

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association held on Thursday, September 15, 2022 at the KDSB Boardroom & via teleconference (Zoom)**

The meeting commenced at 7:00 PM, called to order by Mark Sobchuk, who chaired the meeting. The chair called for declaration of pecuniary interest related to the agenda items, none declared.

Attending at KDSB Boardroom: Barry Baltessen, Mark Sobchuk, Ken Bracken, Jack McKenzie, Barb McKenzie

Attending via ZOOM: Bob Stewart, Irene Kember, Dennis Wallace

**1) Minutes from September 9, 2021 AGM**

The minutes of the 2021 annual meeting were approved as submitted, separate file attached. Moved by Jack McKenzie, seconded by Ken Bracken. Called, carried.

**2) Director's Actions**

Approval of the director's actions since the 2021 AGM was given. I, Barb McKenzie, hereby move that this meeting approve all acts, contracts, proceedings, payments passed, made or taken as well as the decisions of the Board of Directors and Officers as set out or referred to in the record book of minutes of meetings of the Directors, since the last annual meeting of the District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association. Seconded by Ken Bracken. Called, carried

**3) Financial Report**

Irene Kember presented the annual financial report (April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022). Barry Baltessen also provided an update on the situation as at August 31, 2022.

Statements approved by members on a motion moved by Barry Baltessen, seconded by Jack McKenzie. (Copies of statements attached as separate files). Called, carried.

**4) Reports**

*All Nations Health Partners Committee*

*Data Collection*

*Provincial Land Tax*

*Report on KDSB activities by TWOMO (Territories Without Municipal Organization) & Strategic Planning*

Moved by Bob Stewart and seconded by Jack McKenzie that all reports be accepted as submitted, copies attached. Called, carried.

**6) Nominating Report & Election of Directors**

Moved by Dennis Wallace and seconded by Bob Stewart that their report be accepted as submitted, copy attached. The following are the DoKURA board of directors and officers for the Sept 2022 – September, 2023 term. Called, carried.

*Officers*

President – Vacant

Past-President – Jack McKenzie (to 2023)

Vice-President – Ed Murray (to 2023)

Treasurer – Barry Baltessen (to 2024)

Secretary – Barry Baltessen (2024)

*Directors at large*

Ken Bracken – Lake of the Woods South (to 2024)  
Dennis Wallace – Lake of the Woods South (to 2024)  
Bob Stewart – Lake of the Woods South (to 2024)  
Mark Sobchuk – Lac Seul (to 2023)

*Kenora District Service Board TWOMO representatives*

Ed Murray – Oxdrift (to Dec 2022)  
Barry Baltessen – Lake of the Woods North (to Dec 2022)  
Mark Sobchuk – Lac Seul (to Dec 2022)  
Bob Stewart – Lake of the Woods South (to Dec 2022)

NOTE: TWOMO election for next four-year term takes place on October 24.

**7) Signing Authority**

Moved by Mark Sobchuk and seconded by Ken Bracken that the designation of signing officers for banking and financial institute purposes be accepted as follows:

Primary signatory – Barry Baltessen as treasurer.

Endorsement by Bob Stewart as Director or Ken Bracken as Director.

Called, carried.

**8) 2023 AGM**

A tentative date of September 21, 2023 was established for the next AGM, recognizing that quality internet service is essential to allow for remote access to the meeting.

Moved by Jack McKenzie and seconded by Ken Bracken that the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Report to the 2022 AGM  
District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association  
All Nations Health Partners

In May 2018 DoKURA, in its capacity of representing unincorporated area residents of the Kenora District – in particular those in the immediate Kenora area – was asked if it would like to participate in the All Nations Health Partners initiative.

The ANHP is the successor to the Kenora Area Health Care Working Group created in 2015 to address shortages of physicians and other health professionals and access to health care in the Kenora region. DoKURA director Bob Stewart is DoKURA's representative on the group.

The partnership's terms of reference state:

**The primary purpose of the partnership is to facilitate development and encourage (incremental) implementation of a collective vision for health care in the Kenora area.**

Members involved in the partnership include: The Kenora Chiefs Advisory – representing 8 of the 10 First Nations in the Kenora area; Grand Council Treaty 3; the municipalities of Kenora and Sioux Narrows Nestor Falls and DoKURA; the Kenora Metis Council; primary health care representatives; Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig (Indigenous Health Care); Sunset Family Health Team (the Paterson Clinic, Keewatin and Lakeside clinics); the Northwestern Health Unit; Pinecrest Home for the Aged; Kenora District Services Board; Firefly (children's services), a physicians and health care worker group and a patient and Elders committee.

Over the past four years this co-operative and supportive approach to improving health services in the Kenora area has resulted in member agencies achieving several notable goals.

The Chiefs Advisory, working with other First Nations groups was successful in purchasing the former Birchwood Terrace long term care facility and in securing a government commitment to expand the number of beds and eventually relocate the facility to property provided by the Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation.

The Waasegiizhig health team was successful in obtaining additional provincial money to increase staff visits and clinics in area First Nations.

The Chiefs Advisory purchased the former Strecker Farm north of Kenora and is developing it into a youth educational and program facility.

The district services board, working with the Kenora Association for Community Living leased the Waterview Motel and established a temporary housing facility including support services.

Based on the program's success, the province has provided funding for a permanent facility.

The services board, working with the Wabaseamong Independent Nations, obtained funding to establish an ambulance base in that community which improves paramedic services along the Minaki Highway and in unincorporated areas north of Kenora.

Going forward the partnership will continue to support the efforts of member agencies to improve health care in the area including supporting the physicians group in improving access to Winnipeg-based doctors and specialists, supporting the Lake of the Woods District Hospital in planning for its new All Nations Hospital, and in developing an Ontario Health Team which will operate under the umbrella of the ANHP.

Submitted by director Bob Stewart  
Sept 2022

Report to the 2022 AGM  
District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association  
Information/data collection on Kenora District TWOMO area

Over the past few years DoKURA director Bob Stewart – Lake of the Woods South – has been collecting information and data on the demographics of the Kenora District unincorporated areas. In many cases current government information treats the entire district as single entity, or the entire Northern Ontario region which has 10 separate and unique districts as single entity, making community level information difficult to isolate.

Information to assist the DokURA directors and others, such as the All Nation Health Partners and the Kenora District Service Board has been compiled from a variety of sources to better understand who lives in the Unincorporated Areas, what services are available, what they cost and how they are delivered and funded.

Sources used include the national census, MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) data, federal, provincial and local election voter list summaries, roads board and service board information, and Hydro One outage and customer count information.

Information has been compiled on population (permanent and seasonal), dwelling counts, assessments, kilometres of local roads, fire protection coverage, LRBs and LSBs along with local service levies and infrastructure.

This past year information was updated with the release of population and household information collected in the 2021 census. The key change was the increase of about 1,000 people in the permanent residency group for the district. Major increases were noted in the area to the west of Kenora, to the east of Kenora and to a lesser degree in the areas near the service hub communities of Dryden, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout. This information was passed along to both the AHNP and the KDSB to assist them with better understanding the service needs in Unincorporated Areas.

We will continue to update and improve our various collection of data sets going forward to allow the board to keep residents better informed, to assist various service agencies and to provide accurate background information in presentations to various government ministries

Submitted by director Bob Stewart  
Sept 2022

Report to the 2022 AGM  
District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association  
PLT (Provincial Land Tax) issue

Between 2013 and 2016 the province conducted a review and updating of the Provincial Land Tax (PLT) system which co-funds basic services in Unincorporated or TWOMO (Territory Without Municipal Organization). As result the PLT rates for residential, commercial/industrial and other property classes were updated and standardized with phased in increases.

This process was completed in 2021 and a universal rate of \$250 per \$100,000 of assessed value now applies to all residential properties and \$300 per \$100,000 of value for commercial/industrial properties.

One shortfall of the legislation and regulations covering the new rates was the lack of a mechanism for dealing with assessment increases going forward. Assessments, done by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation on an every four-year basis, were postponed due to CoVID measures and the 2020 re-assessment, which was to take effect in the 2021 tax year, has been pushed forward to 2023, with the 2020 values now to be used in 2024, this will be followed by another re-assessment, based on 2024 market values, which would begin to be applied in the 2025 tax year under current legislation.

Given past increases in Unincorporated Areas, assessments could increase by as much as 40 to 50 per cent in a short period of time, especially in popular waterfront areas. Without a corresponding reduction in the fixed PLT rate this will mean a property tax increase of similar magnitude.

This past spring DoKURA began a public information campaign to make provincial officials, cottager groups and residents in general including our members aware of the issue. News releases and backgrounder information was provided with several local media outlets publishing short articles and one Thunder Bay TV station doing an interview with director Bob Stewart. To date there has been no response from government officials or the district's two MPPs – Sol Mamakwa (Kiiwetinoog) and Greg Rickford (Kenora-Rainy River).

We will continue to publisize the issue and push for a meeting with them to ensure they understand the issue, and the need for a proactive response by the government in either the 2023 or 2024 budget and related regulations.

Submitted by director Bob Stewart  
Sept 2022

## **Report to the 2022 AGM**

District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association

### KDSB Activities

DoKURA has entered into a contract for service with the KDSB. In exchange for an annual fee from KDSB, we are providing assistance to improve communications and identify services required by unincorporated residents. We then work with the KDSB to develop solutions that work for our residents. We are also providing assistance with this year's DSSAB Election. During the year, we worked with the KDSB on the Vermilion Bay ambulance base. An additional crew has been added in Dryden to help with immediate pressure on the ambulance service. Longer term, the KDSB will be working with the township of Machin to develop an ambulance base in Vermilion Bay.

We have also begun consultation with the KDSB on the delivery of paramedicine services to unincorporated residents. Building on the success of KDSB's community paramedicine program for seniors during the pandemic, the KDSB is creating a permanent program that will service residents across the region by bringing wellness checks right to people's homes. The KDSB has concluded its recruitment and has started to roll out services within municipalities. Services for the unincorporated area are expected to begin in the fall of 2022.

### Strategic Planning

In May of 2022, we engaged a local consulting firm (Reach Marketing) to help us review and redefine our organization and develop an action plan to increase the profile of DoKURA, building on existing community outreach, strategic partnerships and funding. The planning work has concluded and short-term actions are in progress. Areas of focus for the next year include:

- Improvements to the website to better define issues we are working on, such as electricity costs, taxation and broadband access.
- Improve our working relationship with KDSB to better serve residents in the unincorporated area.
- Expand and improve our communications with all stakeholders.
- Explore funding sources to enable hiring of an employee or consultants to assist volunteer directors.
- Expand and improve working relationships with various existing and potential partners.
- Tighten and expand our governance structure to increase capacity, efficiency and effectiveness.

Submitted by director Barry Baltessen  
September 2022

Report to the 2022 AGM  
District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association  
Nominating committee Report

Current directors have been contacted and their intentions confirmed verbally or by email

Jack McKenzie – willing to serve as director

Ed Murray – running as KDSB rep for Oxdrift/ willing to serve as a director & Vice-President

Barry Baltessen – running as KDSB rep for Lake of the Woods North/ willing to serve as Sec/Tres

Mark Sobchuk – (likely) – depends on second candidate for KDSB

Dennis Wallace – running as KDSB rep for Lake of the Woods South/willing to serve as director

Bob Stewart - willing to serve as director

Rob Wares - stepping down due to health reasons

Irene Kember – stepping down

Ken Bracken – willing to serve as a director

The nominating committee puts forward the following nominees as directors:

Barry Baltessen

Ken Bracken

Jack McKenzie

Ed Murray

Mark Sobchuk

Bob Stewart

Dennis Wallace

Further, the committee puts forward the following nominees as executive officers:

Barry Baltessen - Secretary Treasurer

Ed Murray - Vice-president

As no one has indicated a willingness to serve as President, the nominating committee recommends the association continue its practice of the past two years of having the directors assume that responsibility acting as a committee of the whole, with specific duties assigned to individual directors as needed.

Submitted by Dennis Wallace and Bob Stewart  
Sept 2022