

Area Services Working Group

Planning Meeting Minutes

6.00 pm. Thursday Feb. 22, 2001

Note: This Area Services Board Working Group meeting preceded the regular meeting of the Algoma District Services Administration Board.

ASB Working Group Members in attendance:

L. Aelick
R. Capillo
K. Currie
G. Farkouh
B. Gallagher
R. Hamilton
H. Pelky
G. Tremblay
S. Reinhardt
A. Swanson
P. Wesselius
H. Whent

ASB Working Group Members absent with regrets: none

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Mr. Keith Currie introduced Mr. Aime Dimatteo Director Northern Service Improvement Project -Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Mr. Dimatteo introduced his colleagues Cathy Jensen, Adviser, Ms. Esther Taylor, ASB Coordinator and Mr. Joachim Muetze, Adviser.

Cathy Jensen, Adviser will act as the ASB Working Groups local contact.

Ms. Esther Taylor, ASB Coordinator will be the primary contact for connecting with various Ministries.

Mr. Joachim Muetze, Adviser will be a resource for issues related to finance and the taxation models.

1. Confirmation of Authorizing vote re Working Group membership

David Court, CAO of the Algoma District Services Administration Board (ADSAB) confirmed that 15 of the 20 member municipalities had passed resolutions confirming that the representatives on the Algoma District Services Administration Board would be the representatives on the Area Services Board Working Group. Five municipalities had not responded. The supporting municipalities represented both a simple majority of the total

municipalities and a majority of the population in the area covered by the proposed ASB.

He further confirmed that, during the ASB vote process in the unincorporated, it was made clear that, whoever was elected as a result of the ADSAB election to represent the unincorporated, would be expected to serve on any ASB planning activity.

2. Overview of ASB Planning Process – Aime Dimatteo
Director Northern Service Improvement Project -Ministry of
Northern Development and Mines

A letter dated February 16, 2001 from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) confirming that Stage #1 of the ASB process was now complete was presented.

Mr. Dimatteo gave a brief presentation on the ASB Planning process. He noted that Stage #2 involved the development of a business plan. Stage #3 was the development of an Implementation Plan.

He explained the role of the Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC). The IMC was established 2 years ago and is composed of 30 representatives from each of the Ministries/departments who would be impacted by the implementation of an ASB. From this group, an ASB Working Group sub committee is being established to work with the Algoma ASB Working Group and they are from the Ministries of:

Northern Development and Mines

Finance

Health and Long Term Care

Community and Social Services

Municipal Affairs and Housing

Office of Francophone Affairs

Other ministries could be involved depending on the nature of the ASB proposal in a particular area. He will serve as the co-coordinator of this body and will be the key contact for the Algoma ASB Working Group

Mr. Dimatteo distributed copies of draft terms of reference for the ASB Working Group. David Court committed to putting the

document on the Board website for comment from the Working Group. The terms of reference will be finalized at the March 29 ASB Working Group meeting.

Mr. Court noted that presently ADSAB was directly administering Ontario Works, Child Care, Social Housing and Emergency Medical Services. Any savings resulting from the consolidated delivery of those programs was already part of the existing operating environment and that there would be no additional savings resulting from the adding of the two additional services of Public Health and Homes for the Aged. The only potential for future savings would be in discretionary programs that were outside of the scope of the ASB plan as proposed. Any potential savings in those program areas would be identified as part of the process for determining if the service would be added. Any adding of discretionary services would be subject to a double majority vote process. Mr. Dimatteo was asked if the proving of reduced costs with full ASB implementation was critical to plan approval.

Mr. Dimatteo recognized that the issue of further savings was different in the Algoma ASB plan - in that four of the six services were already in place and that no discretionary services were part of the proposal.

3. ASB Implementation Toolkit

A copy of the Draft Implementation toolkit was distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Court noted that the toolkit referred to, asked for program implementation plans that the DSSAB Board staff had already completed for various Ministries. He noted there exist Ministry approved plans for Ontario Works, Child Care and Land Ambulance. He noted there would be a plan for Social Housing approved by June 15, 2001.

Mr. Dimatteo was confirmed that these plans would not have to be rewritten to meet the Stage #2 requirements.

Mr. Court committed to reviewing the toolkit plan requirements. He would identify which sections could be produced by ADSAB staff and which needed to be contracted out. An RFP would then be developed, within MNDM guidelines to select a consultant to complete the required sections.

