



MINUTES
of the REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD
THURSDAY, October 21, 2004

RRDSSAB Office, Fort Frances, ON 6:30 p.m.
MEETING #12/04

- PRESENT:** LINDA ARMSTRONG, Township of Dawson
DENNIS BROWN, Township of Atikokan
PETER VAN HEYST, Township of Chapple
GARY GAMSBY, Township of Morley
BARBARA COURNOYER, Township of Alberton
RUSS FORTIER, Township of Emo
EMILY WATSON, Township of LaVallee
VALERIE PIZEY, Township of Lake of the Woods
DAN ONICHUK, Town of Fort Frances
MICHAEL LEWIS, R R East Electoral Area
JOHN CALLAN, R R Central Electoral Area
- REGRETS:** GLEN ARMSTRONG, Town of Rainy River
WADE DESSERRE, R R West Electoral Area
- STAFF:** LEANNE ELUIK, Manager of Finance
KIM GARDIMAN, Children's Services Manager
DAN McCORMICK, Health Services Manager
DONNA DITTARO, Secretary-Treasurer
MILDRED BECK, Assistant Manager of Finance
JUDY KOSKI, Recorder
- GUEST:** GRANT ERICKSON, MCSS/MCYS

1. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Gary Gamsby, 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

The Chair advised that there are items to be added to the Agenda, as follows:

New Business

8.3 2004/05 Insurance Premium

Information

11.9 Minutes of Child Care Committee, May 11th, 2004

11.10 Minutes of Social Housing Meeting, August 19th, 2004

11.11 Copy of Letter from Grant Erickson, Program Supervisor, dated October 19, 2004, re: Name Change

Val Pizey stated that she had a matter to be discussed *in camera*.

Resolution #100/04 MOVED BY D. Brown and SECONDED BY V. Pizey:

RESOLVED THAT the agenda of October 21st, 2004, be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

4. In-Camera

Resolution #101/04 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY D. Brown:

RESOLVED THAT the meeting now go in-camera to discuss building and negotiation issues.

CARRIED

The regular meeting reconvened.

Resolution #102/04 MOVED BY D. Brown and SECONDED BY V. Pizey:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* does hereby, effective immediately, accept the resignation of the Chair, Gary Gamsby, and appoint Vice-Chair, Russ Fortier, as Chair until the end of this term.

CARRIED

Russ Forter, Chair, declared nominations open for the position of Vice-Chair.

Linda Armstrong nominated John Callan for the position.

Gary Gamsby nominated Michael Lewis for the position.

Michael Lewis withdrew from nominations.

Nominations closed, after being called three times by the Chair.

Resolution #103/04 MOVED BY D. Onichuk and SECONDED BY P. Van Heyst:

RESOLVED THAT John Callan be appointed Vice-Chair of the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board by acclamation, until the end of this term.

CARRIED

Russ Fortier advised that the positions of Chair and Vice Chair must be available to attend meetings as required, which requires a large commitment.

5. Presentations/Delegations

None

6. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #104/04 MOVED BY R. Fortier and SECONDED BY J. Callan:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the *Regular Board Meeting* held September 16th, 2004, be approved;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the *Special Board Meeting* held September 20th, be approved.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Child Care Service Plan

John Callan, Chair of the Child Care Committee, reported that the Child Care Committee had met and reviewed the draft Child Care Plan, a copy of which forms part of this evening's Agenda Package. This Plan is much the same as the Plan submitted to the Ministry in May of this year, with the exception of a difference in the funding model. Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager, gave a brief overview of the Plan and stressed that the present plan addressed overdue issues such as enhancement to fee subsidy, wage subsidy, special needs resourcing, and capital dollars. She stressed that the cost share

implications in this Plan are substantially lower for the municipalities. Kim stated that she was requesting the Board's approval of the Plan this evening. Grant Erickson, Program Supervisor, MCSS/MCYS, thanked Kim and the staff for submitting the Plan within such a tight time frame. He explained this was Phase 2 of Early Learning Funding. Phase 1 was implemented last year and more funding will be available in 2005 and 2006. Grant stated that Child Care was the signature item of our present Provincial Government. The Best Start program will be getting off the ground in November of this year. The Federal Government has earmarked four billion dollars for a National Day Care Program. Schools, child care, mental health agencies, and other will be partnering in order to enhance services. Dennis Brown asked Kim whether or not Atikokan would be receiving more money for Child Care programs. Kim stated that each site would be treated equitably and that all sites will receive more funding. Dennis then inquired what the specific amounts would be for Atikokan. Mildred Beck, Assistant Manager of Finance, reported that the Atikokan Day Care would receive \$20,115, while the Atiikokan 2-3-4 Playgroup would receive \$1,883, in addition to funding already received. Mike Lewis stated that in May we requested \$181,000 and now we are requesting \$120,000; is the service level still the same? Kim stated that we must increase service levels, per the guidelines. Dennis Brown stated that he felt integration of Child Care sites within municipalities should be implemented. Grant Erickson replied that the Ministry is thinking in this vein and the Best Start Strategy addresses integrated services. This funding is also very flexible with respect to operational needs. Dennis Brown asked if the funding in this proposal would be received over the next two years. Grant stated that this is an annualized commitment. Donna stated that she was pleased that Kim Gardiman has been chosen to sit on the Best Start Task Force for the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association(OMSSA). The Board extended their congratulations with applause. John Callan concluded by saying that the Child Care Committee recommends the approval of the Child Care Plan this evening .

Resolution #105/04 MOVED BY D. Brown and SECONDED BY V. Pizey:

WHEREAS it is necessary to stabilize the current Child Care System;

AND WHEREAS affordable Child Care is necessary to support working families in the
District of Rainy River;

AND WHEREAS the demand for subsidized Child Care is not being met in the District of Rainy River;

AND WHEREAS the need is demonstrated for expansion of Special Needs Resourcing to the west of Fort Frances;

AND WHEREAS the need is demonstrated to provide infant care for families in the Rainy River District;

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

AND WHEREAS Special Needs Resourcing and Resource Centres are not adequately supported through funding;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Community and Social Services/Ministry of Children and Youth Services is not contributing fully to the actual cost of administration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2004-2007 Child Care Service Plan be submitted to the Ministry of Community and Social Services/Ministry of Children and Youth Services, as presented.

CARRIED

Russ Fortier thanked Kim, Leanne and Mildred, as well as Grant Erickson, for the preparation and submission of this Plan.

7.2 Audit Reporting

Leanne Eluik, Manager of Finance, reported that this was a follow-up item from last meeting. She has prepared an Issue Sheet in this regard and directed the Board's attention to that document. She pointed out that Jon Evans, BDO Dunwoody cautions the Board that the accounting policies of the Board should not be changed on a regular basis. Presently, the DSSAB records capital assets in accordance with GAAP for Non-Profits, but does not report these assets on the audited statements similar to the municipalities in our District. Val Pizey noted that her concern was that our audit looks like we are in a deficit position. This was not an issue in the past because Social Housing had its own corporation. Mike Lewis stated that it makes sense to stay in line with the municipalities as it is not as confusing for their Clerks. John Callan also agreed that we should remain status quo.

Resolution #106/04 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY D. Brown:

RESOLVED THAT the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board report capital assets on the audited financial statements in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Board reporting requirements.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Dan Onichuk, Val Pizey

Nay: Barbara Cournoyer, Dennis Brown, Peter Van Heyst, Linda Armstrong, Russ Fortier, Emily Watson, Gary Gamsby, John Callan, Michael Lewis

DEFEATED

7.3 Human Resources Policy Review

Donna Dittaro stated that last year the Board formed an ad hoc committee to review the Governance policies. This year our Human Resource Policies are due for review, and Donna suggested that it may be more time-efficient for the Board to, once again, form an ad hoc committee to perform this review. It was suggested that perhaps the Chairs of the Standing Committees could form this Committee.

