

LOCAL SERVICES BOARD OF NOLALU
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2011
7:30 PM
Nolalu Community Centre

Attendance:

Board Members: Larry Bockus, Bill Hickman, Sharon Low (Chair), Sheree O'Malley, Lloyd Snider

Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Caren

NCC: no representative

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

TBDSSAB: Bob Katajamaki

Community: John Bell, Diana Bockus, Stu Crawford, Allan Scott, Sharon Scott

1. Call to Order and Review of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Without objection, the agenda was approved with no objection to the discussion of the *Potential Property in Pete's Lake Area to be Excluded from LSB Levy* to be discussed after the NCC and NEST Updates.

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 21, 2011

Moved by Bill Hickman, seconded by Sheree O'Malley,

THAT the minutes of June 21, 2011, as circulated, be accepted.

CARRIED

4. Financial Reports

4.1 June 2011

Moved by Lloyd Snider, seconded by Bill Hickman,

THAT the LSB expenditures of \$532.95 for administration, \$1,729.92 for recreation services and \$3,195.83 for fire protection services for a total of \$5,458.70 for the month of June 2011 be accepted; and

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

CARRIED

4.2 July 2011

Moved by Larry Bockus, seconded by Sheree O'Malley,

THAT the LSB expenditures of \$534.05 for administration, \$1,729.92 for recreation services and \$3,195.83 for fire protection services for a total of \$5,459.80 for the month of July 2011 be accepted; and

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

CARRIED

5. Updates:

5.1 NCC

There was no representative present to provide an update.

5.2 NEST

John O'Malley indicated that the summer has been busy with vehicle and fire hall repairs. He announced that Bob Payne has officially taken over the position of Fire Chief.

Bob Payne, Fire Chief, announced the new and continuing officers of NEST who are filling the positions of Deputy Chief, Captains, Fire Prevention Officer, as well as the leadership for First Response. The Firecon conference is coming up in the middle of September, with many of the members attending. Firecon is a conference hosted by the Ontario Fire Chiefs that provides various fire training/education sessions over a period of four days in Thunder Bay. Training has been going very well with an average of 8 to 15 members attending each training night. He is also working on promoting the image of the team with uniforms, and by participating in local events such as the Rural Health Fair and the Hymers Fair.

5.3 Potential Property in Pete's Lake Area to be Excluded from LSB Levy

Sharon Low explained that Allan and Sharon Scott contacted herself and the Secretary/Treasurer about two properties owned by Mr. Scott that are within the LSB area. The Scotts believe that they should not pay the LSB levy since the properties are landlocked and therefore cannot receive the services the LSB provides. The first property is clearly within Mark's Township and therefore within the jurisdiction of the LSB. Sharon noted that the *Northern Services Board Act* prohibits the Board from excluding properties from the levy on an ad hoc basis, so this property must continue to be levied. However, the second property is within the area of Pete's Lake, an area which is excluded from the levy by provincial regulation, but this specific property was overlooked when the Province enacted the Pete's Lake Exclusion regulation.

Moved by Bill Hickman, seconded by Larry Bockus,

THAT the Board take the necessary steps to have the Province exclude by regulation the property known as S 1/2 Lot 10 Con 7 from the assessment roll since it is within the Pete's Lake area; and

FURTHER THAT until such a regulation is enacted, that this property be excluded from being charged the levy.

CARRIED

A second issue arising from the request of the Scott's is the refund of any levy paid in prior years on the property in the Pete's Lake area. Without objection, this issue was deferred until more information is received from the Province if this property can indeed be excluded from the LSB's jurisdiction.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Minister Gravelle, MNDMF – Land Tax and Land Use Planning

6.2 Minister Duncan, Ministry of Finance – Tax Sale of Crown Land

6.3 Minister Bartolucci, Municipal Affairs and Housing – Land Use Planning

Since these items of correspondence relate to item 7.1 – Sale of Crown Lots and Severance of Real Property, it was the consensus to review them at that point in the agenda.

7. New Business

7.1 Sale of Crown Lots and Severance of Real Property

Sharon Low reviewed the two issues: (1) properties that are in tax arrears are forfeited to the Crown and not offered to the public for sale, thereby the LSB losing tax revenue since unimproved Crown Lots cannot be taxed; and (2) property owners in unincorporated areas are not able to sever their land.

Sharon read the letter from Minister Gravelle, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry which was in response to the letter sent by the Board respecting the above two issues. Mr. Gravelle states that since the two issues are not within his Ministry's purview, he has forwarded the Board's correspondence to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for follow-up.

Sharon read the letter from Minister Duncan, Ministry of Finance, which was a response to the Board's letter that was forwarded by Minister Gravelle. Minister Duncan indicates that Crown Lot sales are under the purview of the Ministry of Natural Resources and therefore has forwarded the correspondence to that Ministry.

Sharon noted that Gary Davies, Northwest Regional Lands Specialist, Northwest Region, with the Thunder Bay Ministry of Natural Resources had emailed her for information on the Crown Lot Sales issue, and that she had phoned him back. Sharon explained to him the issue of property forfeited to the Crown for arrears taxes not be available for public sale. Mr. Davies offered to look further into the issue.

Sharon read the letter from Minister Bartolucci, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. This was also in response to the Board's letter that was forwarded by Minister Gravelle. Minister Bartolucci indicates that the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), the policy which guides land development in Ontario, provides that property severances can only be approved in unincorporated townships if it is for recreational purposes, and not residential development. Minister Bartolucci did provide that the Province is undergoing a review of the PPS, and invited the LSB to provide comment.

It was the consensus of the members to provide comment on the review of the Provincial Policy Statement, as well as the Northern Ontario Growth Plan, since Bob Katajamaki provided information that the Growth Plan may have a provision for severance in unincorporated areas, which may override the PPS. A committee comprised of Sharon Low, Larry Bockus and Bob Katajamaki will undertake the process to provide comment to the Province on the two planning documents with respect to land severance in unincorporated townships.

7.2 1:1 Funding for LSBs

Bill Hickman advised that he forwarded a formal letter on this issue to Bill Mauro, MPP, as per Mr. Mauro's request. Mr. Mauro however indicated that there will not be any movement on the issue until after the provincial election this fall. It was the consensus of the members that this issue remain on the agenda until resolved.

7.3 Rural Health Fair

It was noted that the Rural Health Fair was very successful. A lot of networking took place for the organizations that were involved. This will probably become an annual event. The follow-up meeting of the Fair's organizing committee to discuss how the Fair went is scheduled for September 7, 2011. It was noted that the LSB did not have to forward any money for the food booth, as the Municipality of Oliver Paipoung took on this responsibility, with all profits forwarded to the Rural Food Cupboard.

8. New Business:

8.1 Insurance 2011-2012

The insurance renewal for the upcoming fiscal year from Philpot & Delgaty will be available at the September meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to not request quotes for insurance, as Philpot & Delgaty has provided the best insurance rate the past few years.

8.2 Annual General Meeting and Election

The Annual General Meeting and Election will be held on September 27, 2011 following a short regular meeting which starts at 7 PM. The Secretary/Treasurer stated that notice of the AGM and Election will be posted in the regular posting sites, on the LSB webpage and in the Thunder Bay Source.

8.3 Bob Katajamaki – Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB), Unincorporated Territory Representative

Bob provided information on some programs offered by the TBDSSAB.

1. **211 System** – 211 is a phone number that people in the Thunder Bay District can call for free to obtain information on government and non-profit services.
2. **Northern Home Repair Program** – funding for this popular program for low income families is scheduled to be renewed.
3. **Emergency Energy Fund** – low income families can apply for money to pay for heat during the winter months.
4. **District Child Recreational Assistance Program** - low income families can apply for funding to help pay tuition fees to enroll their children in recreational programs.

Sharon suggested to Bob that he put notice of these programs in the Grassroots so that the residents are aware of them.

9. Adjournment of Meeting

The next meeting is September 27, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Moved by Bill Hickman,

THAT there being no further business and the time being 8:52 PM, the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Chair_____

Secretary/Treasurer_____