



District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board

Minutes Of The Meeting Held
January 11, 2007
At The Olde Towne Inn, Englehart

PRESENT: Al French, Chair
Norm Menard, Vice Chair
Arla West
Bill Enouy
Bob Hobbs
Dan Cote
Jim Whipple
Judy Pace
Nina Wallace

Eddie Alton, CAO

CALL TO ORDER:

The CAO called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.0 SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

In accordance with the DSSAB Act, in the first meeting of each year, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the DTSSAB are elected. Individuals introduced themselves and the municipalities that appointed them to the Board and there was discussion around terminology and interpretation of the DSSAB Act and the Board By-Law and a consensus was reached on how to proceed.

MOVED BY: Jim Whipple
SECONDED BY: Dan Cote

THAT nominee, Al French accepts the position of Chair of the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board for the year 2007.

CARRIED

The Chair then took over the meeting and asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

MOVED BY: Bob Hobbs
SECONDED BY: Jim Whipple

THAT nominee, Norm Menard accepts the position of Vice-Chair of the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board for the year 2007.

CARRIED

The Chair and Vice-Chair thanked the committee for their support and the Chair welcomed Judy Pace and Nina Wallace to the Board.

2.0 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

3.0 IN CAMERA SESSION

MOVED BY: Bill Enouy
SECONDED BY: Jim Whipple

THAT the Board resolves to move into closed session to discuss Human Resource and Accommodation issues.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: Jim Whipple
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

4.0 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – DECEMBER 14, 2006

MOVED BY: Bill Enouy
SECONDED BY: Jim Whipple

THAT the minutes of the previous Board meeting held December 14, 2006 be hereby approved.

CARRIED

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

A question was asked as to whether we had found out who the successful site for the Hire Up Initiative were and we have not been informed to-date. Once the information is available it will be provided to the Board.

6.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

7.0 NOSDA GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY LETTER

A copy of the letter being sent to the Ministry regarding DSSAB Governance and Accountability was discussed. Some background was provided on the issue as the issues identified should have been addressed in the amendments made in 2006.

8.0 NOSDA ODSP LETTER

A copy of the letter sent to the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur regarding the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review. Some background on the issue was provided by Jim Whipple, Vice-Chair of NOSDA.

9.0 BORROWING BY-LAW 2007-01

A borrowing by-law is approved each year in case the DTSSAB needs to borrow funds throughout the year. To-date the DTSSAB has not needed to borrow any funds.

MOVED BY: Jim Whipple
SECONDED BY: Bill Enouy

THAT the Board approves Borrowing By-Law 2007-01.

CARRIED

10.0 PROCEDURAL BY-LAW 2007-02

The Board reviewed the procedural by-law which outlines the dates, times, location and way the Board meetings are conducted and some changes were recommended to be made to the by-law. The CAO is to reword the Section 5 and Section 13 (b) and bring it back to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

11.0 BOARD ORIENTATION SESSION

Information was passed out asking Board Members to review their information on file as well as to indicate whether they wanted business cards and if so, what they would like on them. The CAO is putting together some information for the two new Board members and it was also suggested that the CAO ask the Ministry to conduct an orientation session as well. The CAO will talk to the Ministry and report back to the Board.

12.0 TIMISKAMING CHILD CARE FUNDING REQUEST

The Board received a request for donations from Timiskaming Child Care. As any donation that would be given would be 100% municipal dollars, the request was denied as it was felt that the municipalities should be asked to donate directly and that the DTSSAB should not be doing it on their behalf. In addition, if a municipality was to donate directly and the DTSSAB did as well, then in effect this municipality would be contributing twice.

13.0 2006/07 BEST START FUNDING ALLOCATION

A letter was received indicating that the DTSSAB was going to receive \$1,792,284 for the Best Start Program in 2007. This in conjunction with the previous announcement made of \$502,300 moves the total to be received to \$2,293,584 for 2007. Some background information was requested regarding the Best Start Program and some of the Board's concerns discussed.

14.0 EMS FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

A letter was received from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care that in addition to the \$443,448 received in 2006 an additional \$370,490 would be received in 2007 to help move the costing formula closer to the 50-50 split originally promised. This adjustment is based on the previous years budget so increase in 2007 are not reflected in this adjustment but the Board was appreciative of the Ministry taking the necessary steps to move the formula closer to the 50-50 split.

15.0 EMS VEHICLE DISPOSITION REPORT

The EMS Vehicle Disposition Report was discussed and approved. Some background information was provided and it was felt that the old vehicles may be of some interest to the smaller fire brigades that it needed to be brought up at one of their joint meetings. It was recommended that the fire brigades be advised to send a letter to the DTSSAB if they have an interest in requesting an out-of-service vehicle.

