

Village of South River  
Council Meeting – April 8, 2025

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday April 8, 2025. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councillor Brenda Scott, Councillor Teri Brandt, and Councillor Robert Brooks

**Staff in Attendance:** Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person  
Janet Wedseltoft, Chief Financial Officer – In person  
Candice Robertson, Administrative Assistant – In Person  
Risto Maki, South River Machar Fire Chief- In Person

**1. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Coleman at 2:00p.m.

*The Village of South River acknowledges the Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaties on the land of the Anishinabek that we meet today. We seek to work respectfully with Indigenous people, and are thankful for their teachings and stewardship of the land.*

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof** – Nil

**3. Delegation and Public Meeting** – Nil

**4. Adoption of Minutes** – Council March 25, 2025

110-2025 Brandt/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting March 25<sup>th</sup> as presented.**

Carried

**5. Accounts and Finance**

**5.1 Accounts Reports**

1. March 2025 Income Statement
2. March 2025 Cheque EFT and Online Payments
3. MMAH FITC24 and Municipal Profile Report
4. South River Grants and Donations 2022- 2025
5. Monthly Carrying Costs HLCC and Train Station

In regard to 5.1.3 Council reviewed the Financial Fit Indicator in particular the progress in the amount of uncollected taxes in the Village.

In regard to 5.1.4 Council reviewed the grants and donations from 2022-2025 as per requested in previous council meeting. Discussing the amount they would like to set the donation line in the budget. Council also discussed the best way to support the South River Food Bank and considered helping with baseline expenses.

In regard to 5.1.5 Council reviewed the requested carrying costs of the HLCC and Train Station. When reviewing the monthly costs of the HLCC Council further discussed options of selling or maintaining as municipal asset the former brewery building.

111-2025 Brandt/O’Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance #1 to #5.**

Carried

**6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees**

**6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –**

1. ADR Integrity Commission Annual Report - South River 2023-2024
2. Train Station Committee Minutes March 24 2025
3. Water Treatment Facility RFP 001-2025

In regard to 6.1.2 Council discussed the minutes from the Train Station Committee Meeting which reviewed the construction project overview of the repairs, budget and next steps.

In regard to 6.1.3 Council reviewed the Water Treatment Facility RFP and discussed important timelines.

112-2025 Brandt/Brooks  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the release of Water Treatment Facility RFP 001-2025 as presented.**

Carried

113-2025 Scott/O’Hallarn  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee reports #1 to #3.**

Carried

**6.2 Reports from Shared Services**

- 1. SRM Arena Construction Review Meeting Mar 26, 2025

114-2025 Brooks/O’Hallarn  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the reports from Shared Services Staff and Committees #1.**

Carried

**6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --**

- 1. PSDSSAB Encampment Response Plan - Letter
- 2. ACED Director March Report, February 27 Minutes, Brand Alignment and Signage Plan, and Draft Joint Services Agreement
- 3. Joint Building Committee March 2025 Statistics
- 4. Shared CEMC 2025 Budget and 2024 Cost Reconciliation
- 5. Almaguin Recycling Initiative – 2025 Budget and Renewal
- 6. DPSMA Spring 2025 Agenda Package and Registration Form

In regard to 6.3.3 Council discussed the Joint Building Committee Statistics and raised concerned that there could be more permits but there is a perceived negativity towards the Joint Building Committee and the how permits are handled for renovations on older properties. Council discussed writing a letter to the Joint Building Committee to address these concerns.

In regard to 6.3.5 Council discussed the Almaguin Recycling Initiative Hazardous Waste budget and to withdraw from the program as very few residents use the program, and since we are also part of the North Bay Hazardous Waste program that gives residents year round access.

In regard to 6.3.6 Council reviewed the DPSMA Spring 2025 meeting itinerary, and that Clerk Administrator Don McArthur, Councilors Bill O’Hallarn, Teri Brandt, Robert Brooks and Mayor Jim Coleman would attend.

115-2025 Brooks/O’Hallarn  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does not support the renewal of membership in the shared services agreement for economic development at this time.**

Carried

116-2025 Brooks/Scott  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the 2025 Shared Community Emergency Management Program Budget as prepared by the Village of Sundridge with a municipal contribution of \$5,000.**

Carried

117-2025 Brandt/Brooks  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the 2025 Almaguin Recycling Initiative invoice for \$2866.88 plus HST and serve notice that the Village of South River will withdraw from the shared service effective December 31, 2025.**

Carried

118-2025 Brooks/O’Hallarn  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the attendance of Clerk Administrator Don McArthur, Councilors Bill O’Hallarn, Teri Brandt, Robert Brooks and Mayor Jim Coleman at the spring meeting of the District of Parry Sound Municipal Meeting on May 23, 2025 in Callander and expense be paid per Village policy.**

Carried

119-2025 Brandt/Scott  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Reports from the Regional Committees: Items #1 to #6.**

Carried

## **7. By-Laws and Resolutions**

1. Resolution - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 390 – Patio License Extension
2. Resolution - Support Burk's Falls opposing a Battery Energy Storage System
3. Resolution - Shock Rodz – Car Show Sponsorship
4. Resolution - Almaguin Recycling Initiative – Withdrawal Notice

120-2025 Scott/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support a liquor license extension for Royal Canadian Legion Branch 390 to have an outdoor patio on the premises that conforms with all AGCO requirements from April 1 to November 30, 2025**

Carried

121-2025 Brooks/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support Burk's Falls Resolution # 2025-91 opposing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development near urban areas and waterways, specifically the site plan proposed by Solar Bank Inc. for a BESS installation at Concession 6, Part Lot 3 on Pegg's Mountain Road and further that this resolution be circulated to all neighbouring municipalities in the Almaguin Highlands, MP Scott Aitchison, MPP Graydon Smith and the Ontario Minister of the Environment Hon. Andrea Khanjin.**

Carried

122-2025 Scott/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Shock Rodz Car Club with a Gold Car Show Sponsorship of \$1000.**

Carried

## **8. Correspondence**

1. E and M Spasic - 27 Lincoln Severance Request
2. Almaguin Special Olympics - Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
3. AHSS Hockey Academy Program
4. Ontario Trail Council - Trail News
5. CN Right-of-Way Vegetation Management
6. EMO - Community Emergency Preparedness Grant
7. Township of Whitewater - Tile Drain
8. Bruce County - Municipal Response to Tariffs

123-2025 Brandt/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on Wednesday June 3, 2025 to take place on Ottawa Ave from the South River Train Station to the South River Public School at approximately 11:30 AM.**

Carried

124-2025 O'Hallarn/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #8.**

Carried

## **9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –**

Councillor Brenda Scott noted that Canada Day celebrations may be larger this year across the nation.

Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn inquired about the status of the Red Canoe Restaurant and if it was being rebuilt. Fire Chief Risto Maki responded that it is still waiting on insurance and could see repairs start in the spring.

Councillor Robert Brooks noted that it is positive to have feedback on the brewery location and that the Village has the option of selling the brewery equipment sold separately. Councilor Brooks asked about the fitness center from Sundridge that has previous interest, if it was something that should be revisited. Councilor Brooks also mentioned the possibility of being a recreation center. Council Robert Brooks also noted the MPP Graydon Smith new position being Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Clerk Administrator Don McArthur noted he was following up on 5-10 welcome blades to for the Village.

Clerk Administrator Don McArthur told Council that we have received a WSIB credit and that Premiere Doug Ford also announced additional credits for Health Tax and WSIB.

Mayor Jim Coleman suggested meeting with local businesses and have an open conversation on Tariff and Taxes and ACED withdrawal. Council discussed options are how this can be done and if they felt businesses would be interested in a meeting. Have the meeting to also be an opportunity to discuss recycling for business and commercial for 2026. Mayor Jim Coleman added that there are many new ideas and improvements happening at South River Fresh Mart, new coolers, ovens, and fridges also a new Facebook page and will be having daily sales advertised.

Chief Financial Officer Janet Wedseltoft reminded Council there is a Cemetery Meeting April 29 at 10am.

Candice Robertson leaves meeting at 4:56pm

**10. In Camera** – 1. SRM Fire Department - Personnel

125-2025 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**Be it Resolved that this meeting of the Village of South River Council be closed under Subsection 239. (c) personal matter about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees and that this Council proceed in Camera at 4:56p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.**

Carried

126-2025 Scott/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 5:05 p.m. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.**

Carried

127-2025 Brooks/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Captain Bart Wood of the South River Machar Fire Department Acting Deputy Fire Chief during a medical leave expected to last six months.**

Carried

**11. Confirming By-law** – By-law #19-2025

128-2025 Scott/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby read a first, second and third time and finally pass By-law# 19-2025, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12. Adjournment**

129-2025 Brooks/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby adjourn to meet again as the South River Council on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the South River Council Chambers located at 63 Marie Street or at the call of the Mayor. Time of Adjournment: 5:06p.m.**

Carried

---

**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

---

**Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator**