



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

- Ontario Works
- Child Care
- Social Housing
- Land Ambulance

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) / LAND AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for Friday, September 15, 2003

Civic Centre, Korah Boardroom, 12:00pm

PRESENT: D. Edgar N. DelBianco
CITY STAFF: A. McRae L. McCoy
DSSAB STAFF: K. Streich-Poser A. Nanne (notes)
REGRETS: D. Amaroso L. Turco

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, David Edgar at 12:15 p.m.

Searchmont First Response Vehicle / First Response Vehicle Policy

Fire Chief, Lynn McCoy and committee representatives were present for special EMS / Land Ambulance meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the status of the Searchmont First Response Team vehicle (which is in need of extensive repairs) as well as the First Response Vehicle Policy.

A review of the Searchmont Vehicle usage showed that the Searchmont vehicle was only used to make twenty-two (22) calls as well as one (1) stand-by call over the past year. The bulk of these calls occurs during the winter ski season. This is a very low usage rate.

The Searchmont vehicle has been in town for one (1) week waiting for repairs and the Searchmont team has not yet retrieved the equipment on board. Chief McCoy asked that the Searchmont team be contacted in order to have their equipment picked up as soon as possible.

Chief McCoy directed his staff to get written estimates for the repair of the body and mechanics of the Searchmont vehicle. The three (3) written estimates were provided to Lynn as well as committee members for review. After circulating the estimates and vehicle report, Lynn discussed the problems with this vehicle as well as the recommendation from his staff that the repairs would be both expensive and impractical.

Kim Streich-Poser mentioned her recent phone conversation with Suzanne LaForge of the Searchmont First Response Team. In that conversation Suzanne discussed the possibility of a Ministry grant available to assist the Searchmont Team with the purchase a used vehicle from the Sault Search and Rescue Team. The vehicle would cost approximately \$9,000 and Searchmont FRT requested assistance from the DSSAB by contributing the 10% deposit required for this purchase. If Searchmont purchased their own vehicle it would alleviate DSSAB responsibility for vehicle maintenance. Lynn

McCoy commented that he would also like to see the DSSAB discontinue the trend of responsibility of vehicle maintenance. Some First Response Teams such as Goulais, Aweres and Prince Township have already purchased their own vehicles and committee members were interested in the prospect of the Searchmont Team making an independent purchase.

Many First Response teams currently support themselves without the assistance of the DSSAB. Searchmont does not appear to be raising funds like other First Response Teams. Chief Lynn McCoy suggested the possibility of selling our vehicles when they are no longer required and investigating the trade-in value of old vehicles.

David Edgar suggested that all retired vehicles go into a pool after receiving an estimated value of the vehicle. Each First Response Team could then split the value of the vehicle. Committee members felt that this plan would still force the DSSAB to accept responsibility for FRP vehicles. Some committee members would rather see us simply "wash our hands" of this responsibility all together. Fire Chief Lynn McCoy commented that helping out our "neighbors" is more important than getting full trade-in value for the ambulances. Liability needs to be a consideration as well.

Comments were made regarding the fact that the First Response Teams are not limited to an Ambulance as their only possible mode of transportation. Patients could be assisted through the use of a fire truck or other emergency vehicle as well.

Andy McRae feels that this is a definite "policy" issue and that a blanket and fair policy needs to be put in place to deal with this matter. Kim Streich-Poser stated that there is currently no legislation regarding First Response Vehicles or the fact that DSSAB must play a role in First Response Vehicles. DSSAB needs to create a policy to create equality among the First Response Teams. Our current contract with the First Response Teams is to simply provide supplies, and training to all – not to provide vehicles to all. Andy felt that the First Response Teams should be going to the Province for funding rather than the DSSAB since it is the Province that created the legislation. Kim Streich-Poser advised that the legislation gives the responsibility of EMS to the DSSAB, and is silent on First Response Teams. CMSMs make their own policy on these teams.

Kim suggested that a "phasing out" method could be a consideration and that the DSSAB will no longer handle responsibility for providing vehicles once current vehicles are no longer valid. This process could be slowly implemented rather than a more sudden and drastic plan.

David Edgar suggested a one-time donation to assist current First Response Teams while Neil DeBianco voiced concerns about setting a precedent. The committee discussed timing concerns regarding the Searchmont First Response Vehicle - with the ski season quickly approaching the need for this vehicle becomes more important. Kim Streich-Poser suggested getting an estimate for a First Response Vehicle and advancing the Searchmont Team the funds. Lynn McCoy however, would like to see them be more independent and accountable. He suggested that the DSSAB donate the current First Response Vehicle to Searchmont and have them process the sale themselves. This would make them completely responsible for changing the ownership,

completing the paperwork and retaining a new vehicle. In following this suggestion the DSSAB could sign over all existing First Response Vehicles to all of the First Response Teams. A discussion followed and the suggestion was made that the DSSMSSAB become more like First Response "Partners".

Lynn McCoy and Kim Streich-Poser will develop a Draft Policy for the provision and maintenance of First Response Team vehicles. This Draft Policy will be presented at the October 16th DSSMSSAB Board Meeting. The draft will be faxed to all Board Members for review prior to the October Meeting.

Adele Nanne will contact Suzanne LaForge from the Searchmont First Response team to notify her that the EMS / Land Ambulance Committee has decided that the DSSMSSAB will not repair the Searchmont First Response Vehicle at this time.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Next Meeting (November 2003)

The next EMS / Land Ambulance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19th at 11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

David Edgar adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.