

DISTRICT OF KENORA UNINCORPORATED AREAS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

A NON-PROFIT ONTARIO CORPORATION

The Annual General Meeting of the District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association (DoKURA) was held Thursday, August 29, 2019 at the Longbow Lake firehall.

In attendance: Jack McKenzie, Irene Kember, Gord Dingman, Barry Baltessen, Bob Stewart, Bobbie Dingman, Ken Pride, Ed Murray.

1. Meeting was called to order by president Jack McKenzie at 7:06 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved as circulated to all members on the contact list prior to the meeting. Motion moved by Bob Stewart, seconded by Irene Kember.
3. Jack McKenzie presented his president's report (attached) covering the past year's activities including mention of the 2018 Kenora District Services Board elections held in October 2018, attendance of directors at 2019 meetings of the Kenora District Municipal Association and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. He noted the issue of funding for road associations continues to be an issue for those maintaining local public roads throughout the district. He has compiled a list of some 42 such associations in the district that DoKURA is aware of. Most do not qualify for either Local Roads Board status with its 2-1 funding, or the Ministry of Transportation 50/50 program. McKenzie will try to arrange a meeting with Greg Rickford, MPP and Minister of Northern Development with the aim of creating a program to provide funding assistance tailored to roads association needs.
4. Irene Kember presented the 2018-2019 financial statement and moved its acceptance, seconded by Gord Dingman and approved.
5. Directors reports were presented:
Jack McKenzie reported on the 2018 KDSB election for which he was the Returning Officer. McKenzie noted attempts were made to organize a vote-by-mail, however lack of an adequate and timely voters list with mailing addresses from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation made this impossible. While a list could be developed over time the cost would be substantial. McKenzie noted that for the foreseeable future using polling stations and paper ballots will remain the most efficient way to elect unincorporated area (TWOMO) representatives to the district social services administration board.
Barry Baltessen reported on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario annual meeting which he attended in his capacity as chairman of the Kenora District Services Board. He noted the Kenora delegation met with seven ministers and their staff and the most frequent request was for more funding to address the district's serious housing shortage, addiction and mental health problems.
Bob Stewart reported on the All Nations Health Partners group on which he is the DoKURA representative. (Report attached)
6. Approval of actions by the Board of Directors since the last AGM was moved by Bobbie Dingman and seconded by Ken Pride. Approved.

7. Discussed and approved at the meeting were three resolutions (attached) following which letters of support were issued. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is being petitioned to spend \$200,000 to repair and upgrade the Turtle Portage boat transfer system on the Aulneau Peninsula rather than decommission the facility.
The Kenora District Services Board is being asked to review having a land ambulance station in Vermilion Bay. The municipality of Machin, in which Vermilion Bay is the main community, is the only one of nine municipalities in the District without a land ambulance base.
DoKURA endorsed the Kenora District Services Board efforts to obtain federal government funds to address the issues of homelessness and addictions in the District.
8. A discussion was held on proposed changes/updates to the DoKURA bylaws. Copies of the current bylaws with proposed changes highlighted had been circulated to all members on the contact list prior to the meeting. Changes proposed included grammar and syntax corrections and improvements. Substantive changes included allowing an unlimited number of directors at large. Changing the quorum requirements for general meetings and setting a deadline of Sept. 30 each year for holding the AGM. A motion to amend the bylaws as circulated was moved by Barry Baltessen and seconded by Ed Murray. Motion approved.
9. The nominating committee presented an oral report on the two terms of office ending this year - two directors at large; and on the executive – president and treasurer. Jack McKenzie indicated his willingness to serve as president for another term and as a director at large. Irene Kember indicated she would also serve another term as treasurer and a director at large. There being no other nominations, elections were closed.
The DoKURA board for 2020 will consist of:

Officers

Jack McKenzie - President - 2020/2021
Gord Dingman – Vice President – 2019/2020
Irene Kember – Treasurer – 2020/2021
Bob Stewart – Secretary – 2019/2020

