



---

MINUTES  
of the REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD  
THURSDAY, June 17, 2004

RRDSSAB Office, Fort Frances, ON 6:30 p.m.  
MEETING #07/04

**PRESENT:** LINDA ARMSTRONG, Township of Dawson  
WADE DESSERRE, R R West Electoral Area  
PETER VAN HEYST, Township of Chapple  
GARY GAMSBY, Township of Morley  
JOHN CALLAN, R R Central Electoral Area  
BARBARA COURNOYER, Township of Alberton  
RUSS FORTIER, Township of Emo  
EMILY WATSON, Township of LaVallee  
VALERIE PIZEY, Township of Lake of the Woods  
GLEN ARMSTRONG, Town of Rainy River  
DAN ONICHUK, Town of Fort Frances  
MICHAEL LEWIS, R R East Electoral Area

**REGRETS:** DENNIS BROWN, Township of Atikokan

**STAFF:** SHELLEY SHUTE, Acting CAO  
MILDRED BECK, Assistant Manager of Finance  
JUDY KOSKI, Recorder

---

**1. Call to Order**

The Chairperson, Gary Gamsby, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed us to the RRDSSAB meeting. He reminded all members that the following committee meetings were being held next week:

Social Housing	Tuesday, June 21 <sup>st</sup> @ 11:00 AM
Land Ambulance	Thursday, June 24 <sup>th</sup> @ 1:15 PM
Building	Thursday, June 24 <sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 PM

Gary also advised that Donna Dittaro, Leanne Eluik and Cathe Hoszowski were attending a Service Managers' Social Housing Forum in Toronto, sponsored by the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association(OMSSA). The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be speaking at the meeting.

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

None, although Gary explained that a conflict could be declared at any time during the meeting.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

The following was added as an additional Item:

*11.7 Letter to Minister Papatello, MCSS, dated 15 June 2004, re: Flexibility in Child Care Funding*

Resolution #55/04 MOVED BY J. Callan and SECONDED BY W. Desserre:

**RESOLVED THAT** the agenda of June 17, 2004, be approved, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**4. In-Camera**

Resolution #56/04 MOVED BY E. Watson and SECONDED BY J. Callan:

**RESOLVED THAT** the meeting now go in-camera, to discuss building issues.

**CARRIED**

The meeting moved in-camera for the purpose of discussing Building Issues.

The Chair, Gary Gamsby, declared that the regular meeting now reconvene.

**5. Presentations/Delegations**

None

## 6. Approval of Minutes

Dan Onichuk stated that he has received calls in regard to funding for the Salvation Army Food Bank. He also inquired about the vouchers previously handed out by the Ontario Provincial Police, on behalf of the Salvation Army, as there is no funding available for that program. Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager, advised that we have, in the past, handed out vouchers and she is presently checking with Dryden and Kenora as to the procedure they follow in these situations. When she has received more information, she will be in contact with the Envoy at the Salvation Army. Val Pizey inquired whether or not funds were available through the Homelessness Program, however, she was reminded that the Salvation Army did not apply for any of that funding, although they were advised it was available. Homelessness funds have already been allocated for this year. \$5000. from our Ontario Works Enhancement Fund was allocated to the Salvation Army, per the last Board meeting. Our office will try to work out a Protocol with the Salvation Army for weekend coverage and after-hours cases.

Resolution #57/04 MOVED BY J. Callan and SECONDED BY E. Watson:

**RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the *Regular Board Meeting* held May 20, 2004, be approved.

**CARRIED**

## 7. Business Arising from the Minutes

### 7.1 Rainy River DSSAB Website

This matter is deferred to the July Board Meeting.

### 7.2 Land Ambulance Paramedic Negotiations Update

Gary Gamsby advised that this issue had been raised at the last Board meeting and we were awaiting a response from Atikokan General Hospital and Riverside. Concerns have been raised about the DSSAB's involvement in Paramedic Negotiations and whether or not the Union would accept a "third party" at the bargaining table. The DSSAB may be deemed to be an employer if involved in negotiating and there are also other liability/insurance issues. It was noted that these are dual stage negotiations; some issues are provincial while others are local. Wade Desserre felt that it should be stipulated to the Providers that wage increases should be kept to a certain indicated percentage. It was pointed out that since a strike is not an option, binding arbitration is almost always reached, and therefore we lose local control. Gary Gamsby stated that we must impress upon the Government the need for funding these large increases in wages. Michael Lewis pointed out that we will have a problem attracting paramedics if the wage scale is not met. Emily Watson stated that although Confederation College is now offering a paramedics course, the graduates tend to move elsewhere.

Resolution #58/04 MOVED BY W. Desserre and SECONDED BY J. Callan:

**RESOLVED THAT** the CAO formally direct both Land Ambulance Operators, Atikokan General Hospital and Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc., to establish regular communication with the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* regarding paramedic negotiations.

**CARRIED**

## 8. New Business

### 8.1 Atikokan Market Rent

Gary Gamsby pointed out that an Issue Sheet had been provided with respect to this matter. Peter Van Heyst, Chair of the Social Housing Committee, advised that if we don't lower our market rents in Atikokan, vacancies will continue. Val Pizey suggested that Cathe Hoszowski should check any Operating Agreements we have to ensure that there are mechanisms in place for adjustments to the market rent.

Resolution #59/04 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY R. Fortier:

**WHEREAS** the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* is experiencing significant vacancies in DSSAB Housing in Atikokan;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* is attempting to keep the RRDSSAB market rents in line with the rest of the community of Atikokan;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* lower market rents for the three and four bedroom Atikokan Family Units, effective July 1, 2004, by \$100 to \$120 per month, and that the final amount be determined by the Social Housing Manager.

**CARRIED**

### 8.2 Supportive Housing Proposal

An Issue Sheet outlining a recommended Proposal for Funding to develop onsite Supportive Housing was discussed by the Board members. Peter Van Heyst, Chair of the Social Housing Committee, stated that this matter was discussed at the Committee level, and a recommendation has now come before the Board for its consideration. He stated that a presentation was given by Kristen Miclash, Executive Director of the Northwestern Independent Living Services to the Committee. She stated that there is presently a need for twenty to thirty spaces for Supportive Housing in the District. The proposed renovation would allow nine

of these spaces to be filled. Emily Watson voiced her concern over the fact that there would be no common area for the residents to enjoy. She believes this is an important aspect of Supportive Housing and we should maintain the space if at all possible. It was posed that perhaps eight spaces plus a common room would be the best possible solution and perhaps the matter should be explored further before a submission is made to the Ministry. The matter therefore is tabled to the July meeting to explore whether or not it is feasible to leave the common room intact.

### 8.3 Affirmation of Building Condition Audit(BCA) Award

A resolution is required to affirm the results of a of a telephone poll conducted with respect to the Building Condition Audit Award. The poll was necessary as the tender amounts came in higher than anticipated; we had budgeted for \$20,000. Val Pizey suggested that when tenders come in at an amount higher than the Board has approved, the matter should be brought forward at the next available Board meeting rather than conducting a phone poll. Dan Onichuk suggested that when a single issue is to be decided, a teleconference could be held to decide the matter. The matter of a teleconference and/or a telephone poll will be explored and discussed further at the July Board meeting.

Resolution #60/04 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY J. Callan:

**RESOLVED THAT** the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* confirms that it has approved via telephone poll, an additional \$14,603.00 in funding from the Reserve for Working Fund, to allow the awarding of the Building Condition Audit/Reserve Fund Study Contract to the successful bidder at a price of \$34,603.00.

**CARRIED**

### 8.4 Job Review Reports

This matter will be discussed at the end of the meeting.

### 8.5 August Board Meeting

Gary Gamsby pointed out that the August Board Meeting conflicts with the AMO Annual Conference in Ottawa, and in addition, some members may be involved in the Emo District Fall Fair.

Resolution #61/04 MOVED BY R. Fortier and SECONDED BY E. Watson:

**RESOLVED THAT** the meeting of the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* scheduled for August, 2004, be cancelled.

**CARRIED**

## 8.6 NOSDA Annual Conference - September 15-17, 2004

Gary advised that the NOSDA Annual Conference conflicts with the September 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. As a DSSAB, we are automatically members of NOSDA and would usually send the CAO and up to two Board members. The Board members would be attending as voting members. This year the conference will be held in Gore Bay on Manitoulin Island. A list of accommodations and information on the conference has been provided to the Board members. Last year, Gary advised, he and Donna attended in Kenora. He stated that this is a grass roots group which deals with many practical issues and was therefore a very worthwhile meeting to attend. Donna has set out three options in her Issue Sheet for the Board to consider this evening. John Callan, Barbara Cournoyer, Glen Armstrong and Gary Gamsby expressed interest in attending. They will check their schedules and advise whether or not this would be possible. It was also felt that Donna Dittaro should attend as the Board's CAO.

Resolution #62/04 MOVED BY M. Lewis and SECONDED BY D. Onichuk:

**RESOLVED THAT** the following be delegated to attend the 2004 Annual Conference of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverer's Association(NOSDA) being held in Gore Bay on Manitoulin Island, September 15 - 17, 2004:

Donna Dittaro  
Two Board Members.

**CARRIED**

## 9. Reports

### 9.1 CAO and Program Reports

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

Emily Watson stated that she had received a copy of an Ontario Works presentation from Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager, and would like to receive a list of acronyms in this regard. Shelley advised that she will supply Emily with a list.

Val Pizey inquired as to whether or not the Province would be picking up the claw-back this year for NCBS, and also whether or not we would be paying more in January. Shelley Shute advised, that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, the National Child Benefit is increasing and normally this would be deducted from Ontario Works benefits, however, that is not the case. At this point, we don't know whether or not this will cost us more money or whether or not the funds will be reinvested.

Val took this opportunity to extend her thanks to Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager, for his part in obtaining a heliport for the Lake of the Woods area, as well as the free cones for the site.

## **9.2 Finance**

The Board received and reviewed the Accounts Payable Report for the month of May, 2004, in the amount of \$77,024.20, and the May, 2004, Financial Reports.

Emily Watson asked what the storage area at Crozier Warehouse was used for. She was advised that the Ontario Works trailer, tools used for the Ontario Works Employment Program, and surplus computers were presently housed at that facility, as we do not have any storage space available in our building.

Val Pizey asked when the apportionment figures would be ready. Mildred Beck, Assistant Manager of Finance, advised that the draft apportionment figures were ready, however, we are awaiting Ministry approval for the Town of Fort Frances tax ratios. Mildred expects that these figures will be ready for the July Board Meeting.

## **9.3 Board Chair**

None

## **9.4 Committee Reports**

John Callan, Chair of the Child Care Committee, advised that Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager, has sent her funding proposal in to the Ministry, complete with the revisions requested by the Board. He stated that he felt the Proposal was very well done and commended Kim on the Proposal.

## **10. Other Business**

None

## **11. Information Items Attached**

The Board members received information items 11.1 to 11.7 which were acknowledged.

Val Pizey asked whether or not the financial statements were received from Atikokan General Hospital. Mildred Beck answered in the affirmative.

Val Pizey stated that she was disappointed in the letter sent out to the tenants of Green Manor and felt that it did not address the issue. Dan Onichuk stated that this request should be addressed in the Budget for 2005. Gary advised that it was not the intention to tell the tenants that nothing would be done, but rather that there was no funding in the Budget this year and therefore, the matter would be forwarded to the 2005 Budget. It was noted that Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager, was meeting with the tenants to explain the situation.

## 12. Information Items Available Upon Request

None

## 8.4 Job Review Reports

Resolution #63/04 MOVED BY J. Callan and SECONDED BY E. Watson:

**RESOLVED THAT** the meeting now go in-camera to discuss personnel issues.

**CARRIED**

The meeting moved in-camera to discuss personnel issues.

Gary Gamsby, Chair, declared that the regular meeting now reconvene.

Resolution #64/04 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY R. Fortier:

**RESOLVED THAT** the Job Review Reports for permanent non-management and permanent management employees of the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* be approved and processed, as presented.

Yea: Barbara Cournoyer, Peter Van Heyst, Linda Armstrong, Russ Fortier,  
Gary Gamsby, John Callan, Michael Lewis and Wade Desserre

Nay: Dan Onichuk, Valerie Pizey, Emily Watson and Glen Armstrong

**CARRIED**

A recorded vote was called for by Valerie Pizey.

Gary expressed his appreciation to the Board members for their input. Val stated that her vote against this matter did not reflect feelings against the CAO and her staff and Michael Lewis stated that he thought this was true for everyone.

Barb Cournoyer inquired about the review of policies. Val Pizey suggested that a Committee could be set up to look at governance. She does not want to micro-manage but feels the need to be able to give direction, especially when it affects the ratepayers. Barb stated that there had been some miscommunication and lack of background initially; she stated we must be clear on what we ask the CAO to do. Input will be sought at the September meeting in regard to the setting up of a Committee and policy review.

**13. Next Meeting**

The next regular Board meeting will be held July 15, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. at the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board Office*, 206 Scott Street.

**14. Adjournment**

Resolution #65/04 MOVED BY D. Onichuk and SECONDED BY M. Lewis:

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

**CARRIED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE APPROVED