

Gogama Local Services Board  
Monthly Board Meeting – February 9, 2023  
Community Centre – 6:30PM

MINUTES

1. **Call meeting to order and roll call**

Daniel Mantha, presiding as Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:31P.M.

**Present**

Daniel Mantha – Chairperson  
Gilles Veronneau – Vice Chairperson (via phone)  
Andre Jodouin – Board Member  
Paul Gignac – Board Member  
Lisa Fortin – Board Member  
Christine Bedard – Secretary Treasurer

**Absent with Regrets**

**Members of the public:               None**

2. **Declaration of conflict of interest** - As the meeting progresses.

3. **Acceptance of agenda**

The Chairperson asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

**The motion to accept the agenda was moved by Gilles Veronneau and seconded by Paul Gignac.**

**Motion Carried**

4. **Acceptance of minutes**

4.1 **Acceptance of January 23, 2023 meeting minutes**

The Chairperson asked for a motion to accept the January 23, 2023 meeting minutes.

**The motion to accept the January 23, 2023 meeting minutes was moved by Andre Jodouin and seconded by Gilles Veronneau.**

**Motion Carried**

5. **New Business:**

5.1 **Administrative Portfolio:**

5.1.1 **Pre-Budget Consultations**

The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that the request to participate in the pre-budget consultations session had been submitted by the January 24, 2023's deadline and M.P.P. France Gelinhas has been notified of the Board's registration. The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that not all submissions would be selected for a speaking segment and, to date, the GLSB had not been selected to present via zoom.

5.2 **Financial Portfolio:               None**

5.3 **Garbage Collection/Disposal Portfolio:**

**(Conflict declared for Lisa Fortin on Garbage Collection/Disposal discussions)**

5.3.1 **Garbage Collection Issues**

The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that the contractor reported two addresses that did not receive garbage collection on Monday, February 6, 2023 as the path to their bins was not cleared. She advised that this was just an informational item for the Board in the event that the residents affected called the office to inquire on the reason their garbage had not been collected.

As the Board has sent out the Garbage Collection/Disposal guidelines notice in the Fall, there is not action required by the Board on these types of occurrences.

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the draft letter to a resident, prepared by the Secretary Treasurer.

**The motion to approve the draft letter to a resident regarding recurring issues with garbage at the roadside was moved by Gilles Veronneau and seconded by Paul Gignac. Motion Carried**

#### **5.4 Fire Protection Portfolio:**

##### **5.4.1 Fire Chief Monthly Report**

As the Fire Chief was not present and had not sent a report to the Board for discussion, the Chairperson moved on to the next agenda item.

##### **5.4.2 Monthly GLSB/GFD meetings**

The Chairperson turned the floor over to Board member, Gilles Veronneau for a status update on the scheduling of a meeting between OFMEM/GLSB/GFD. Gilles Veronneau advised the Board that he had attempted to contact the Fire Chief on a few occasions in an attempt to schedule the monthly meetings and was not successful in reaching the Fire Chief as of yet.

In order to provide the Board with some context, Gilles Veronneau requested that the Secretary Treasurer provide the Board with a summary of events that led up to his recommendation for a meeting with OFMEM/GLSB/GFD.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that, following an occurrence of a misdirected fire extrication call on January 31, 2023, the Fire Chief called the Board office requesting that the Board reinstate the North side of Highway 144 to the GFD from the Mattagami First Nation Fire department. The Fire Chief was advised that the GLSB does not hold the authority to do such a thing and reminded the Fire Chief that the Mattagami Fire Department had made application for that specific section of Highway 144 independently through the Ministry of Transportation and had met all requirements and therefore had been designated the North arm of Highway 144 from Lamotte Lake Road to the Reserve.

The Secretary Treasurer further advised that on February 8, 2023, the Board office received an email from OFMEM Advisor, Ryan Tront, stating that he is in the process of setting the meeting date for the week of February 27 – March 3, 2023 as he would like to accommodate the Deputy Fire Chief whom is currently out of the country until end of March. He anticipates that the Deputy Fire Chief will be attending via TEAM or ZOOM. His email also mentions that the Mattagami Fire Department Fire Chief will also be at the table for discussions. The original request for a group meeting did not include MFN, there are items of discussion, such as the area boundary expansion and financials that do not concern MFN fire department.