Directors

Ed Murray – KDSB – Oxdrift – 2019-2022
Laurie Hoffman – Director at Large - 2019/2020
Barry Baltessen – KDSB – Lake of the Woods North – 2019-2022
Jack McKenzie – Director at Large 2020/2021
Bob Stewart – KDSB – Lake of the Woods South – 2019-2022
Irene Kember – Director at Large – 2020/2021
Mark Sobchuk – KDSB – Lac Suel – 2019/2022
Bill Deschamps – Director at Large 2019/2020

10. New Business: Ed Murray agree to review a report received from the Township of Ear Falls seeking support on efforts to have their landfill site extended as the township investigates establishing a new landfill. If a letter of support is warranted the board will provide one.
Barry Baltessen provided a brief overview of the government’s decision not to proceed with any changes with DSSAB governance, although a decision on local levy apportionment will be needed

by a Dec. 31, 2019. A letter will be sent to the government asking that DoKURA been involved in public consultations should the issue be re-visited (see attached).

11. It was decided the 2020 AGM will be held in the Oxdrift area on mid-September. Ed Murray will investigate whether the Oxdrift firehall is available for the meeting.
12. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

DOKURA ANNUAL MEETING PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2019

Welcome to everyone who has taken the time and made the effort to attend tonite's meeting.

Since we last got together at DoKURA's annual meeting in the fall of 2018, DoKURA has been busy in a number of areas, starting off with contracting to run the election for representatives on the Kenora District Services Board. This involved the writer taking on the job as Returning Officer for the four wards that make up the Unincorporated Area of the Kenora District – namely the Lake of the Woods North; the Lake of the Woods South; Oxdrift and Lac Seul.

The election process started out looking for individuals to run for each of the four positions. In three of the wards, the Lake of the Woods North and South, along with the Lac Seul ward, the sitting Directors were returned for another four years, unopposed. In the case of the Oxdrift Ward, where long time Director Ray LeRay had elected to retire, four individuals filed nomination papers for that seat.

An election was held, with polling stations set up at six locations throughout the ward. Although the voter turn out was less than most would like, the end result saw Ed Murray elected to fill the seat.

I would like to note at this time that efforts were made to improve the voters list and to conduct the vote by mail or using the internet, but efforts to obtain the required information in a workable format, from MPAC, just did not work out. It appears that they – MPAC – are not interested, or do not have the funding available, to provide the record of voters in our TWOMO areas. It appears we will have to continue to run future elections in the manner we have in the past.

In other activities, I am pleased to report that we were able to send a Director to the winter Kenora District Municipal Association's winter meeting – held this past winter in Red Lake (thanks Mark Sobchuk) and to the North West Ontario Municipal Association's spring meeting in Thunder Bay (thanks Irene Kember). Attendance at meeting such as these allows us to keep up to date with regional activities and gives us the opportunity to mingle with both provincial MPP's and senior civil servants who regularly attend meeting of this nature.

Bob Stewart continues as our representative on a working group exploring the construction of a new hospital in Kenora, something that will take an estimated seven plus years.

It should be noted that Barry Baltessen continues to hold the position as chair of the Kenora District Services Board and that Mark Sobchuk has been elected in charge of finance for that body too. Both attended the AMO annual meeting and conference held recently in Ottawa, their attendance being primarily on behalf of the KDSB, however they used the opportunity to keep their eyes and ears open regarding topics on interest and concern to our TWOMO area.

Irene Kember is to be thanked for continuing to serve as our Treasurer and those present will see from her presentation relating to our financial statement, that the Association is in an excellent liquid position, thanks primarily for the funds received indirectly from the province, for conducting the TWOMO election every four years.

Unfortunately, we are not attracting as many new faces to serve as Directors as we would like. Yes, we have two new faces in the Oxdrift Ward in Ed Murray and Laurie Huffman but would like to see additional representatives from throughout the District, particularly the Lake of the Woods North Ward and the east end of the Oxdrift Ward – around Ignace.

Directors are to be thanked for the work they do between formal meetings of the Board – primarily by “E” Mail, and in particular the work they contributed towards the modernization of our By-Laws, which will be dealt with later in today’s meeting. With the vast distances between Directors in our Kenora District, and the limited funding available to cover travel costs, DoKURA just could not accomplish what it does without the Internet.

Bob Stewart is to be thanked here for composing and publishing our newsletter, which is sent out just via “E” Mail. Thanks Bob.

A few years back, DoKURA petitioned the KDSB to add an ambulance base in Vermillion Bay. They noted that residents in and around Vermillion Bay (Unincorporated Territories) plus travelers on the highways of the area, must now wait for an ambulance to arrive from either Ear Falls, Kenora or Dryden.

Unfortunately, the KDSB Directors of the day turned down the idea.

Each of the other eight Municipalities/Towns/Cities in the Kenora District have an ambulance (Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls has two sites) based within their municipal boundaries.

As we have new Directors running the KDSB, I would like to see DoKURA once again petition that body to re-visit the question of the establishment of an ambulance base in Vermillion Bay.

We have dealt with the question of funding for Road Associations in our District in the past. Unfortunately our efforts have yielded little success. Having said that, with a new government in power in Ontario, and a Cabinet Minister of that government from this area (Greg Rickford), I would like to see DoKURA meet with Greg Rickford and press him to do something to correct this situation.

And finally, I would like to note that our action in the matter of public hearings over the proposed closing of Turtle Portage contributed – I would like to think – in that Ministry – MNR – scheduling a further series of public meetings during the summer months. Hopefully a resolve to the matter can be worked out that will keep everyone involved satisfied.

To close this report, I would like to thank those who have worked on the DoKURA Board over the past year. Without your work on behalf of DoKURA, the organization would not be able to exist. It’s been a pleasure to work with you.

Jack McKenzie

Report on the All Nations Health Partners

In the summer of 2018 DoKURA was asked if they would like to appoint a representative to the All Nations Health Partners group to provide input and perspective on the health system service needs of year-round and seasonal residents in rural areas.

The ANHP concept grew from joint efforts of the medical community, local municipalities and First Nations to recruit more physicians to the Kenora area and was created following a meeting of area First Nation and municipal leaders in 2017 and the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the municipalities of Kenora, Sioux Narrows Nestor Falls and 10 Kenora area First Nations.

The goal was to develop an innovative and integrated health care system that would meet the health care needs of the Kenora area's unique population which numbers some 45,000 including First Nations and Metis people, municipal and non-municipal residents and seasonal residents spread across nearly two dozen communities and throughout the area.

Partners in the group include the Kenora Chiefs Advisory, Grand Council Treaty 3, the Kenora Metis Council, the municipalities of Kenora and Sioux Narrows Nestor Falls and various health agencies including the Lake of the Woods District Hospital, Northwest Health Unit, Canadian Mental Health Association (Kenora), Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'yewigamig (First Nations Primary Care), Kenora Physicians Recruit Committee, the Sunset Country Family Health Team, Kenora District Services Board (land ambulance/social services), Firefly (children's services), and several local area family physicians. The group meets monthly. Physician recruitment efforts and lobbying to remove barriers to Kenora area residents using Manitoba health care services is ongoing, as is the group's involvement with planning for a new All Nations Hospital and Health Education campus in Kenora.

Other actions to date the group has initiated or endorsed have included a broad visioning session in the winter of 2018-2019 that involved representatives from 29 groups and organizations. In June the Health Partners were successful in obtaining federal funding so a full-time coordinator could be employed rather than using staff from member partners. An application was made to become one of the province's new Ontario Health Teams which will be replacing the Local Health Integration Networks and provide a more coordinated and efficient approach to providing health care services. Despite being well below the population criteria set by the province the ANHP was successful in being selected as one of 31 applicants invited to proceed to the next step in the process.

Two area First Nations — Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows) and Wabaseemong Independent Nations (Whitedog) — are working with the Kenora District Services Board to establish land ambulance bases in those communities. This will not only provide more timely service for these communities, but also for the rural areas in proximity to them.

