer from them. The CAO noted that part of the increase is due to the inclusion of assessments of properties lying outside of the school board boundaries this year.

Dennis Brown asked why the Land Ambulance Budget has increased. The Health Services Manager explained that there is an increased share of administration costs for the Program, a negotiated salary increase, replacement of some office equipment and computer upgrades, and transfers to reserves. The overall increase in the municipal share for Land Ambulance this year is 5%.

Peter Van Heyst questioned the increase in salaries for the Social Housing Program. The CAO advised that five contract positions were made permanent and one new maintenance position is included to complete the regular maintenance, outstanding capital work and backlog of outstanding work. The RRDSSAB Housing Manager noted that the amount of work needed to be completed equates to more supplies, plus we are beginning a system of preventive maintenance which includes cycle painting and cycle flooring; some of our long term tenants have never had their units painted or flooring changed. There is also several projects outstanding from prior years in the maintenance department. The RRDSSAB Housing Manager also reported that all one-time grants for capital work from the province, some related to health and safety, must be used. The CAO noted that these issues were covered with the Social Housing Committee and the budget had been recommended to the Board to approve. The Manager of Finance stated that approximately \$100,000 was earmarked originally for a reserve contribution, however, this was later removed to decrease the funding increase. Social Housing Committee Chair, Debbie Ewald stated that work which had not previously been completed must now be done and rather than put money into reserves, these dollars are needed for capital repairs now. The CAO stated that most of the work will be completed by our own maintenance department staff, except where we are not allowed to do so.

Resolution #12/09 MOVED BY J. Callan and SECONDED BY G. Judson:

RESOLVED THAT the following budget for 2009, be approved:

DSSAB Board Administration	\$ 54,800.00
DSSAB Administration	\$ 298,724.00
Ontario Works Administration	\$ 614,594.00
Emergency Energy Fund	\$ 4,930.00
Ontario Works General Assistance	\$ 2,023,050.00
Ontario Works Child Care	\$ 20,000.00
Family Support Worker Initiative	\$ 12,500.00
Community/Employment Placements/LEAP	\$ 247,810.00
Consolidated Verification Program	\$ 13,212.00
Ontario Disability Support Program	\$ 4,030,000.00

Child Care	\$ 1,360,944.00
Best Start	\$ 1,215,506.00
Homelessness Initiative	\$ 66,097.00
Land Ambulance	\$ 6,332,357.00
Rent Bank Fund	\$ 13,514.00
Social Housing	\$ 3,013,782.00
Affordable Housing Program	\$ 529,965.00
TOTAL	\$ 19,851,785.00

Recorded Vote:

Dennis Brown	Yea		Gary Gamsby	Yea	
Peter Van Heyst		Nay	Debbie Ewald	Yea	
Linda Armstrong	Yea		John Callan	Yea	
Gary Judson		Nay	Michael Lewis	Yea	
Sharon Tibbs	Yea		Wade Desserre		Nay
Ross Donaldson		Nay			

Carried.

Resolution #13/09 MOVED BY G. Judson and SECONDED BY J. Callan:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* accept the 2009 Cost Apportionment Schedule, based on weighted assessment using weighted average tax ratio by class for the DSSAB, including Payments-in-Lieu(PILs), as attached.

Carried.

The Chair thanked all members of the staff for their excellent work on this Budget.

8.4 Rainy River Ambulance Base Renovations

Gary Gamsby, Chair of the Land Ambulance Committee, advised that the ambulance base in Rainy River presently houses one of its vehicles outside. The Ministry has identified this as an area of concern in their recent review. The Committee recently met and recommends that the Board approve the use of the Severance Reserve Fund for an addition to that base, in order to house the ambulance. The addition would also include a small storage area.

Resolution #14/09 MOVED BY R. Donaldson and SECONDED BY G. Gamsby:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* approve the use of the Severance Reserve Fund for renovations to the Rainy River Land Ambulance Base.

Carried.

8.5 Request for Support from AMEMSO

A letter from the Association of Municipal Emergency Medical Services of Ontario, dated January 27, 2009, was reviewed. The Chair of the Land Ambulance Committee stated that the financial impact of this request was positive for the DSSAB. We now have our own crests which we buy in small numbers. If the request to standardize the crests is implemented, these would be bought in bulk. The Health Services Manager advised that the present price for a pair of crests is \$19.00. Standardization would result in the price being reduced to approximately \$3.00 per pair.

Resolution #15/09 MOVED BY G. Gamsby and SECONDED BY R. Donaldson:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* supports the AMEMSO (*Association of Municipal Emergency Medical Services of Ontario*) proposal for the new EMS rankings and insignia designations as set out in their letter dated January 27, 2009.

Carried.

9. Reports:

9.1 CAO and Program Reports

The Board received the CAO Report and Program Reports. The Chair noted that the Ontario Works Manager had addressed the increase in the Atikokan caseload in her report.

9.2 Finance

The Accounts Payable listing for the month of January, 2009, in the amount of \$496,214.07 was received and reviewed. The Manager of Finance advised that WSIB is paid monthly. The Manager of Finance advised that she is presently working on the year end and will bring forward the Financial Statements for December, January and February at the next Board meeting.

9.2 Board Chair

None.

9.3 Committee Reports

Ontario Works – Linda Armstrong, Chair of the Ontario Works Committee, advised that the Committee had met to review the 2009 Budget, which was recommended to the Board. She also thanked the Ontario Works Manager for her presentation at the Rainy River District Municipal Association Annual Meeting.

Social Housing – Debbie Ewald, Chair of the Social Housing Committee, advised that the Committee had met to review the Budget and recommended that it be approved by the Board.

Land Ambulance – Gary Gamsby, Chair of the Land Ambulance Committee, advised that the Heart & Stroke Foundation held a combination training session and media event earlier today. A formal announcement regarding the distribution of defibrillators was made followed by hands-on training provided by the paramedics. This event was very well attended.

Child Care – Wade Desserre, Chair of the Child Care Committee, reported that the Committee met and reviewed the 2009 Budget which was recommended to the Board for approval.

10. Other Business

Gary Judson stated that in his Township, municipal taxes were not being paid due to “tough times”. He felt that public organizations such as the DSSAB have to concentrate on cuts.

11. Information Items Attached

The Board received an information package as part of this evening’s agenda.

12. Information Items Available Upon Request

None.

13. Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be held March 19th, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board Office*, 450 Scott Street, Fort Frances.

14. Adjournment

Resolution #16/09 MOVED BY R. Donaldson and SECONDED BY G. Gamsby:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

CHAIR

SECRETARY-TREASURER

DATE APPROVED