

LOCAL SERVICES BOARD OF NOLALU
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2012
7:30 PM
Nolalu Community Centre

Attendance:

Board Members: Larry Bockus, Sharon Low (Chair), Sheree O'Malley, Lloyd Snider, Sandy Snider
Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Caren

NCC: Leo Hunnako

NEST: Wayne Ahola, John O'Malley, Bob Payne, Camille Turcotte, Loraine Turcotte

Visitor: Bill Mauro, MPP Thunder Bay-Atikokan

Community: Gilbert Erickson, Kathy Erickson, Bob Katajamaki

1. Call to Order and Review of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Without objection, Financial Projection-Assessment Roll was added as 5.3 to the agenda.

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes – November 22, 2011

Moved by Larry Bockus, seconded by Lloyd Snider,

THAT the minutes of November 22, 2011 as circulated, be accepted.

CARRIED

4. Visitor – Bill Mauro, MPP Thunder Bay-Atikokan

Mr. Mauro was welcomed to the meeting. Introductions of all people in attendance were made. Mr. Mauro noted that the board is invited to contact him at any time with issues or questions. The Chair advised that Mr. Mauro would be invited to participate in the discussion of the agenda items that are of a provincial nature.

5. Financial Reports

5.1 November 2011

Moved by Sheree O'Malley, seconded by Lloyd Snider,

THAT the LSB expenditures of \$575.62 for administration, \$1,729.92 for recreation services and \$3,322.33 for fire protection services for a total of \$5,627.87 for the month of November 2011 be accepted; and

THAT the reserve account, petty cash and bank account transactions and balances for November 2011, as per the financial statement, have been reviewed and are hereby approved.

CARRIED

5.2 December 2011

Moved by Sandy Snider, seconded by Larry Bockus,

THAT the LSB expenditures of \$534.60 for administration, \$1,729.92 for recreation services and \$3,322.33 for fire protection services for a total of \$5,586.85 for the month of December 2011 be accepted; and

THAT the reserve account, petty cash and bank account transactions and balances for December 2011, as per the financial statement, have been reviewed and are hereby approved.

CARRIED

5.3 Financial Projection – Assessment Roll

The Secretary/Treasurer explained that as a result of a property owner with multiple adjoining properties consolidating many of them into single lots, that there is a reduction of 13 taxable properties for the current year. This means a reduction in the levy revenue of \$1,430. Both the interim and final assessment rolls did not show this change, and it was only discovered when the levy information was being submitted in the OPTA program to the Minister of Finance. The interim assessment roll is released by MPAC mid-October, which is what LSBs base their budgets and levies on. The final roll is delivered mid-December, at least two weeks after the December 1st deadline that LSBs must adopt their budgets and levies. As a result, any changes that are on the final assessment roll are not included in the adopted budget and levy. It was recommended that the revenue shortfall be transferred from the reserve fund.

Mr. Mauro suggested that perhaps a recommendation to change the date that LSBs submit their budget data to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines may be easier than having MPAC change the dates that the assessment roll is released. It was noted by the Secretary/Treasurer that if the Board charged a levy based on assessment rather than a flat rate per property, that there may not have been a reduction in revenue since the assessment of the consolidated properties would more than likely not have changed.

The Secretary/Treasurer noted that the Scott's property in the Pete's Lake area cannot be excluded from the PLT billing in the OPTA program as originally thought. The Scott's will be billed the levy and proof of payment has been provided to the board, a refund of the levy can be issued. The Secretary/Treasurer undertook to notify the Scott's of this.

A financial projection of expenses for January, February and March compared to money in the bank was presented. There is only enough money to pay for January and February expenses until the tax levy is received from the province, hopefully at the end of March (last year was deposited March 31st). It was noted that the March cheques could be held until the levy was deposited in the bank account.

6. Updates:

5.1 NCC

Leo Hunnako, the Vice President of NCC, informed the members that the NCC must comply with an order from the Ontario Fire Marshall to replace the stove hood with a stainless steel one with a fire suppression system, as well as changing all the gas lines to be complaint with regulations. Currently, the gas is shut off to the stove until such time that the upgrades have been completed and the stove is compliant. As a result, the senior's dinners are on hold pending the work being done. The cost for upgrades is estimated to be \$10,000. Leo requested some funding from the LSB's contingency reserve fund to put toward the cost of the upgrade.

Mr. Mauro asked Leo to send his office information on the upgrade to see if there are any provincial grants such as Trillium or Northern Ontario Heritage Fund that may be applied for to help offset the cost of the stove hood upgrades.

Without objection, the LSB board deferred any decision on forwarding any money from the contingency fund pending the outcome of any available provincial funding for NCC.