The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that the purpose of the meeting was set to address the misdirected call from Northern 911 to the GFD on January 31, 2023, as well as discussing the Board's Fire Protection Area Boundary expansion that has been tabled for a few years now.

At the last OFMEM/GLSB/GFD meeting called by the OFMEM at the request of the Fire Chief on June 8, 2022, the Fire Chief had requested that the Board consult with him on the matter of the boundary expansion prior to bringing it to the public and submitting it to the Minister for approval. The Board agreed and advised that they would hold off further discussions or actions until the Fire Chief communicated his availability to the Board's portfolio liaison.

Board member, Gilles Veronneau advised the Board that since this meeting, the Fire Chief has not attended any monthly Board meetings to provide the Board with reports as he had requested he be

allowed to do, and both the Fire Chief and Portfolio Liaison have not yet had an opportunity to schedule monthly one-on-one meetings that would be held in the week prior to Board monthly meetings.

The Secretary Treasurer recommended to the Board that since the Fire Chief will be at the table at this upcoming meeting, it is recommended that the initial discussions for the Board's proposed area boundary expansion be included on the agenda and the Fire Chief be requested to put forward availability dates and times to meet monthly with the Board Liaison and Secretary Treasurer (at least for April through to September).

Board Member, Gilles Veronneau advised the Board that the implementation of sections/boundary lines, as it relates to extrication callouts, still appears to be a point of confusion for the Fire Chief. During his call to the board office on January 31, 2023, the Fire Chief demanded that the Board restore the full highway to the GFD since the Board was responsible for having implemented the boundary lines. When reminded of the correct information, the Fire Chief stated that since this took place with the former Fire Chief, it should no longer be in place as he was not consulted. It is not reasonable to expect that such a consultation would occur every time a new Fire Chief takes over. The current Fire Chief was made aware of the boundary lines and how it came about when he took over.

The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that in discussions with OFMEM, Ryan Tront, the advisor had brought forward two additional concerns from the Fire Chief;

**1. Monthly Bank Statements**

The Fire Chief states he is not receiving his monthly statements.

The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that since June's meeting, the department has been provided with their monthly bank statements and this is documented in the Board's meeting minutes.

When the Deputy Fire Chief attended the office on December 28, 2022, he asked for the December statement. Since it had not yet been made available for viewing (and the month was not over yet), the office was unable to provide the statement.

At the Deputy Fire Chief's request via email on January 31, 2023, the bank statement was forwarded.

In order to ensure that the Fire Chief receives his statements on the first of every month, the board office will print a transaction statement (this is not the monthly account statement) of all transactions for the previous month. Should the Fire Chief wish to have a copy of the bank statement once it becomes available, he may request it and one will be sent.

On February 2, 2023, the Board office emailed the GFD transaction statement for January 1-31, 2023 and the February 1-2, 2023 to the liaison for the purpose of forwarding it to the Fire Chief. All supporting documentation for the transactions was also included.

**2. Withholding GFD Funds**

The Fire Chief states the Board is withholding GFD funds access.

The Secretary Treasurer assured the Board that this is certainly not the case, any funds requested have been processed in a timely manner. For example, on December 27, 2022, the Deputy Fire Chief requested a top up of petty cash and fire fighter honorarium cheques. These were processed and picked up on December 28, 2022. There have been no additional requests for funds.

The Secretary Treasurer further advised that during a review of the bank statements on December 28, 2022, the Deputy Fire Chief and the Secretary Treasurer noticed that the MTO claims payments had reverted to being deposited in the board's operating account. The Secretary Treasurer suspects that this may have been caused by an MTO systems update that kicked out the GFD banking info (more investigating required). When this error was discovered, the Secretary Treasurer advised that she would transfer the funds to the GFD bank account during her audit prep process in the following weeks. At the time of the Fire Chief's complaint, the funds had not yet been transferred and in case this was the reason for the Fire Chief's complaint, the funds were transferred immediately upon hearing the complaint and the transfers were reflected on the February transaction statement provided to the Fire Chief on February 2, 2023.

The Board discussed the information they were provided and agreed that the Secretary Treasurer would clarify with OFMEM on the matter of MFN attending as this was not the Secretary Treasurer's understanding at the time of the call. It was, however, anticipated that MFN would perhaps become involved at some point as it was their intent to meet with the Fire Chief as per his request. Mattagami Fire Chief, Curtis Fowler, had reached out to the Board office to advise that they are requesting Board presence at any meeting scheduled with the GFD Fire Chief.

The Board awaits the OFMEM's availability for the upcoming meeting at which point, an agenda will be prepared.

**5.5 Library Portfolio: NONE**  
**(Conflict declared for Lisa Fortin on Library discussions)**

**5.6 Recreation Portfolio:**  
**(Conflict declared for Andre Jodouin on Manager Custodian discussions)**

**5.6.1 Manager Custodian monthly report**

The Chairperson asked Board Member, Lisa Fortin to provide update if one is available.

Board Member, Lisa Fortin, advised the Board that she continues to meet with the Manager Custodian on a monthly basis, the last meeting was on Tuesday, February 7, 2022 when she met with the Manager Custodian at the community centre to assist with the monthly horns/strobes testing.

**5.6.2 Maintenance Contract**

The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that the final copy of Maintenance Contract was emailed to W.Q. Carpentry on January 26, 2023 and she was waiting on the contractor to attend the office with signed copy on Friday February 10, 2023. The request for a quote for the Nursing Clinic work also requested.

**5.6.3 Recreation Committee**

The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that Recreation Committee member, Denise Savard, attended the office February 2, 2023. She was advised of the Board's request to have the recreation committee go through their items and put them away. She has started the sorting process. Denise requested the snow be cleared from the storage shed entrance so that she and the volunteers can put away the Christmas decorations, this has been done and she has been advised.

Lisa has requested that the Board resume discussions regarding the recreation committee's proposed restructuring. At the last discussion, the Board agreed that the next step would be to schedule a meeting with the remaining committee members sometime after the Christmas holidays. As this has not yet been done, the Secretary Treasurer requested the Board's direction on the matter.

The Board discussed the matter and agreed that the remaining members of the Recreation Committee would meet with the Board once the Board's fundraising policy was reviewed and updated so that the new items could be presented to the committee members.

The Board would like to propose a call for volunteers recruitment poster be drafted and posted in the community, the keys to the community centre and the laptop be returned and signed out as needed and a discussion with the existing committee members on group leadership sharing and restructuring.

#### **5.6.4 Snow Clearing**

The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that, as per Board member, Lisa Fortin's observations, the fire hydrants are not being cleared in a timely manner. Although the snow clearing contract does not have a specific outline for what is to be given priority over others, having to wait a week, sometimes longer, to have the fire hydrants cleared of snow is too long.

The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that she has had conversations with the contractor on this matter in previous years, as has the Chairperson, however, the matter remains that the fire hydrants are not kept clear as per the contractual expectation.

The Board discussed the matter and agreed that moving forward, keeping in mind that there is only one snow clearing piece of equipment and one operator, should the fire hydrants not be cleared within two days of a significant snowfall, the Board Office is to contact Tates office directly to inquire on when they can expect to be done as opposed to speaking with the contractor's employee.

#### **5.7 Water/Sewer Portfolio:**

Board Member, Andre Jodouin, advised the Board that he had spoken to OCWA's OIT, Richard Gravelle, prior to the meeting and inquired if there was anything to report. Andre Jodouin advised there was nothing to report.

#### **6. Deputations or Delegations or Discussions from the floor**

The Chairperson asked if there were any deputations, delegations or discussions from the floor. As there were none, the Chairperson proceeded to the adjournment.

#### **7. Adjournment**

Having no further Board business to discuss, the Chairperson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**The motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM was moved by Andre Jodouin and seconded by Paul Gignac.**

**Motion Carried**

  
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Christine Bedard – Secretary Treasurer

  
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Daniel Mantha - Chairperson