



# **District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board**

---

Minutes Of The Meeting Held  
Wednesday March 22, 2006  
At The Olde Towne Inn, Englehart

**PRESENT:** Al French, Chair  
Norm Menard, Vice Chair  
Bill Enouy  
Bob Hobbs  
Jo-Ann Thompson  
Tom Wells  
Jim Whipple

Eddie Alton, CAO

**REGRETS:** Dan Cote

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting opened at 6:30 pm.

## **1.0 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None

## **2.0 BEST START UPDATE**

Monique Legault gave an overview of the status of Best Start implementation and where the program was headed and the financial impact to-date. A major concern expressed by the Board was around the recent announcements of the discontinuance of the funding commencing in April 07. The implementation strategy has been adjusted to use the funds to enhance the quality of Child Care in the District while at the same time ensure that there are no long term commitments on the Board to fund components of the program once the funding is stopped.

The funding issue is still being debated and once any additional information is received the information will be shared with the Board.

In 2005, the Board approved funds from the National Child Benefit allocation to be used to fund informal child care requests that do not qualify under any of the other programs. As some of the parents have made commitments and still require support in order to be able to keep working a request was made to allocate \$10,000 from this year for informal/formal child care. These expenditures will be approved by the Director of the Best Start Program while the Child Care Supervisors position remains vacant.

MOVED BY: Jo-Ann Thompson  
SECONDED BY: Norman D. Menard

THAT the Board approves the allocation of \$10,000 from the National Child Benefit Funds be used for informal/formal child care.

CARRIED

### **3.0 REALIGNMENT OF DTSSAB REPRESENTATION AREAS – MAYOR NINA WALLACE**

Mayor Nina Wallace from Englehart addressed the Board on the current DTSSAB representation and how some boundary changes have taken place over the last few years. Mayor Wallace indicated that as boundaries have changed in the past would the Board consider changing the representation areas for the middle of the District. It was pointed out that the middle of the District feel that they have nothing in common with the North section and that the issues are different and therefore the boundaries should be realigned to have a seat dedicated to the middle of the District. In addition, since the areas reflecting the representation on the Board had not been reviewed since incorporation that perhaps a review should take place.

It was explained that as the DTSSAB programs are provided throughout the District, the Board members bring a District perspective to the table and not the interest of their own municipalities. The decisions made are global and the impact on each and every municipality is considered before a decision is made. Jo-Ann Thompson, the Board representative for this area indicated that she was more than willingly to come to council to discuss the DTSSAB programs and has made that offer previously to all of the Municipalities that she represents and in fact has attended some council meetings. It was also noted that other Board members have also done this in the past when requested.

All of the previous changes in boundaries have all been the result of amalgamations through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and have not resulted in a change to the number of individuals on the Board. However it was noted that other DSSAB's have changed the number of individuals on the DSSAB Board in order to address perceived inequities in the representation, especially when one major centre held the majority of votes.

The Mayor was also informed that there was an election this fall and after the election the municipalities vote for their DSSAB representative. This would provide an opportunity to nominate someone or run for the seat representing this area. In addition, as the Board meetings are public and held in Englehart, someone from her council was more than welcome to come and observe the Board meetings.

Mayor Wallace was questioned on whether there were any specific issues that Englehart was concerned about and she indicated that her council was informed that the DTSSAB was closing the Social Housing Office in Englehart. It was clarified that the closing of this office has been a matter of discussion since 2001 and that a study was being conducted this year to determine the financial and functional impact of this moved. It was agreed that the current office is inappropriate for clients as there is no wheel chair access and this is one of the reasons the study is being conducted. Mayor Wallace informed the Board that another more

appropriate location in Englehart was becoming available and wanted to ensure that the DTSSAB consider this new location before making any decision.

It was pointed out that as done in the past, and with Englehart's previous mayor, discussions would take place between Englehart's Board representative and the Mayor to discuss any moves well before they were approved by the Board. Jo-Ann Thompson indicated that she would meet with Mayor Wallace and review the parameters of the study that was being conducted and after it is completed discuss the results before a decision is implemented.