Leo noted that the 20th annual Snowmobile Poker Run is upcoming on January 28th and the annual Tough Boating Fishing Derby is scheduled for March.

5.2 NEST

John O'Malley noted that fire calls have been quiet, but medical calls have been busy. The team has been busy as always training and upgrading their skills.

Bob Payne noted that the junior cadet program was advertised in the last Grassroots, but that there was no response to it. For now the program is hold and he will try again in the Spring. In 2011 there were 68 calls, 41 of which were medical and 27 fire. This averages to 5.6 calls per month. Bob circulated a new recruitment poster put out by the Area 1 Mutual Aid Association which he indicated he will post in various areas of the community. The team now has a second certified trainer. There are currently 20 active members, with 2 members on a leave of absence due to school and work obligations.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. New Business

8.1 Sale of Crown Lots and Severance of Real Property

Sharon reviewed the two issues of the sale of crown lots and the severance of real property. If a property is assumed by the province for non-payment of taxes, the property is not offered for sale to the public thereby reducing the number of taxable properties and tax revenue. Property owners in

unincorporated municipalities are not allowed to sever a property even after an application and fee are paid to the province.

The response from province on this issues is that the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for the sale of crown lots, and that there is a policy in place to do so, but it has not been implemented. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recommended that the Board submit comments on the unincorporated area severance process to the Provincial Policy Statement Review, which the board did back in October 2011.

The committee working on these issues recommended that a letter be sent to Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources, asking him to review the process of the sale of crown lots and assigning the process to an employee in the local MNR office. The committee also recommended that letters be sent to the two leaders of the provincial opposition parties informing them of these two issues.

Without objection, the draft letters to Minister Gravelle, Tim Hudack, PC leader and Andrea Horwath, NDP leader as presented, were directed to be mailed.

Mr. Mauro indicated that he will wait for the response from Minister Gravelle prior to taking any action on behalf of the board on this issue.

As for severances, Mr. Mauro indicated that he supports this issue and has done some work with a Local Roads Board on this issue. He indicated that the Nolalu LSB's plan to talk to other LSBs is good momentum to help move this issue forward with the province. He also suggested that the issue be brought to the upcoming OGRA/ROMA conference in Toronto to be presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Mr. Mauro understands however that it is costly to send a member to Toronto. Mr. Mauro also suggested requesting a letter of support of the severance of property in unincorporated areas from local municipal councils.

8.2 1:1 Funding for LSBs

Mr. Mauro noted that he had written a letter of support to Michael Gravelle, the former Minister of Northern Development and Mines for the LSB to receive 1:1 funding. He also recently spoke to Rick Bartolucci, the current Minister, on this issue. Currently there are 45 LSBs in Ontario, 6 of which do not receive 1:1 funding. He indicated that the province is entering a tough budget year due to the slow provincial economic growth, and the province's target to reduce the current deficit. It would not only be Nolalu that would require the extra funding, but out of fairness, so would the other 5 unfunded LSBs. He will have a better sense of any additional money being available closer to March. He undertook to continue lobbying on behalf of the LSB on this issue.

8.3 Exclusion of Pete's Lake Property from LSB Levy

Without objection, this item was deferred, since Linda Braun, Northern Development Advisor, who had offered to provide assistance with this issue, is on medical leave until February. The item will continue to be on the agenda until resolved.

9. New Business:

9.1 Annual Review of Emergency Procedures Plan

Wayne Ahola made recommendations to improve the Emergency Procedures Plan, including the introduction of a basic incident management system and the creation of two kits filled with office supplies and maps that could be easily accessed during an emergency. The kits would be updated each year when the plan is reviewed. It was decided that a committee be formed to work on the kits, and to implement an incident management system into the Plan. The committee will consist of a member of NCC (Leo Hunnako), two LSB members (Lloyd and Sandy Snyder), two NEST members (Wayne Ahola and one other person) and a couple of community members. At the next senior’s lunch, community members will be asked who would like to be on this committee.

Other items discussed were who would chair this committee and where would the funding come from to pay for the kits. This will be scheduled on the next agenda.

9.2 Transfer of Funds from Reserve Account

Moved by Larry Bockus, seconded by Sandy Snider,

THAT the Secretary/Treasurer is directed to transfer \$2,403 from the Reserve Fund to the Operating Fund, the amount representing \$973 as budgeted to cover the Scott’s repayment of prior year tax levies and the prior year over expenditure, and the current \$1,430 revenue shortfall.

CARRIED

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The next meeting is February 28, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

Moved by Lloyd Snider,

THAT there being no further business and the time being 9:05 PM, the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Chair_____

Secretary/Treasurer_____