

# KENORA DISTRICT SERVICES BOARD

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Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting, Monday, February 19, 2007  
KDSB Board Room in Dryden commencing at 9:00 a.m.

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**PRESENT:** Anne Krassilowsky  
Bill Thompson  
Garry Parkes  
Kim Thain

**REGRETS:** Penny Todd  
Brian Larson

**STAFF:** Sten Lif, Chief Administrative Officer  
Toni Thurbide, Director of Finance  
Dianne Aplan, Director of Ontario Works/Child Care  
Adrian De Porto, Director of Housing Services  
Peter Marshall, Director of Emergency Medical Services

**GUESTS:** Lynn Zaffino, Town of Sioux Lookout OW Administrator

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:20 a.m.

## 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None

## 3. BUSINESS

### 3.1 2007 Budget

#### *Delegation:*

The Finance Committee heard a presentation from Lynn Zaffino with regards to increases to the Ontario Works front line office budget for Sioux Lookout. The increase in rental cost represents a 270% increase in the cost from 2006 to 2007 (\$5,200 to \$19,320). The municipality has identified the cost being distributed to the KDSB is not reflective of commercial market rental costs and adjusted their budget accordingly. The second area for consideration was an increase of \$11,000 in benefits for vested sick time. The municipality has requested vested sick time be funded by the KDSB. This additional cost has not been included in previous budgets and is now an issue as staff have enough tenure to qualify for payment.

*Ontario Works Program:*

The Finance Committee heard a presentation from Dianne Apland, Director of Ontario Works/Child Care with regards to the Ontario Works budget for 2007. The overall increase in net local costs to the Ontario Works budget is 3.37% over the 2006 budget. The increase is largely representative of the anticipated increase in client benefits (\$49,800 or 6.02% over 2006 budget). This portion of the Ontario Works budget cannot be controlled by the KDSB as it is legislated by the Ontario government and as a service provider, KDSB is mandated to provide financial benefits to those clients who are eligible under the Ontario Works Act.

The operational budget for Ontario Works results in a slight decrease to net local costs. The Employment Plan initiative worth \$193,799 has been included. The shift from income maintenance to the employment plan initiative also shifts costs from 50/50 funding to 80/20 funding. The net result is the ability to proceed with the employment plan initiative without increasing the net local cost.

*Child Care Program:*

The Finance Committee heard a presentation from Dianne Apland, Director of Ontario Works/Child Care with regards to the child care budget for 2007. The net local costs for child care have been reduced as one component of the special needs program has moved to the Ministry for funding. As child care centres revised their child care operations to accommodate the Best Start initiative, they have incurred additional costs in their general operations. These increases totaling \$115,317 are being funded from the Best Start program for 2007. Should these funds not be available from the Best Start program past 2007, the child care centres would be without funding from KDSB for these costs.

*Best Start Program:*

The Finance Committee heard a presentation from Dianne Apland, Director of Ontario Works/Child Care with regards to the Best Start budget for 2007. The funding for the Best Start program is 100% from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The annualized funding provides for \$1,229,476 in expenditures. The balance of the unconditional grant is \$744,678 and although it has been fully budgeted for in 2007, unspent funding can be carried to 2008.

*Social Housing Program:*

The Finance Committee heard a presentation from Adrian De Porto, Director of Housing Services with regards to the social housing budget for 2007. The increase to the 2007 budget is broken into three areas: 10.34% for public housing, 3.77% for rent supplement, and 8.34% for non-profit housing.

The increase in public housing (\$203,077) represents increased costs relating to wage costs for estimated pay equity increases, building maintenance costs, debenture costs for Parkview renovations, increased overhead costs and increased tenant revenues.

The increase in rent supplement (\$2,074) represents increased costs in excess of the approved funding. The initial targeting plan calls for a decrease in the number of units when the funding provided does not cover the cost of the rental charges.

The increase in non-profit housing (\$202,444) represents anticipated increases in benchmarked revenues and expenditures.

The proposed 5 year capital forecast was also provided to the Committee.

*Land Ambulance Program:*

The Finance Committee heard a presentation from Peter Marshall, Director of Emergency Medical Services with regards to the land ambulance budget for 2007. The budget for 2007 identifies a decrease in the net local costs of 6.55% over the 2006 actual. In 2006 increased funding commitments from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provided for First Nations costs, unincorporated area local share and 50/50 cost share grant. The land ambulance program is able to work within the funding provided to cover increased costs for fuel, leases, utilities, wages, equipment and drugs. The Quality Assurance and Risk Management initiative has been included in the budget. This area has been identified as an organizational deficit during service reviews. A QA/Training manager would enable a consistent approach to quality assurance issues and ensure compliance with legislated standards. The capital requirements for the land ambulance program were also reviewed.

*Overall Budget:*

The Finance Committee reviewed an email forwarded by Penny Todd who was unable to attend the meeting.

Staff were asked to leave the meeting while the Finance Committee reviewed the budget information provided.

Staff were invited back into the meeting. The Finance Committee determined they would need to reconvene the meeting. Staff were advised they would be notified of the date and time.

**4. CLOSURE**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes approved by Committee on *March 6, 2007*

Moved by: *Garry Parkes*

Seconded by: *Bill Thompson*