4. Contractual relationship with Algoma Health Unit

The Ministry of Health has indicated to the ADSAB - CAO, in a previous presentation, that it would not realign existing Health Unit boundaries to match either DSSAB or ASB boundaries. If an ASB were to be formed, it was his understanding that the only relationship possible for the new ASB was two working agreements with the two Health Units that service the municipalities in the proposed Algoma ASB jurisdiction. It was further noted that the Algoma Health Unit does not cover Hornepayne so a second agreement would need to be developed with the Porcupine Health Unit.

Mr. Currie noted that a preliminary and cordial meeting had already occurred with the Algoma Health Unit. He felt a positive working agreement could be negotiated.

A lengthy discussion ensued. It was confirmed that some variance related to Health Unit boundaries could be considered. It was further confirmed that collection of Health Unit municipal costs would be through the ASB.

In addition, it was confirmed that the appointment of Health Unit Board members from the Algoma ASB area would be by an appointment from the Algoma ASB. It was noted these would need to be municipally elected persons but could be other persons than the ASB board members.

It was agreed that a representative from the Algoma Health Unit would be invited to attend the next meeting of the ASB Working Group.

5. Possible relationships with Algoma District Homes for the Aged Board

Mr. Currie and the CAO that the past Board had envisioned a purchase of service agreement with the Homes for the Aged Board. This was now much more difficult given the actions of that Board related to the transfer of beds from Algoma Manor.

David Court asked Mr. Dimatteo why Homes for the Aged service was a mandatory service under an ASB when in fact a Homes for the Aged Board was not mandatory board in a Territorial District. He has confirmed that there are no District Homes for the Aged in either Thunder Bay or Cochrane Districts. In both of these areas, it has been confirmed that the District Homes for the Aged Board had been dissolved.

Mr. Dimatteo replied that the need to provide homes for the aged services was key. The ASB could accomplish this by a purchase of service contract with an existing Homes for the Aged Board, by issuing a request for proposals or by directly delivering the service. These were the same options that were available to the District Social Services Administration Board in regards to land ambulance.

A lengthy discussion ensued related a recent decision of the Algoma Homes for the Aged Board to move beds from Algoma Manor to Sault Ste. Marie. It was agreed that better communication was required.

It was agreed that a representative from the Homes for the Aged board would be invited to attend the next meeting of the ASB Working Group.

6. Process for engaging external consultant

Mr. Dimatteo noted that he needed by March 30, at the latest, an estimate of the ASB planning costs.

David Court committed to providing estimates prior to that date.

7. Distribution of Minutes

It was agreed that the best method of ensuring the minutes were broadly available was as follows:

ASB Working Minutes Distribution

1. ADSAB public website
This site has the updated ASB Submission and is accessible without a password to anyone. There are numerous Community Access program (CAP) sites across the District including the unincorporated, which can access this site.
2. ADSAB Board website which will be accessible by all member municipalities by password effective April 1, 2001. In the interim hard copies of the minutes will be mailed to each member municipality
3. Direct mailings to cottage associations, roads board, local services board and other groups in the unincorporated as identified by the MNM. Cathy Jensen to provide an updated listing.

General Questions and Answers

Mr. Farkouh asked about the status of PLT reform. Mr. Dimatteo noted it was the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance. That Ministry has committed to PLT reform during 2001.

Mr. Gallagher asked about transition funding and phased implementation of financial impacts. Mr. Dimatteo noted that funding would be available for an implementation plan. The Ministry of Finance would be consulted for all property tax analysis. There was a consensus that good communications was essential. The distribution of minutes was only seen as a first step in that plan. A communications plan will be developed and available for comment at the next meeting.

8. Next Steps / Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ASB Working Group will occur on Thursday, March 29, 2001 at the Head Office of the Algoma District Services Administration Board, Collver Road, Little Rapids. The meeting will begin at 5.00 pm and precede the regular meeting of the Algoma District Services Administration Board

Resolutions

Moved By: George Farkouh

Seconded By: Lorraine Aelick

Resolve That: The meeting minutes of the of the Algoma ASB Working group be distributed as follows:

1. ADSAB public website
2. ADSAB Board website
3. Direct mailings to identified unincorporated groups.

Moved By: Howard Whent

Seconded By: Art Swanson

Resolve That: The February 22, 2001 meeting of the Algoma ASB Working group be adjourned.