Resolution #107/04 MOVED BY J. Callan and SECONDED BY V. Pizey:

RESOLVED THAT the following Board members be appointed to an ad hoc committee to review the Board's Human Resources Policies:

Linda Armstrong
 Peter Van Heyst
 Glen Armstrong
 John Callan

CARRIED

7.4 NOSDA Research Analyst Position

Russ Fortier, Chair, stated that this matter had been on the Agenda for the July Board Meeting, and those members attending the Annual General Meeting of NOSDA were to report back to the Board before it made its decision with regard to the funding of this position. John Callan, Glen Armstrong and Donna Dittaro attended the meeting, and as Glen Armstrong is absent this evening, John Callan was asked to give a report to the Board. John began by saying he viewed this position as "a necessary evil" as the Board CAOs are busy. NOSDA is looking for \$5,000 from each DSSAB, which John stated he takes issue with, however, did agree to a three year trial basis, through a resolution at NOSDA, then after two years there would be a review of the funding model. Both John and Bill Blower, Kenora DSB, urged the NOSDA group to use a more equitable way to fund this position. He stated that he did not commit our DSSAB at this meeting, however, he stated that it may be in our best interest to support this position. If the position proves inadequate for our needs, or we can't support financially, we could withdraw. John felt that we are definitely outnumbered at NOSDA, in that for every one individual from the Northwest, there are four to six individuals from the Northeast. We are outvoted on most votes, however, we do take part and try to maintain credibility with NOSDA. John stated that both he and Glen Armstrong recommend that we participate for the next two years and then review. Mike Lewis stated that he appreciated John's comments and pointed out that there is no understanding in the Northeast that there is a Northwest. We are always outnumbered, however, he feels it is important that we belong to NOSDA. Mike continued to say that he does not support this position as it is an expansion of another level of administration. Dennis questioned whether or not there would be any benefit in the Northwest NOSDA

Group working with NOMA for their own research position. John replied that he felt that the DSSAB issues were different from NOMA issues and NOMA already has an Executive Director to support it.

Dennis Brown asked Donna to comment on this position. She stated that it may be worthwhile to test the position, however, she does not agree with the apportionment of cost. She also stated that \$5,000 is a considerable amount of money for our Board. Michael Lewis stated that we have the services of our CAO as a research person, and other DSSABs are not as fortunate to have this advantage. Russ Fortier agreed that Donna was an excellent resource person. This was echoed by Val Pizey who stated that the Board has never asked for information and not received it from Donna and the Staff, therefore, why would we need the services of another individual outside our Board.

Resolution #108/04 MOVED BY J. Callan and SECONDED BY E. Watson:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* supports the creation of a Research Analyst position for members of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers' Association(NOSDA);

AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* agrees to contribute \$5,000 per year to NOSDA for the calendar years 2005 and 2006, to share in the costs associated with the Research Analyst position.

DEFEATED

Donna was directed to write a letter to NOSDA to consider a lesser amount, or a more reasonable funding formula.

7.5 Land Ambulance Delivery Model

Russ Fortier stated that at a Land Ambulance Committee meeting, Donna was asked to prepare a draft Request for Proposal with respect to Land Ambulance Service Delivery. The Board must decide whether or not it wishes to proceed at this time. Dennis Brown asked what was wrong with trying to negotiate with the present providers, as he felt that a reasonably good system is in place. Russ added that we don't know if it's the best system. Donna Dittaro stated that she had spoken with Sten Lif, CAO for the Kenora DSSAB, and the arbitrated award for Kenora settled in the middle. Kenora does not man their bases 24/7 as Fort Frances does, therefore we would have to estimate their award based on their hours vs our hours. Dan Onichuk stated that he would challenge the validity of an arbitrator to tax the residents of a municipality. Val Pizey stated that we are struggling with ambulance costs. We took money from reserves to keep costs down as we realize it is difficult for the municipalities. She queried whether or not we would save if we changed to a different system. Gary Gamsby pointed out that our relationship with the Operators has improved significantly, and he felt this was a consideration, as is the fact that approximately 92% of the Land

Ambulance Budget is paramedic wages and benefits, which are usually arbitrated. This does not leave a lot of room for savings. He stated he did not believe changing the system would make a difference. He also stated the reason we changed to 24/7 coverage was to meet response time standards. Dan McCormick advised that there is a meeting scheduled with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on November 1st and response time framework will be discussed. The Land Ambulance Committee will also be meeting with the Ministry group. Dan also stated that our response time is on track. Russ Fortier stated that a meeting with the Operators confirmed that they are committed to solving issues. Mike Lewis stated that in considering this matter we must balance financial issues and service to the people; people in outlying areas depend heavily on this service. As a point of interest, Linda Armstrong stated that the response time in Rainy River following a motor vehicle accident there, was excellent.

Dan Onichuk concluded by saying he agrees that this matter needs to be dealt with soon, as it takes at least a year to complete the process. A new Operator would need three to six months to certify new staff; and time to organize the service.

It was agreed that this matter be referred to the next Land Ambulance Committee meeting.

8. New Business

8.1 2005 Market Rent for DSSAB Housing

Donna Dittaro advised that in the past we have not recommended an increase in market rents, however, since our operating costs have increased, it is recommended at this time that the Board increase market rents. This would mean an average per tenant monthly increase of between \$7 to \$10.

Resolution #109/04 MOVED BY M. Lewis and SECONDED BY L. Armstrong:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* increase the 2004 market rents for the year 2005 by 1.5%.
CARRIED

8.2 Non-Profit Housing Surplus for 2003

Donna stated that Leanne Eluik, Manager of Finance, had prepared an Issue Sheet for the Board's information. Leanne explained that the DSSAB allowed each of the providers to retain their surplus funds from 2001 and 2002 for allocation to their capital reserves. We have received a request from only one of

our providers to retain their 2003 surplus funds for allocation to their capital reserve fund and also to set up a reserve for future property tax increases from municipalities.

Resolution #110/04 MOVED BY L. Armstrong and SECONDED BY M. Lewis:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* recover the 2003 surplus funds from the Non-Profit Housing Provides, and that these funds be retained in a reserve fund, by the RRDSSAB, to offset any future increases in uncontrollable costs to the provider, based on criteria to be developed in consultation with all housing providers

CARRIED

8.3 2004/05 Insurance Premium

Donna Dittaro advised that there has been an award for insurance services to Gillons' Insurance Brokers Ltd., and a detailed breakdown has been provided to the Board in the Issue Sheet authored by Leanne Eluik. Emily Watson questioned whether we had looked to others for a quote. Leanne advised that we had but received no response. Dan Onichuk noted that tendering should garner a better price. Russ also questioned whether we had considered increasing our deductibles. Leanne replied we had not, however, the price this year was less than last, for lower deductibles, for DSSAB Housing.

Resolution #111/04 MOVED BY M. Lewis and SECONDED BY L. Armstrong:

RESOLVED THAT the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* award Gillons' Insurance Brokers Ltd. for the provision of insurance coverage commencing November 1, 2004, in the amount of \$71,471.00, not including taxes.

CARRIED

9. Reports

9.1 CAO and Program Reports

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

9.2 Finance

The Board members received and reviewed the Accounts Payable Report for the month of September, 2004, in the amount of \$125,885.40. The Board also

received and reviewed the Financial Statement for the month of September, 2004.

9.3 Board Chair

None

9.4 Committee Reports

None

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 November 18th, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. at the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board Office*, 206 Scott Street.

14. Adjournment

Resolution #112/04 MOVED BY L. Armstrong and SECONDED BY M. Lewis:

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

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY-TREASURER

DATE APPROVED