#### **4.0 IN CAMERA SESSION**

MOVED BY: Bill Enouy  
SECONDED BY: Jo-Ann Thompson

THAT the Board resolves to move into closed session to discuss human resource and accommodation issues.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: Jo-Ann Thompson  
SECONDED BY: Bill Enouy

THAT the Board resolves to rise from the in camera session with no report and reconvene with the regular Board meeting.

CARRIED

#### **5.0 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2006**

MOVED BY: Bill Enouy  
SECONDED BY: Jo-Ann Thompson

THAT the minutes of the previous Board meeting held March 9, 2006 be hereby approved as amended.

CARRIED

#### **6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Pandemic flu shots follow-up as waiting for a response to determine if medication can be returned if not used. There was a recent report that the flu mutated and if that is correct, then the medication would not be effective.

A concern around the Ministry's Social Housing Program Evaluation was raised as to its ability to reflect program concerns compared to Board concerns.

EMS Manager replied that the funding received from the Ministry should be applied to purchasing a new vehicle and not additional diagnostic equipment.

## **7.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

None

## **8.0 2006 DTSSAB BUDGET**

The Board approved a zero percent municipal increase for 2006. Although the gross budget is expected to increase by approximately \$6.8 million or 19.0%, the amount billed to area municipalities is remaining the same as in 2005.

To achieve a zero percent increase, funds are being allocated from the contingency reserve to offset the increase in the municipal portion of the budget in order to reduce it to the same total dollar amount as in 2005. This will require a contribution of approximately \$1.9 million from the contingency reserve which will substantially reduce the fund balance. However, the Board felt that this was the proper action to take in light of the financial pressures currently facing the area municipalities.

It was noted that if no contribution from the contingency reserve was made, the DTSSAB net budget would need to increase by approximately \$1.9 million or 18.7%.

It was further noted that some municipalities may have their share adjusted based on the costs apportionment formula being reviewed shortly although the total dollar amount billed to the municipalities will remain the same. The cost apportionment formula is currently being reviewed and once the required information is received, the amounts billed to the municipalities will be adjusted to reflect the revised amounts. This may increase or decrease some of the amounts slightly but the total amount billed to the municipalities will remain the same as in 2005.

The Board also discussed the impact that the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund plays in reducing the amounts paid locally. The municipal share of the services delivered by the DTSSAB is offset to a large degree by the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, previously known as the Community Reinvestment Fund. Based on the information provided, of the \$10.1 million that represents the DTSSAB share of the costs, approximately \$1.6 million will be paid by the province on behalf of Territories Without Municipal Organization and the municipalities will directly receive approximately \$6.4 million from the Province to offset the costs of the programs delivered by the DTSSAB. Therefore the amount paid locally for Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, Child Care and Emergency Medical Services amounts to approximately \$2.1 million or 5.1% of the gross budget. This equates to an average cost per household of \$119.54 or \$63.11 per capita throughout the District.

No adjustments will be made to the billing amounts at this time but once the required information is received the cost apportionment formula will be updated and the amounts billed to each municipality might change as a result. Once this calculation is completed, correspondence will be sent to each municipality explaining any changes.

MOVED BY: Jo-Ann Thompson  
SECONDED BY: Bill Enouy

THAT the Board approves the 2006 Budget as follows:

Program	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Net</u>
ODSP	\$17,000,000	\$ 3,700,000
Ontario Works/Administration	\$ 7,479,927	\$ 2,794,047
Social Housing	\$ 5,095,211	\$ 2,181,428
Land Ambulance	\$ 4,799,213	\$ 2,962,739
Best Start	\$ 6,743,606	\$ 0
Child Care	<u>\$ 1,497,076</u>	<u>\$ 390,574</u>
Sub-Total	\$42,615,033	\$12,028,788
Less: Contribution from Working Fund	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 1,898,428</u>
Total	<u>\$42,615,033</u>	<u>\$ 10,130,360</u>

CARRIED

Each year the contingency reserve is used to balance out any surpluses or deficits from operations and a resolution is passed approving this.

