



RRDSSAB BOARD MEETING

MINUTES
of the REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD
THURSDAY, April 20, 2006

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

PRESENT: PETER VAN HEYST, Township of Chapple
WADE DESSERRE, R. R. West Electoral Area
TANNIS DRYSDALE, Town of Fort Frances
MICHAEL LEWIS, R. R. East Electoral Area **(By Phone)**
EMILY WATSON, Township of LaVallee
DENNIS BROWN, Township of Atikokan
LINDA ARMSTRONG, Township of Dawson
BARBARA COURNOYER, Township of Alberton
JOHN CALLAN, R. R. Central Electoral Area
VALERIE PIZEY, Township of Lake of the Woods
GARY GAMSBY, Township of Morley

REGRETS: GLEN ARMSTRONG, Town of Rainy River
GARY JUDSON, Township of Emo

STAFF: DONNA DITTARO, Secretary-Treasurer
LEANNE ELUIK, Manager of Finance
DAN McCORMICK, Health Services Manager
CATHE HOSZOWSKI, Social Housing Manager
JUDY KOSKI, Recorder

1. Call to Order

Val Pizey, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution #39/06 MOVED BY E. Watson and SECONDED BY G. Gamsby:

RESOLVED THAT the agenda of April 20, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentations/Delegations

None

5. In-Camera

Resolution #40/06 MOVED BY G. Gamsby and SECONDED BY E. Watson:

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

- a proposed or pending acquisition of land for Board purposes or disposal of land no longer needed for Board purposes;
- labour relations or employee negotiations.

CARRIED

Val Pizey, Chair, reconvened the meeting to its regular session.

Resolution #41/06 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY G. Gamsby:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* enter into a five year lease agreement with Atikokan General Hospital for a Land Ambulance Base, per terms and conditions of the fax from Atikokan General Hospital dated April 20, 2006, effective January 1, 2007.

CARRIED

Resolution #42/06 MOVED BY G. Gamsby and SECONDED BY B. Cournoyer:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* negotiate an acceptable purchase price for property for a Fort Frances Ambulance Base, as discussed, and conditional on final Board approval and appropriate zoning.

CARRIED

Resolution #43/06 MOVED BY W. Desserre and SECONDED BY J.Callan:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* purchase the current Rainy River Ambulance Base from Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc., per the terms and conditions set out in their fax dated March 23, 2006, and furthermore that the purchase price be expensed over fifteen years from the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* to the Land Ambulance Program to capture 50/50 cost share from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

CARRIED

Resolution #44/06 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY D.Brown:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* enter into a lease agreement, inclusive of utilities, with Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc. for the Emo Ambulance Base for a period of two years, per the terms and conditions outlined in their fax dated March 23, 2006, effective July 1, 2007.

CARRIED

6. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #45/06 MOVED BY W. Desserre and SECONDED BY J. Callan:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the *Regular Board Meeting* held March 23, 2006, be approved.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Land Ambulance Funding Update

The Board members received an Issue Sheet prepared by Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager. Dan thanked the Board, CAO and Land Ambulance Committee for their involvement in obtaining funding for the DSSAB. Val Pizey also congratulated Dan and Donna on behalf of the Board, for their success.

Resolution #46/06 MOVED BY G. Gamsby and SECONDED BY D. Brown:

<p>RESOLVED THAT the one-time Retroactive Funds, in the amount of \$242,706 be placed in a Land Ambulance Reserve for Land Ambulance Bases.</p>
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<p>CARRIED</p>

7.2 Best Start Funding

Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager, advised that based on a Best Start Information Session held April 11, 2006, we have been told that \$122.5 million dollars has been earmarked for the Best Start Program in Ontario for 2007 to 2010. The focus is to secure and sustain targeted spaces by 2006. Thirty-five spaces have been allocated for the Rainy River District. No capital dollars will be received after 2006. Kim anticipates a funding announcement next week. The draft Plan and Budget are due by June 30th. Dennis Brown asked where the thirty-five spaces would be placed. Kim advised that they would be located in Rainy River and also for infant care in Fort Frances. Kim noted that the Plan as drafted will be revised once more details are received. If less spaces are required, the annualized funding will be decreased. Tannis Drysdale questioned the status of the ten infant spaces. Kim advised that more in-depth needs tests must be carried out. Emily Watson asked if the term infant meant a child under one year. Kim advised that it is a child under eighteen months. Emily asked if we provide Child Care for students. Kim stated that most children are twelve to eighteen months. Tannis added that Fort Frances is concerned with the three to one ratio and how they will pay. Kim advised that Jeannette Cawston, the Best Start Coordinator, is working closely with the Town of Fort Frances regarding that issue.

7.3 Rainycrest Management Proposal

Val Pizey advised that this item was added to the Agenda at her request. She stated that the resolution passed at the Rainy River District Municipal Association had solved nothing and as a municipal politician she had some concerns. She stated that the matter will be decided by the Ministry based on interviews held by their representative. She also asked why the municipalities did not have a copy of our revised proposal. Donna noted that the revised copy was discussed in camera. Barb Cournoyer noted that if everyone had a copy there would not be any misinformation. She also noted that the municipalities do not have a copy of

Riverside's proposal. Dennis Brown stated that the proposal should be forwarded to the Clerks of each municipality for distribution to their Council. He also stated that a covering letter should accompany the proposal. Val Pizey stated that just the narrative should be forwarded with a note stating that the Appendices would be available upon request from Donna. Val stated that the vote at the RRDMA meeting should have been by resolution of each council, or one vote per municipality.

8. New Business

8.1 Best Start Integrated Implementation Plan

Kim Gardiman advised that this Plan had been discussed previously. There have been extensive consultations in conjunction with the preparation of this Plan. The Best Support Network supports the plan, which outlines the key principles. It addresses that fact that ongoing, adequate funding is needed to continue the Best Start Program. The Child Care Committee recommends support of the Plan in principle to the Board. Barb Cournoyer asked if transportation has been addressed in the Plan. Kim stated that transportation is outlined in the plan and work continues in order to address transportation. Kim advised that the Plan has been reviewed by all of the partners and is on the agenda for the upcoming Network meeting. Emily Watson asked if Dial-a-Ride could be used for children attending Best Start. Kim advised that Dial-a-Ride could be used if the family qualifies for funding, however, must ensure that it offers safe seating for children. She also advised that they had looked at partnering with other agencies for the installation of car seats, however, this posed an insurance issue.

Resolution #47/06 MOVED BY D. Brown and SECONDED BY G. Gamsby:

WHEREAS the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* is the Service System Manager for Child Care;

AND WHEREAS the need for expansion of Child Care Services including infant, toddler, preschool, JK/SK and Special Needs Resourcing in the Rainy River District has been identified through community consultations and the service planning process;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to stabilize the current Child Care system and provide affordable Child Care to support working families in the District of Rainy River;

AND WHEREAS the salaries and benefits of Child Care staff are inequitable and severely under-funded;

AND WHEREAS the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* has approved the Best Start Child Care Service Plan for 2005 - 2007, including the Best Start Transition Plan for submission to the Province, with the understanding that there will be no additional cost to the Board;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* supports in principle the Best Start Integrated Implementation Plan, pending adequate, annualized funding provided 100% provincially, with no additional costs to the Board and Municipalities.

CARRIED

8.2 New Funding Model for Ontario Works(ODSP Employment)

Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager, advised that the funding model for Ontario Works has changed to include ODSP. This results in an increase in costs to Ontario Works. She noted that funding will now be based on three core employment outcomes: employment, earnings and increased employability. Shelley advised that we now use funding for moving clients to employment, i.e. training and upgrading. Barb Cournoyer asked about clients going into business for themselves. Shelley advised that exemptions may be changed for income from self-employment. Shelley reviewed a presentation with the Board entitled Ontario Works Employment Outcomes/ODSP Employment Outcomes. Val Pizey asked if this would result in making two cases out of one. Shelley advised that the non-disabled spouse of an ODSP client would become an OW client. She added that regular monthly assistance would still be paid, however, the new client must participate in our employment program. She stated that a plan has been prepared regarding referrals. She will hand pick the clients initially, and, thereafter, if referrals are made, we do have the option of not accepting them if they are not suitable.

8.3 Management of Faith Non Profit Housing Corporation

Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager, advised that the Faith Non Profit Board has resigned, as well as their Property Maintenance employee. The Social Housing Committee has been appointed as the interim Board and has assumed property management of Faith.

Resolution #48/06 MOVED BY M. Lewis and SECONDED BY T. Drysdale:

WHEREAS the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB)* has received the written resignations of the *Faith Non-Profit Housing Corporation (FNPHC)* Board members and its sole employee;

AND WHEREAS the *RRDSSAB* has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that *FNPHC* social housing units continue to be available for eligible applicants;

AND WHEREAS the *FNPHC* Board has expressed, in writing, that the *RRDSSAB* Social Housing Committee be appointed as the interim *FNPHC* Board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the *RRDSSAB* take steps to review the *FNPHC* operations and take whatever measures necessary to bring *FNPHC* into compliance and implement full property management, including maintenance work, where required;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the *RRDSSAB* support the Social Housing Committee to serve as the interim Board of Directors for *FNPHC*, until the operations have been reviewed and steps have been taken to stabilize the project.

CARRIED

8.4 Affordable Housing Program

Cathe advised that the Home Ownership Component of the Affordable Housing Program does not apply to us and therefore recommends that we should not participate. She noted that a full program description is in her Issue Sheet which is before the Board this evening.

Resolution #49/06 MOVED BY B. Cournoyer and SECONDED BY L. Armstrong:

RESOLVED THAT due to current Home Ownership Program requirements, combined with human resource, legal and technical limitations, the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* does not wish to participate in the Affordable Housing Program - Home Ownership Component.

CARRIED

8.5 **Atikokan Native Non Profit Homes Corporation - Sale of Units and Vacant Lots**

Cathe advised the Board that this is a Non-Profit Provider which we have been managing since July of 2005. The Corporation has an excess of units and also owns six vacant lots. Cathe stated she would like to seek Ministerial consent to dispose of these properties as they are not needed. Barb Cournoyer asked if the proceeds of the sale could be used for the maintenance of other units. Cathe stated that it could be placed in the Capital Reserve fund for Social Housing.

Resolution #50/06 MOVED BY J. Callan and SECONDED BY B. Cournoyer:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* attempt to obtain Ministerial Consent, on behalf of Atikokan Native Non-Profit Homes Corporation, to sell up to three units in Atikokan, Ontario, as a means to address the long-term vacancy issues, and further, should consent be granted, that the listings be placed with Avenue A Realty in Atikokan, Ontario.

CARRIED

Resolution #51/06 MOVED BY T. Drysdale and SECONDED BY M. Lewis:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* on behalf of *Atikokan Native Non Profit Homes Corporation(ANNPHC)*, attempt to obtain Ministerial Consent, to sell all of the ANNPHC vacant lots in Atikokan, Ontario, and should consent be granted, the lots shall be listed with Avenue A Realty in Atikokan, Ontario.

CARRIED

8.6 **DSSAB Housing Units - Sale of Properties in Atikokan**

Cathe Hoszowski advised that there have been long-standing vacancy issues at 109-111 Alder Avenue in Atikokan. The unit has been vacant for over two years

and there is no one on the wait list. The Social Housing Committee has recommended that Ministerial Consent be sought, and the unit sold.

Resolution #52/06 MOVED BY T. Drysdale and SECONDED BY M. Lewis:

WHEREAS there have been long-term vacancy issues at 109-111 Alder Avenue, Atikokan, Ontario, and there are not applicants on the Central Wait List;

RESOLVED THAT the Social Housing Manager attempt to obtain Ministerial Consent to sell 109-111 Alder Avenue, Atikokan, as a means of addressing these long-term vacancy issues.

CARRIED

9. Reports

9.1 CAO and Program Reports

Donna advised that with regard to the new building, she will be meeting with the Armstrong's tomorrow to discuss preliminary plans. The Board members received and reviewed the monthly reports of the Program Managers.

9.2 Finance

The Board members received and reviewed the Accounts Payable Report for the month of March, 2006, in the amount of \$244,158.13. Emily Watson inquired about cheque #5957 payable to the Minister of Finance - MCSS. Leanne advised that this is for the 2004 year end settlement which is usually settled through reduction of transfer payments, however, the Ministry has changed its procedure to request a cheque from us. The Financial Statements for the months of January, February and March, 2006, were also received and reviewed.

9.3 Board Chair

None.

9.4 Committee Reports

Ontario Works - No Report

Social Housing - Peter Van Heyst, Chair of the Social Housing Committee, reported that the Fort Frances Native Urban provider is projecting a shortfall. This is due to a misunderstanding in governance by the existing Board. The Committee has made it clear that the municipalities will not fund any deficits. Cathe Hoszowski added that this project was a Project in Difficulty and was devolved to the DSSAB with shortfalls in capital reserves, which will run out soon. They do have governance issues and have refused tenant file reviews.

The files were eventually received by our office and all indicates are that a \$17,000 deficit will occur this year. We are doing everything possible to make them financially viable, including an RGI file review, implementing the Phillips Hagar North Investment Program and implementing good business practices. Val Pizey noted that the Committee did agree that we will not fund deficits. Mike Lewis stated that a letter should be written to someone in the Ministry in order to advise them that they made a bad decision and that someone needs to be held accountable. Val Pizey stated that Donna should write a letter to the Ministry, expressing our concern. John Callan added that it would be beneficial to pass a resolution which would give Cathe some authority to deal with the issue.

Resolution #53/06 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY D. Brown:

RESOLVED THAT the *RRDSSAB* will not automatically fund year-end, or in-year deficits of any non-profit housing providers, unless the *RRDSSAB* is confident that the Housing Providers have exercised all appropriate avenues to avoid said deficit.

CARRIED

Land Ambulance - Mike Lewis commended Dan, Leanne and Donna for their work on the Direct Delivery Model for Land Ambulance. He also commended Emily Watson for her questions during the in camera portion of the meeting. He stated that he was intrigued with the lack of knowledge in the District regarding Land Ambulance. He noted we have had difficulty with one operator, in particular, we have not received their fourth quarter report for 2005, which is disappointing, however, we have been able to move forward.

Child Care - John Callan advised he had nothing to add to Kim's reports this evening.

10. Other Business

None

11. Information Items Attached

The Board members received information items 11.1 to 11.4 which were acknowledged.

12. Information Items Available Upon Request

Committee Minutes and Appendices to Best Start Integrated Implementation Plan.

13. Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be held May 18th, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. at the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board Office*, 206 Scott Street.

14. Adjournment

Resolution #54/06 MOVED BY T. Drysdale and SECONDED BY M. Lewis:

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

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY-TREASURER

DATE APPROVED