Efforts are also continuing to find ways to provide more in-community health services through nurse and physician visits to avoid having people travel to Kenora for relatively minor appointments and assessments.

Bob Stewart

Resolution – Turtle Portage Marine Railway System

Whereas the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Kenora District, has established and maintains a marine railway system on the Aulneau Peninsula known as Turtle Portage and;

Whereas that Ministry has given public notice that it intends to decommission that system; and

Whereas research by the Ministry into modernization of the system has estimated the cost to bring the system up to proper operating standards in the neighbourhood of \$200,000; and

And that the matter has been discussed at August 2019 annual meeting of the District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association (DoKURA);

Now therefore be it resolved that the District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association (DoKURA) supports the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry funding the required repairs/updates to the system and its continued use, either alone or together with other Ontario ministries.

Moved by Ed Murray

Seconded by Irene Kember

Approved by unanimous consent at the Annual General Meeting of DoKURA held at Longbow Lake, August 29, 2019

Resolution – Vermillion Bay Land Ambulance Base

Whereas the Kenora District Services Board has undertaken the responsibility of providing land ambulance service to the various communities that make up the Kenora District; and

Whereas each of cities, towns, municipalities that make up the District have at least one land ambulance base located within the municipal boundary with the exception of the Municipality of Machin; and

That the land ambulance service presently provided to that municipality and the vast unincorporated territories surrounding that municipality must travel from Ear Falls, Dryden or Kenora to respond to calls;

And that the matter has been discussed at August 2019 annual meeting of the District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association (DoKURA);

Now therefore be it resolved that the District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association (DoKURA) petition the Kenora District Services Board to take whatever action necessary to establish and staff a land ambulance base in the community of Vermilion Bay.

Moved by Irene Kember

Seconded by Gord Dingman

Approved by unanimous consent at the Annual General Meeting of DoKURA held at Longbow Lake, August 29, 2019

Resolution – Federal Funding For Housing & Homelessness

Whereas there is a need to develop housing programs and services in the District of Kenora to address the high rates of homelessness, poverty, addictions and mental health crisis by providing safe spaces; and

Whereas communities in the District of Kenora area experiencing alarming and growing rates of homelessness and poverty; and

Whereas communities in the District of Kenora are witnessing a growing mental health and addictions crisis resulting in communities losing members to addictions and suicides; and

Whereas the lack of housing and necessary support facilities has created a housing crisis for the District of Kenora; and

Whereas in the absence of adequate housing and support facilities, Indigenous people visiting or residing in off-reserve communities in the District of Kenora are left vulnerable, homeless and many get cycled through the policing and justice systems;

Now therefore be it resolved that the District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association (DoKURA) requests the Government of Canada provide the communities of the District of Kenora with the necessary resources to address the housing and homelessness crisis; and

Be it further resolved that DoKURA supports the Kenora District Services Board application under the Reaching Home program to become a designated community.

Moved by Barry Baltessen

Seconded by Bob Stewart

Approved by unanimous consent at the Annual General Meeting of DoKURA held at Longbow Lake, August 29, 2019

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A NON-PROFIT ONTARIO CORPORATION

August 2019

To:

The Hon. Todd Smith
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca

Copy:

The Hon. Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
MPP Kenora-Rainy River
Greg.Rickford@pc.ola.org

Re: District Social Service Administration Board Review

Hon. Minister:

Our organization, the District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association (DoKURA) was involved in the public consultation process for the DSSAB Governance and Accountability Review completed in 2018.

We provide a voice for some 25,000 people living in non-municipal areas (Territory Without Municipal Organization) of the Kenora District, providing input from their perspective on government initiatives and lobbying on their behalf.

I have attached an information sheet outlining our organization's background.

While the provincial government has decided at this time not to proceed with changes to DSSAB governance as recommended in the final review report issued in February of 2018, we would like to be included in any future public consultations should the government decide to re-visit the issue of DSSAB governance.

Bob Stewart
Secretary DoKURA
On behalf of
Jack McKenzie
President DoKURA