MOVED BY: Jim Whipple  
SECONDED BY: N. D. Menard

THAT the Board approves that all surplus and deficit funds from operations in 2006 are put into or taken from the contingency reserve..

CARRIED

**9.0 KLNPHC 2003 & 2004 AIR**

A new letter was provided for the Board Chairs signature to be sent to the Chair of the Kirkland Lake Non-Profit Housing Corporation.

**10.0 LOCAL STANDARD #16 – OVER HOUSING**

The Board reviewed the local standard as presented by the Social Housing Manager. Some concerns were raised and the CAO is to follow up on why seven days for an appeal as that seemed short and why no internal appeal process was identified.

**11.0 CANADA-ONTARIO AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM**

A letter from Tom Belanger, Nipissing Housing Manager, was provided outlining concerns around the program as seen from the Housing Managers perspective. In most cases the two major issues were the fact that the plan ends in five years and that administration dollars were so low. It was explained that most Service Managers were working on a way to participate in the plan at the same time as working on an exit strategy.

The Social Housing Manager feels that at the current time the program can be delivered without any additional staff costs. Therefore although the administration fee is low it is a good opportunity to provide additional housing in the District. The issues of concern have been brought to the Ministry's attention and we will continue to work with other service managers to get more administration dollars.

The DTSSAB has been granted an extension before entering into an agreement to participate in this program and will await more information on the issues presented to the Ministry. A resolution was passed by the Board approving entering into an agreement subject to the concerns being adequately addressed.

MOVED BY: Bob Hobbs  
SECONDED BY: T. Wells

THAT the Board authorizes the Chair and CAO to enter into a Housing Allowance/Rent Supplement Agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program subject to program and administrative concerns being adequately addressed.

CARRIED

## **12.0 ADMIN, OW, CC, EMS CHEQUE REGISTER**

MOVED BY: N.D. Menard  
SECONDED BY: Jim Whipple

THAT the Board receives the Administration, Ontario Works, Child Care and Emergency Medical Services cheque registers #825 to #828 for information.

CARRIED

## **13.0 SOCIAL HOUSING CHEQUE REGISTER**

A few questions were asked regarding the cheque register and clarification was provided.

MOVED BY: Bob Hobbs  
SECONDED BY: T Wells

THAT the Board receives the Social Housing Program cheque registers #9975 to #10067 for information.

CARRIED

## **14.0 SOCIAL HOUSING REPORTS**

A list of the Rent Supplement was provided by program.

The vacant rent supplement unit that was negotiated to replace the two units converted in Elk Lake has now been rented.

## **15.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

Copies of the following correspondence was previously distributed and a brief discussion took place on the correspondence and some clarification provided,

- COSTCO Membership information
- Emergency Preparedness Week
- Disability Awareness Day
- Temiskaming Municipal Association
- Ministry of Labour Response to KDSB
- Remarks-Public Accountability Committee
- AMO Alert 06-002
- AMO Alert 06-013
- AMO Alert 06-14
- Kirkland Lake Air Quality Results

MOVED BY: T. Wells  
SECONDED BY: Bob Hobbs

THAT the Board accepts the correspondence as presented.

CARRIED

## **16.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

It was mentioned that a training session on labour relations was held for the managers with Robert Budd.

Clarification was sought as to whether the DTSSAB would be interested in conducting the TWOMO election. It was decided to wait to ensure adequate funding is provided and the issues around the length of the term were addressed by the Ministry before agreeing to conduct the election.

## **17.0 NEXT MEETING**

MOVED BY: N. D. Menard  
SECONDED BY: Jim Whipple

THAT the regular Board meeting of Wednesday March 22, 2006 is hereby adjourned at 9:07 p.m. to meet again on April 13, 2006 unless otherwise changed, or at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED