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**MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD  
THURSDAY, October 16, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.  
MEETING #08/25**

**PRESENT:** Debbie Ewald, Town of Rainy River (Chair)  
Don Canfield, Rainy River Central  
Lisa Teeple, Township of Emo  
Wade Desserre, Rainy River West  
Brendan Hyatt, Township of La Vallee  
Robert Ferguson, Town of Atikokan  
Mike Ford, Township of Alberton  
Robert Burns, Rainy River East  
Bill Langner, Township of Dawson  
James Gibson, Township of Chapple

**REGRETS:** Andrew Hallikas, Town of Fort Frances (Vice Chair)  
Charene Gillies, CAO

**ABSENT:** Colleen Fadden, Township of Lake of the Woods  
Telford Advent, Township of Morley

**STAFF:** Leanne Gurski, Director of Finance & Infrastructure  
Aynsley McKinnon, Human Resource Manager  
Faisal Anwar, Director of Community Services  
Heather Latter, Communications Advisor

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- 1. Call to Order**  
The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
  - 2. Land Acknowledgement**
  - 3. Attendance & Declaration of Conflict of Interest**  
There were no declarations of Conflict of Interest.

**3.1. Regrets from Board Members**

Resolution #50/25 MOVED BY D. Canfield and SECONDED BY B. Hyatt:

<p><b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) accepts the regrets of Andrew Hallikas (Town of Fort Frances) for the October 16, 2025 Board meeting.</p>
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<p><b>Carried.</b></p>
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#### 4. **Approval of Agenda**

Resolution #51/25 MOVED BY B. Hyatt and SECONDED BY R. Burns:

**RESOLVED THAT** the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) approves the agenda of October 16, 2025 as amended. *(added info item 10.11 Township of Chapple Resolution)*

**Carried.**

#### 5. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the September 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting were reviewed and approved.

Resolution #52/25 MOVED BY R. Ferguson and SECONDED BY B. Hyatt:

**RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the DRRSB held September 18, 2025 be approved.

**Carried.**

#### 6. **Administration Reports**

6.1. CAO Report - DRRSB Strategic Plan Implementation: Q3 2025 Report included in meeting package

6.2. Community Services Report – included in meeting package

6.2.1. DRRSB Letter to RRD Clerks regarding the province's requirement that municipalities update Community Safety and Wellbeing Plans - included in meeting package

6.3. Infrastructure & Community Services Report (EOI)– included in meeting package

6.3.1. EOI Fifth and Frenette – included in meeting package

A discussion was held about whether it would be more cost-effective to buy and renovate a hotel or build new on the Fifth & Frenette property. Director of Community Services, Faisal Anwar indicated that planning is in nearly stages and more information will be brought to the board before moving forward.

6.4. Financial Reports (Q3 Financial Statements, Q3 Investment Report & Q3 Maintenance Report) – included in meeting package

It was noted that the revenues were higher due to WISB surplus rebate, which will be distributed to reserves before year end.

#### 7. **Business Arising**

7.1. ROMA 2026 DRRSB Attendees

Resolution #53/25 MOVED BY D. Canfield and SECONDED BY B. Langner:

**RESOLVED THAT** the following board members attend the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference on January 18-20, 2026 and that per diems are to be paid per Finance Policy F-4.15: Travel and Accommodations:

1. Deb Ewald (chair)
2. James Gibson or Bob Burns (alternate)

**Carried.**

## 8. New Business

### 8.1. DRRSB Insurance

Verbal report provided by Leanne Gurksi, Director of Finance & Infrastructure about insurance. Confirmed renewal total was not available but is expected to be about \$30,000 higher than last year. Board support was sought to enable renewing prior to the current policy expiring (i.e., Oct 31, 2025). Administration will report finalized total at the November meeting.

Resolution #54/25 MOVED BY M. Ford and SECONDED BY R. Ferguson:  
D. Canfield declared conflict of interest.

**RESOLVED THAT** the District of Rainy River Services Board authorize Administration to proceed with the 2025-26 Insurance renewal in the best interest of the Board.

**Carried.**

### 8.2. Potential 2026 ROMA DRRSB Delegation Requests – included in meeting package. Potential topics were read aloud and no concerns or additions noted.

Resolution #55/25 MOVED BY M. Ford and SECONDED L. Teeple:

**RESOLVED THAT** the District of Rainy River Services Board directs Administration to submit 2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference DRRSB delegation requests based on the board identified themes and potential topics as presented.

**Carried.**

## 9. Board Reports

None

## 10. Information items

- 10.1 COBH Allocation Letter 2025-26
- 10.2 Land Ambulance Letter Minister signed
- 10.3 Land Ambulance Schedule
- 10.4 Land Ambulance 2025 TWOMO Schedule
- 10.5 NOSDA Letter Ministers Paramedic 3year Degree
- 10.6 Letter from Associate Minister Williams – AMO 2025
- 10.7 Letter – Chapple Sept 22
- 10.8 Letter – J. Gibson Set 22

- 10.9 Impact of Alcohol Availability on Emerg Services in NW)
- 10.10 Advancing Integrated Employment Services
- 10.11 Township of Chapple Resolution

**11. Next Meeting**

The next Regular Board Meeting of the District of Rainy River Services Board will be held virtually on November 20, 2025 starting at 9:00 a.m.

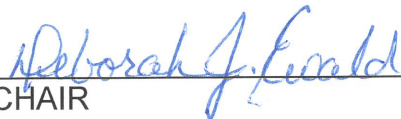
**12. Adjournment**

Resolution #56/25 MOVED BY M. Ford and SECONDED R. Ferguson:

- 13. RESOLVED THAT** the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) meeting of October 16, 2025 be adjourned at 10:05 am.

**Carried.**

**Meeting adjourned.**

  
CHAIR

  
SECRETARY-TREASURER (CAO)

  
DATE APPROVED