



MINUTES
of the REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD
THURSDAY, April 21, 2005

RRDSSAB Office, Fort Frances, ON 6:30 p.m.
MEETING #06/05

PRESENT: LINDA ARMSTRONG, Township of Dawson
PETER VAN HEYST, Township of Chapple
GARY GAMSBY, Township of Morley
RUSS FORTIER, Township of Emo
EMILY WATSON, Township of LaVallee
VALERIE PIZEY, Township of Lake of the Woods
JOHN CALLAN, R R Central Electoral Area
GLEN ARMSTRONG, Town of Rainy River
TANNIS DRYSDALE, Town of Fort Frances
WADE DESSERRE, R. R. West Electoral Area

REGRETS: MICHAEL LEWIS, R. R. East Electoral Area
DENNIS BROWN, Township of Atikokan
BARBARA COURNOYER, Township of Aliberton
DONNA DITTARO, Secretary-Treasurer

STAFF: LEANNE ELUIK, Manager of Finance
DAN McCORMICK, Health Services Manager
JUDY KOSKI, Recorder

1. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Russ Fortier, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution #32/05 MOVED BY W. Desserre and SECONDED BY L. Armstrong:

RESOLVED THAT the agenda of April 21, 2005, be approved.

CARRIED

4. In-Camera

None

5. Presentations/Delegations

None

6. Approval of Minutes

Gary Gamsby noted that on page 9 of the minutes, Glen Armstrong was named as Chair of the Ontario Works Committee, rather than the Land Ambulance Committee. The error will be corrected.

Resolution #33/05 MOVED BY G. Gamsby and SECONDED BY T. Drysdale:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the *Regular Board Meeting* held March 17th, 2005, be approved.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Land Ambulance Funding/Budget Update

Russ Fortier asked if Dan McCormick had anything to report other than the information already received by the Board in this evening's package. Dan advised that the meeting with the Operators went well and he is waiting to hear if they will be signing the Budgets as presented to them. He pointed out that in the CAO report, it notes that Grace Silander has stated that Riverside will not sign their Budget; the deadline is tomorrow. Dan stated that we have not heard from the CAO for Riverside in this regard. Dan also stated that Atikokan General Hospital will sign "reluctantly". Val Pizey asked what the major problem seemed to be in signing these Budgets. Dan stated that the 0% increase in

administration is the area of concern.

Russ Fortier asked Dan if we are prepared to meet with Minister Smitherman, as he will call tomorrow to set up a meeting. Dan stated that we are ready to meet at any time. He also pointed out the comments of Howard Hampton which were included with the information provided this evening. Howard's aide had contacted our office before Howard spoke to this matter in the House.

8. New Business

8.1 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund

Leanne Eluik reported that she has not received all of the data from the Municipal Clerks in order to complete a more thorough analysis of the impact on the District of Rainy River. Tannis Drysdale stated that she had looked at the data and formulated calculations for the DSSAB partners. She stated that it looks like there is a shortfall of approximately \$763,000 over the District and that there may be a possibility of receiving one time funding in the amount of \$434,000. Tannis also stated that we are slowly being phased in over the next few years, however, no one knows what 2008 will bring. It was also noted that Land Ambulance is not in the formula. Gary Gamsby noted that according to the CAO report, the Ministry was not aware that Land Ambulance had been excluded.

8.2 NOSDA 2005 Annual General Meeting

The Board received a package of information regarding the upcoming NOSDA meeting to be held in Timmins in September. Gary Gamsby noted that the letter outlined the resolution process for NOSDA.

8.3 Cascading Age Policy - Elizabeth Manor

Peter Van Heyst reported that the Social Housing Committee recommends to the Board that the Cascading Age Categories Policy be adopted at Elizabeth Manor in Fort Frances. This would help alleviate vacancies at that building. An Issue Sheet prepared by Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager, outlines the content of the policy. Gary Gamsby questioned whether or not tenants under the age of 50 would be allowed at that unit, however, Peter advised they would not. He also advised that this would affect only Elizabeth Manor at this time, and the tenants there have been advised of this pending policy and no objections have been raised. Gary asked that once the policy is in place, the process be monitored closely and carefully.

Resolution #34/05 MOVED BY G. Gamsby and SECONDED BY L. Armstrong:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* implement a Cascading Age Categories Policy for Elizabeth Manor, Fort Frances.

CARRIED

8.4 Strong Communities Rent Supplement Unit Take Up

Peter Van Heyst reported that the Social Housing Committee recommends to the Board that three additional regular rent supplement units be sought. He stated that the Ministry would fund up to \$434.84 per month per unit. This would provide low-income, non-senior singles with the assistance required in order to obtain affordable housing. He advised that Cathe is presently looking at communities which appear to have the highest demand. Russ Fortier explained that these units would be additional units in the private sector. Gary Gamsby pointed out that this would be of no financial gain to the DSSAB, but would merely provide a community service. After some discussion about the possibility of the DSSAB having to “top up” the rents for these units from time to time, the Board directed that more information be gathered and presented at the next Social Housing Committee meeting. The resolution before the Board this evening is therefore tabled.

9. Reports

9.1 CAO and Program Reports

The Board members received and reviewed the reports of the CAO and Program Managers.

Val Pizey asked whether or not the sharing of information from in-camera sessions had been dealt with in Donna’s report. Russ Fortier advised that this matter will be dealt with at the May Board meeting.

9.2 Finance

The Board members received and reviewed the Accounts Payable Report for the month of March, 2005, in the amount of \$72,224.75. The Board also received and reviewed the Financial Statements for the months of February and March, 2005.

Leanne Eluik reported that she is still in the process of reallocating and reconciling accounts from the year end audit. More adjustments will be necessary once the audited entries have been received. She also reported that the municipalities have not been billed based on the 2005 Budget as the 2005 Apportionment has not yet been completed. Information has been received from only four municipalities. She also noted that the three month receivable for Land Ambulance has not been set up for 2005 as yet, which is approximately \$360,000. Under Ontario Works General Administration, the benefits show a negative amount, however, adjusting entries will be made in April. DSSAB Housing is also being reconciled for the first part of the year.

9.3 Board Chair

No report.

9.4 Committee Reports

Linda Armstrong, Chair of the Ontario Works Committee, advised that Shelley is currently working on final Budget submissions to the Ministry. Tannis Drysdale asked about information on JobsNow. Judy Koski advised that she had gathered information from the Ministry website today, with respect to this project, and will forward it to Shelley Shute for her comments. The Committee will review the information at their next meeting. Emily Watson stated that her Township had been advised that Community Placements would not be available to them as a van driver was not available to drive clients to placements. Russ Fortier asked that this matter be directed to Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager. The next meeting of the Committee will be held May 9th at 6:30 PM.

Peter Van Heyst, Chair of the Social Housing Committee, reported that Operational Reviews are ongoing. Lobbying efforts are also continuing with respect to capital funding. The next meeting of the Committee will be held May 11th at 10:00 AM.

Glen Armstrong, Chair of the Land Ambulance Committee, advised that he did not attend the last Committee meeting, however, Mike Lewis chaired that meeting in his place. The ongoing struggle for funding had been discussed at the meeting. Mike stated that the staff are doing an excellent job of writing letters in this regard. He also stated that Howard Hampton had recently broached this subject in the House. The next meeting of the Committee will be held May 9th at 7:30 AM.

John Callan, Chair of the Child Care Committee, referred the Board members to Kim Gardiman's Child Care Update. He stated that the Best Start Program is presently on hold.

10. Other Business

None

11. Information Items Attached

The Board members received information items 11.1 to 11.11 which were acknowledged.

12. Information Items Available Upon Request

None

13. Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be held May 19th, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board Office*, 206 Scott Street.

14. Adjournment

Resolution #35/05 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY T. Drysdale:

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

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY-TREASURER

DATE APPROVED