MOVED BY: Bill Enouy
SECONDED BY: Jim Whipple

THAT the Board approves the disposition of three out of service ambulances as recommended in the EMS Vehicle Disposition report presented.

CARRIED

ABSTAIN Judy Pace

16.0 EMS CROSS BORDER LAND AMBULANCE BILLING REPORT

A copy of the report and some background on the issue was provided. This issue is still one on major concern to DSSAB's and hopefully it will be resolved in 2007 by the Ministry.

17.0 SOCIAL HOUSING WRITE-OFF REPORT

A request is being made to write-off \$19,938.32 as uncollectible rents for tenants that have vacated over 12 months prior to December 31, 2006. The breakdown of this number is \$9,454.74 for rents owing and \$10,483.58 for maintenance costs. These collections have all been turned over to our collection agencies for possible reimbursement.

The total arrears when compared to total rents collected for 2005 represents approximately 1% which is extremely low. The Board requested that the Social Housing staff continue to remain

vigilant in their collection of rent and try to become more pro-active on the maintenance portion of the costs.

It was clarified that if a tenant is in arrears and moves to another provider, that the information is shared on the rents owed and the other agency will try to work with the individual on a re-payment plan before allowing them to move into their units.

MOVED BY: Arla West
SECONDED BY: N. Wallace

THAT the Board approves authorizing the write-off of outstanding balances in December 2006 representing tenants who vacated during the 12 month period ended December 31, 2006..

CARRIED

OPPOSED Norm Menard

18.0 HOMELESSNESS FUNDS

Additional 100% funding from the Ministry is available for the Homelessness Program and these funds must be spent by March 31, 2007. Permission was requested to provide these funds to the Canadian Mental Health Association who provides this program throughout the District on the DTSSAB's behalf.

MOVED BY: Bob Hobbs
SECONDED BY: Arla West

THAT the Board approves providing additional funding in the amount of \$41,021 to the Canadian Mental Health Association for the provision of the Homelessness Program on behalf of the DTSSAB.

CARRIED

19.0 ADMIN, OW, CC, EMS CHEQUE REGISTER

There was some discussion and clarification requested on some accounts as well as why received for information rather than approved. A brief discussion took place explaining the rationale that as the cheques were already issued, approval was redundant. The Chair suggested that in the future if individuals have questions regarding any particular accounts that the individual Board members contact the CAO directly for clarification.

MOVED BY: Arla West
SECONDED BY: N. D. Menard

THAT the Board receives the Administration, Ontario Works, Child Care and Emergency Medical Services cheques register #947 to # 950 and #970 to #975 for information.

CARRIED

ABSTAIN Judy Pace

20.0 SOCIAL HOUSING CHEQUE REGISTER

Some clarification was provided.

MOVED BY: Arla West
SECONDED BY: Bob Hobbs

THAT the Board receives the Social Housing cheques register #10818 to # 10895 for information.

CARRIED

ABSTAIN Judy Pace

21.0 SOCIAL HOUSING REPORTS

The unit availability report was provided for information purposes.

22.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- MCYS Income Testing Implementation Letter
- SHSC Discussion Paper
- SHSC 2005 Annual Report

Jim Whipple provided an update on the SHSC discussion paper from NOSDA's perspective and highlighted the importance of the DTSSAB forming an opinion on this issue. It was felt that we need to review this document and the Social Housing issues and determine what we think is wrong and what needs to be fixed. It was pointed out that the program does need additional funding as well as program supports.

The CAO was requested to contact other CAOs and see what they are doing in regards to this paper.

MOVED BY: Bob Hobbs
SECONDED BY: Arla West

THAT the Board accepts the correspondence as presented.

CARRIED

23.0 OTHER BUSINESS

The motion deeming 1/3 of the Board's remuneration was presented and approved.

MOVED BY: Bob Hobbs
SECONDED BY: Arla West

As in accordance with Section 283 of the Municipal Act, this resolution clarifies that one-third of the remuneration paid to the DTSSAB member's is deemed as expenses incident to the discharge of their duties as members of the DTSSAB.

CARRIED

A question was asked regarding the appointment of the auditors for 2006 audit and it was mentioned that this has already been approved and that it is Ross, Pope and Company.

24.0 NEXT MEETING

MOVED BY: Arla West
SECONDED BY: N. D. Menard

THAT the regular Board meeting of Thursday January 11, 2007 is hereby adjourned at 7:23 p.m. to meet again on Wednesday January 24, 2007 unless otherwise changed, or at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED