



MINUTES  
of the REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD  
THURSDAY, January 19, 2006

RRDSSAB Office, Fort Frances, ON 6:30 p.m.  
MEETING #01/06

- PRESENT:** PETER VAN HEYST, Township of Chapple  
WADE DESSERRE, R. R. West Electoral Area  
TANNIS DRYSDALE, Town of Fort Frances  
MICHAEL LEWIS, R. R. East Electoral Area **(By Phone)**  
EMILY WATSON, Township of LaVallee  
DENNIS BROWN, Township of Atikokan  
LINDA ARMSTRONG, Township of Dawson  
BARBARA COURNOYER, Township of Alberton  
JOHN CALLAN, R. R. Central Electoral Area  
RUSS FORTIER, Township of Emo  
VALERIE PIZEY, Township of Lake of the Woods  
GARY GAMSBY, Township of Morley  
GLEN ARMSTRONG, Town of Rainy River
- STAFF:** DONNA DITTARO, Secretary-Treasurer  
LEANNE ELUIK, Manager of Finance  
DAN McCORMICK, Health Services Manager  
JUDY KOSKI, Recorder

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**Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The following members of the Board were elected as the new Executive for the  
*Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* for the year 2006:

Val Pizey	Chair
Tannis Drysdale	Vice-Chair

Resolution #1/06 MOVED BY Russ Fortier and SECONDED BY L. Armstrong:

**RESOLVED THAT** the ballots be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

Val Pizey, Chair, thanked Russ Fortier for all of his efforts as Chair, particularly over the past, very difficult, year. Val also thanked the members for their confidence in her as the new Chair of the Rainy River DSSAB.

Gary Gamsby also extended thanks to John Callan as Vice Chair. Russ Fortier stated he appreciated the professionalism shown to the Chair during his term.

**1. Call to Order**

Val Pizey, Chair, formally called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present.

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

None.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Peter Van Heyst stated that he had an issue to be dealt with in camera.

Resolution #02/06 MOVED BY E. Watson and SECONDED BY G. Gamsby:

**RESOLVED THAT** the agenda of January 19, 2006, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**4. In-Camera**

Resolution #03/06 MOVED BY G. Gamsby and SECONDED BY E. Watson:

**RESOLVED THAT** the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* now meet in-camera in order to address a matter pertaining to:

- a proposed or pending acquisition of land for Board purposes or disposal of land no longer needed for Board purposes;

- labour relations or employee negotiations.

**CARRIED**

Val Pizey, Chair, reconvened the meeting to its regular session.

Resolution #04/06 MOVED BY G. Armstrong and SECONDED BY R. Fortier:

**WHEREAS** the Service Agreements between the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* and the Hospital Operators of Land Ambulance, Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc. and Atikokan General Hospital, expire 31 December 2006;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* has undertaken a review of Service Delivery Models;

**AND WHEREAS** it has been determined that efficiencies will be realized through the direct delivery of Land Ambulance Services by the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board*;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* assume Direct Delivery of Land Ambulance Services upon the expiration of the Service Agreements with the two Hospital Operators, Atikokan General Hospital and Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc., on December 31, 2006, adhering to the terms prescribed within the current Service Agreements, which include proper notice and procedure;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the effective date of direct delivery implementation will be 01 January, 2007.

**CARRIED**

Dennis Brown requested a recorded vote on the following resolution.

Resolution #05/06 MOVED BY G. Gamsby and SECONDED BY J. Callan:

**WHEREAS** it has been determined that the current DSSAB facilities in Fort Frances can no longer meet the needs of Programs, Board, Staff and Clients;

**AND WHEREAS** the Rainy River DSSAB has undertaken an extensive review of alternate accommodations;

**AND WHEREAS** an independent analysis has determined that a Lease to Purchase option is the most cost-effective alternative;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* enter into a twelve year Lease to Purchase agreement with 1578289 Ontario Ltd., with a proposed moving date of January 1, 2007, per the Terms and Conditions contained within the letter dated December 13, 2005, signed by Russell Pollard, Vice-President.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Russ Fortier  
Emily Watson  
Gary Gamsby  
John Callan  
Michael Lewis  
Wade Desserre

Nay: Barbara Cournoyer  
Dennis Brown  
Peter Van Heyst  
Linda Armstrong  
Tannis Drysdale  
Valerie Pizey  
Glen Armstrong

**DEFEATED**

Mike Lewis stated that we still need space and therefore must look at other accommodations. Dennis Brown stated that we should be considering management of Rainycrest when dealing with building issues as we may be able to utilize space at that facility. Val Pizey stated that we should have Donna look at further alternatives. John Callan stated that he was not in favour of delaying a decision and would prefer that the Board direct Donna to take steps to find space in order to resolve this problem. The retrieval of more information does not resolve the problem. If the Rainycrest offices are occupied, that is not a resolution. Barb Cournoyer stated that we should still be looking at efficiencies and that the need for office space is a very pressing issue. She would like to see a special Board meeting set to deal with this matter as we have an obligation to the staff. Tannis Drysdale suggested that a budget should be set for a building, and Donna could find something within that Budget. Gary Gamsby suggested that the Board seriously consider appointing a new Building Committee, as the present Committee has done all they can and looked at many options. Russ Fortier agreed and stated that he would not be willing to continue to sit on the Committee as they had exhausted all avenues. Dennis Brown felt that the Board

should be involved in the final approval. John Callan suggested that the matter be placed in Donna's hands. Dennis Brown stated that we need jobs in more than one community. Val Pizey stated that the Board members are voting at the direction of councils and that no disrespect is meant to the Staff or the Committee. Glen Armstrong stated that we would all like to have jobs in our communities, however, that is not a cost savings as the bulk of the clients are central to the District. Mike Lewis stated that the resolution has been defeated due to the cost to the municipalities, however, all other alternatives will cost more. Decentralization would cost more with the potential for large severance costs and legal fees. Gary Gamsby stated that he would not support a plan to move the employees to another community. Barb Cournoyer stated that she appreciated the hard work of both the Staff and the Committee and feels that we must continue quickly to resolve the issue. Val Pizey agreed and stated that a Special Meeting of the Board will be called. Linda Armstrong also agreed that we must move forward and she commended the Building Committee for their efforts. It was agreed that a Special Meeting of the Board will be called at its earliest convenience.

**5. Presentations/Delegations**

None

**6. Approval of Minutes**

Resolution #06/06 MOVED BY T. Drysdale and SECONDED BY V. Pizey:

**RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the *Regular Board Meeting* held December 15, 2005, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**7. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**7.1 Cost Apportionment**

Donna advised that a memo prepared by Leanne Eluik is included in the package this evening regarding the apportionment proposal from the Township of Atikokan, for information purposes. Donna pointed out that at the last Board meeting the Board deferred any decision regarding this matter to June or July of this year, when we receive the updated property assessments and municipal tax ratios. Dennis Brown also advised that this matter would be discussed at the Rainy River District Municipal Association meeting.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1 Rainycrest Management Proposal**

Val Pizey stated that she had attended a meeting with regard to Rainycrest. She noted that if managing Rainycrest was a bad thing, why is Riverside so insistent that the municipalities support them. She stated that we should update our own proposal for submission, in order to be prepared. Dennis Brown agreed and noted that the last time we looked at a savings of up to \$100,000 for the Townships. He also noted that both Dan McCormick and Donna Dittaro are Long Term Care Facility Administrators. Val added that after Riverside took over the interim management of Rainycrest, Extendicare, a private corporation, was brought in and paid for by the Province. She added that an increase is already being sought in the amount of .81 cents per diem per resident. An administrator has also been hired since the placement of Riverside. Any surplus previously noted may have been used up by that new hire. There were also costs cited for a special audit and the employee "head hunt". Val also noted that on the Board proposed by Riverside the municipalities would only hold one seat in sixteen. Gary Gamsby advised that at the direction of the Rainy River District Municipal Association, there will be a special meeting held after the Annual General Meeting, to discuss the future of Rainycrest. Donna Dittaro advised that this item was placed on the Board Agenda after a discussion with the Chair. She is seeking the Board's direction as she has received calls regarding Rainycrest. Our present proposal would need revision to clarify, for example, the different delivery options. She noted we could contract out or provide direct delivery. We could contract all or part to Riverside, for example. Gary Gamsby stated that a decision on Rainycrest will be made by the municipalities. Val Pizey stated that we will update our proposal and await contact from the municipalities. Wade Desserre asked whether or not there would be "TWOMO" reps on the Board. Val advised that there are two provincial reps on the Board. Wade stated that the DSSAB would give the best representation to the municipalities and unincorporated areas, and therefore he would like to see the DSSAB manage Rainycrest. Val Pizey stated that the Rainy River District Municipal Association could look at external management and transfer to the DSSAB. Gary Gamsby noted that the Ministry could continue with or without the blessing of the municipalities by order of the Lieutenant Governor. Val Pizey stated that there is no accountability if management stays with Riverside, however, there would be strict municipal control if managed by the DSSAB.

### **8.2 Land Ambulance Funding**

A package of information was received by the Board with regard to this matter.

### 8.3 Auditor

Donna Dittaro advised that an auditor is usually appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Board and we are no longer required to use the same auditor as the largest municipality. It is also an option to tender for this service, although not all DSSABs take that option. As BDO Dunwoody has already begun its preliminary audit for 2005, we will continue to retain their services for the balance of the audit. Leanne Eluik advised that the cost of the audit for 2005 will be \$17,700. She noted that both Kenora and Nipissing pay much higher costs. John Callan asked whether we are satisfied with the services of BDO and if there were other auditing firms interested without significant increases. Donna advised that we have received excellent service from BDO and have an excellent working relationship with that firm. To date, we have not been approached by other auditors. Leanne noted that we could expect a two to three percent increase each year in auditing fees. Tannis Drysdale stated that the Town of Fort Frances had to tender and questioned if the DSSAB would be under that same obligation. Donna advised that at this point, the DSSAB would not. Val Pizey stated that it doesn't make sense to change auditors, particularly as the cost of setting up by a new auditor would be very expensive.

Resolution #07/06 MOVED BY V. Pizey and SECONDED BY T. Drysdale:

**RESOLVED THAT** BDO Dunwoody be appointed as auditors for the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* for the fiscal year 2005.

**CARRIED**

### 8.4 Affordable Housing Program - Remote

Donna advised that this item was for information purposes, however, it may come back to the February meeting if participation by the Board is sought.

### 8.5 Atikokan Native Non-Profit Housing Corporation

The Board members received an Issue Sheet prepared by Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager, outlining proposed amendments to the operating agreement with Atikokan Native Non-Profit Housing Corporation.

Resolution #08/06 MOVED BY P. Van Heyst and SECONDED BY D. Brown:

**RESOLVED THAT** the Operating Agreement between the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* and *Atikokan Native Non-Profit Homes Corporation* be amended to include Items #1 through #8, per the attached Issue Sheet, effective March 1, 2006.

**CARRIED**

## 8.6 Annual Imputed Rate of Return

An Issue Sheet with regard to this matter was reviewed by the Board.

Resolution #09/06 MOVED BY B. Cournoyer and SECONDED BY L. Armstrong:

**RESOLVED THAT** the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* implement an imputed rate of return in the amount of 2%, effective 01 April, 2006, for a period of one year.

**CARRIED**

## 9. Reports

### 9.1 CAO and Program Reports

The Board members received and reviewed the Annual Report of the CAO and reports of the Program Managers. Donna advised that she will be distributing copies of her Annual Report at the Rainy River District Municipal Association Annual General Meeting.

### 9.2 Finance

The Board members received and reviewed the Accounts Payable Report for the month of December, 2005, in the amount of \$188,412.05. The Financial Statements for the month of December, 2005, were also reviewed. Leanne advised that the year end accruals are not included in these statements.

### 9.3 Board Chair

None.

### 9.4 Committee Reports

Ontario Works - Linda Armstrong advised that there has been no meeting since the last Board meeting and Shelley is working on the 2006 Budget.

Social Housing - Peter Van Heyst advised that their Committee did meet and discussed liability for non-profit providers as some of them were using contractors not covered by WSIB. The Operational Review process is ongoing for some providers. Leanne is working on the 2006 Budget for Social Housing and advised that there is an increase in uncontrollable costs. With regard to Building Condition Audits, a teleconference was held with the Stonewall Group who advise that we are facing a shortfall in capital reserves and we should be lobbying where possible. Val Pizey advised that this will be discussed when reviewing the 2006 Budget. Tannis Drysdale stated that since Social Housing is facing critical issues with respect to capital, the Social Housing Manager should attend the pre-budget hearings in Atikokan. Donna advised that is a management decision and in order to do so would cost valuable time and money.

She reported that the Rainy River District Municipal Association has offered to present Issue Sheets on our behalf for Social Housing, Land Ambulance and Child Care Programs.

Land Ambulance - Discussion was held during the in camera session of this meeting.

Child Care - John Callan referred the Board to Kim Gardiman's report, included in the Board package. He advised that a Child Care Committee meeting will be held in early February to receive and review the draft Best Start Implementation Plan. Tannis questioned what will happen with this Plan after the election if the successful party does not continue with Best Start. Discussion continued and Donna advised that the message from the Province is that there is a five year commitment.

**10. Other Business**

None.

**11. Information Items Attached**

The Board members received information items 11.1 to 11.7 which were acknowledged.

**12. Information Items Available Upon Request**

Committee Minutes.

**13. Next Meeting**

The next regular Board meeting will be held February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. at the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* Office, 206 Scott Street.

**14. Adjournment**

Resolution #10/06 MOVED BY B. Cournoyer and SECONDED BY J. Callan:

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

**CARRIED**

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CHAIR

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SECRETARY-TREASURER

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE APPROVED