



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

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

Minutes

DSSMSSAB REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, November 21st, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.
Russ Ramsay Room (Civic Centre – Foster Drive)

PRESENT:	D. Edgar R. Niro R. Amadio	P. Mick J. Gawne	B. Watkins M. Bruni
STAFF:	P. Lebel D. Boulet	R. Rushworth G. Grandinetti	D. Petersson A. Nanne
REGRETS:	L. Turco	J. Krmpotich	M. Nadeau

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair D. Edgar at 5:03 pm

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution #13-062

Moved By: R. Niro

Seconded By: M. Bruni

- 2.1 “Be it resolved that the Agenda for the November 21, 2013 District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

J. Gawne declared a conflict with the Housing Programs matter related to the Lions Club.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES / ACCOUNTS

Resolution #13-063

Moved By: J. Gawne

Seconded By: R. Amadio

- 4.1 “Be it resolved that the Minutes from the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social

Services Administration Board meeting dated October 17, 2013 be adopted as recorded.”

CARRIED

5. CAO / COMMISSIONER / MANAGER REPORTS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

R. Rushworth spoke about the Emergency First Response Team training for new recruits. He informed Board Members that the trainers are qualified and certified and offer a good value for the cost.

The cost centre for these expenses will be brought to the board at a future date.

Resolution #13-064

Moved By: M. Bruni

Seconded By: P. Mick

- 5.1 “In order to provide a qualified high standard of training for new Emergency First Response Team members;

Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve Centre for Pre-hospital Care Health Sciences North (CPCHSN) certified Canadian Red Cross trainers to conduct the Emergency First Response training sessions at a cost of \$375 per new recruit.”

CARRIED

D. Edgar commented that it has been about a year since the conversation regarding the possible Ambulance Base in Goulais River began. After a meeting with a DSSMSSAB sub-committee and the Goulais Local Service Board to discuss the viability of an Ambulance base in Goulais River; it was decided that a business case would need to be developed. It is a large undertaking and as a result a professional consultant has been contracted.

Resolution #13-065

Moved By: M. Bruni

Seconded By: B. Watkins

- 5.2 “Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board support the Goulais Local Services Board and their hiring of consultant Tim Kelly from Aberdeen Technical Services Ltd. to develop a Business Proposal and Presentation to discuss the possible operation of a Goulais River Ambulance Station.”

CARRIED

ONTARIO WORKS

P. Lebel spoke to the Ontario Works Two Year Service Plan. She provided an overview of the intentions of the plan that is employment focused. It may take some time to assist individuals that may be in a cycle situation. The Ontario Works Employment unit has moved back “in-house” to the Ontario Works offices on Albert St. and will actively work in the community with new prospective employers. The community hubs will be used to assist in creating ease for individuals searching for work.

D. Edgar complimented P. Lebel with the way the plan was composed and the aggressive way that it tackled some of the problems associated with Ontario Works.

P. Mick asked about the community hubs, their locations and the programs currently being run out of these assets. She was told that there are 4 community hubs and that they are undergoing renovations at this time.

Resolution #13-066

Moved By: P. Mick

Seconded By: J. Gawne

- 5.3 “Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board accept the report prepared by the Ontario Works Program Manager regarding the Ontario Works Two Year Service Plan and that the Board continues to receive regular updates regarding the progress and implementation of this plan.”

CARRIED

Resolution #13-067

Moved By: B. Watkins

Seconded By: P. Mick

- 5.4 “Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board accept the 2013-14 Ontario Works Two Year Plan and the letter of acceptance from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.”

CARRIED

HOUSING PROGRAMS

J. Gawne declared a conflict on this matter.

Resolution #13-068

Moved By: P. Mick

Seconded By: J. Gawne

5.5 “Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the Delivering Opportunities for Ontario Renters (DOOR) funding request in the amount of \$9,457.60 in order to reimburse the Lions Club of Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation for items which have improved and enhanced tenant accessibility and safety including:

- One (1) automatic door opener / apartment entry door in the amount of \$3,187.38
- One (1) automatic door opener for the laundry room door in the amount of \$2,224.82 AND
- The conversion of a tub to an accessible step-in shower in four (4) apartments in the amount of \$4,045.40”

CARRIED

G. Grandinetti spoke to the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan. He reviewed the highlights of the plan and discussed the aging housing stock in Sault Ste. Marie.

Questions regarding the low vacancy rate and the lack of desire from contractors to build should prevalent. It was noted that the government funding for affordable housing is not available at this time. It was also noted that due to the low vacancy rate landlords have the ability to charge higher rents to tenants.

A good conversation regarding Affordable Housing in Sault Ste. Marie and the current situation was held.

Resolution #13-069

Moved By: J. Gawne

Seconded By: R. Amadio

5.6 “Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board accept DRAFT 10 Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Plan 2014-2024 as information.”

CARRIED

SOCIAL SERVICES

Resolution #13-070

Moved By: P. Mick

Seconded By: R. Amadio

5.7 “Whereas at the at the November 4th City of Sault Ste. Marie Council

meeting resolutions were passed regarding the current Ontario Disability Support Program mileage rates as well as the endorsement of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) housing campaign for the development of a long-term plan for Canada's housing future;

Therefore be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board conduct a review and submit reports in order to both support and address these matters.”

CARRIED

D. Boulet brought Board Members up to date on the status of the relief fund. To date four (4) individuals have been helped for just over \$15,792 in expenditure. A discussion regarding the stringent eligibility requirements and the lack of people benefitting from this program were discussed. The possibility of readjusting the requirements was examined. The program mirrors the Northern Repair program and the requirements there.

It was suggested that we push this fund again with media information and releases to create more awareness. People who didn't apply the first time may need to apply now.

A snap shot of potential users of this fund – for example the number of households less that \$169,000 and households low income – could be useful information. The innovation centre may have the answers.

Resolution #13-071

Moved By: P. Mick

Seconded By: R. Niro

5.8 “WHEREAS Resolution #13-052 passed on September 19, 2013 with the intention of one-time assistance for vulnerable residents who were adversely affected by sudden flooding in the area on September 9, 2013;

AND SINCE that time subsequent and reoccurring flooding has occurred in the DSSMSSAB catchment area;

BE IT RESOLVED that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board continue to support the allocation of up to \$250,000 from the Community Housing Retention Fund (CHRF) for emergency home repairs for all eligible flood victims of one (1) or more flooding events during the year 2013;

AND THAT the Commissioner of Social Services be responsible for facilitating these essential emergency repairs of up to \$5,000 per household. Program eligibility will be subject to the Investment in

Affordable Housing Emergency Repair policy developed by Housing Programs. Funding will be made available until the allocation has been depleted or until December 31, 2013”

CARRIED

6. ADMINISTRATION

Resolution #13-072

Moved By: R. Amadio

Seconded By: B. Watkins

- 6.1 “Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board hold their annual Christmas Dinner at Barsanti’s Restaurant (Root River) on Thursday, December 19, 2013.”

CARRIED

OUTSTANDING / ACTION ITEMS

- Contracts with City of Sault Ste. Marie

An update regarding the status of our agreement with the City of Sault Ste. Marie was presented.

A message will be sent to Melanie Borowicz-Sibinek requesting the agreements be brought forth to the next City Council meeting. Send message to CAO, Mayor and cc. Board Members.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #13-073

Moved By: P. Mick

Seconded By: R. Niro

- 8.1 "Be it resolved that we do now adjourn."

CARRIED

NEXT BOARD MEETING - Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. Russ Ramsay Room (Civic Centre)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm