

Village of South River
Council Meeting – January 27, 2026

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday January 27, 2026. 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 (Virtually).

Staff in Attendance: Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person
Janet Wedseltoft, Chief Financial Officer – In person
Candice Robertson, Administrative Assistance – In Person

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Coleman at 2:06 p.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 –

4. Adoption of Minutes – Council January 13, 2026

34-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting January 13, 2026 as presented.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports -

1. December 2025 Income Statement and Machine Time
2. December 2025 Cheque EFT and Online Payments
3. Rent Review 63 Marie St.

In regard to 5.1.1 Councillor Brooks asked about the reserves and what they are used for and if they could see the schedule. The Chief Financial Officer responded that she would have them included for the next Council Meeting.

In regard to 5.1.3 Council discussed the rent increase for 63 Marie St and who paid for rent. Noting that one tenant has a contract and their increase is set at 2% per year increase.

35-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Chief Financial officer to set the rents at 63 Marie St as per the inflation increase of 2.1% CPI as reported by Statistics Canada.

Carried

36-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance #1 to #3.

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. Public Works Committee Minutes January 20 2026
2. Urban Star Gazing Park Application
3. Economic Development Signage Project
4. OCWA 2025 Q4 Operations Report

In regard to 6.1.1 Council reviewed the Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes and discussed that Public

Works is looking to replace a plow truck and the estimated cost would be \$350,000 and looking into option and would present them to Council Additionally they also need to replace one of the pick up trucks and the estimated cost would be \$100,000 to replace and have the equipment needed for the plow and sander in the back. Council noted the MECP Drinking water report was positive and received 100%. Also, the recommended agreement with Lakeland for locators saving time and money for Public Works. Council discussed the snowblower attachment rental agreement. The cost of \$350/month for 3 or 4 months is reasonable insurance to ensure we can continue cleaning sidewalks all winter. The Trackless blower had significant damage and was repaired; the durability of the repair is unknown.

In regard to 6.1.3 Council reviewed the Economic Development signage project reviewing the new signs and locations of where they would go.

37-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee report #1 to #4 as presented.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services –

1. South River Machar Fire Chief Report for January 2026
2. South River Machar Community Centre Chief Operator Report December 2025
3. South River Machar Public Library Board Minutes January 15 2026 Draft

In regard to 6.2.1 Council reviewed the South River Machar Fire Chief Report discussing the number of call and response times. December was a busy month and 2025 having the highest number of calls in a year.

In regard to 6.2.3 Council reviewed the Public Library Board Minutes discussed there are lots of new plans for activities coming and the library is working on its budget and strategic plan.

38-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the reports from Shared Services Staff and Committees #1 to #3.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --

1. Almaguin Highlands OPP Board Minutes Jan 14 Draft and 2026 Budget
2. Joint Building Committee 2025 Statistics, Jan 15 Minutes and 2026 Budget
3. PSDSSAB January CAO Report
4. PSDSSAB Levy Apportionment and 2026 Budget

In regard to 6.3.2 Council reviewed the Joint Building Committee permit summary for 2025 and the number of open permits at the end of 2025. Council also discussed the possibility for the Joint Building Committee to take over septic permits if needed and can acquire certification to do so depending on what happens with the Conservation Authority. Council also reviewed the 2026 Budget for the Joint Building Committee.

In regard to 6.3.4 Council discussed the increase to the PSDSSAB Levy and the rates for 2026.

39-2026 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Reports from the Regional Committees: Items #1 to #4.

Carried

7. By-Laws and Resolutions –

1. Resolution – Amend Schedule A Parking By-law-43-2019
2. Resolution Support AMO OMERS Bill 68 Opposition
3. Resolution Support - Municipality of Magnetawan - Site Ready Funding
4. By-law 09-2026 Ornge Helipad Agreement

40-2026 O'Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the Parking Fine Amendment to Schedule A of By-law 43-2019 as presented.

Carried

41-2026 O'Hallarn/Scott

WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children's aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

WHEREAS the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS' governance structure through Bill 68; and

WHEREAS these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

WHEREAS the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS municipalities are already under significant fiscal strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of South River does not support the legislative changes to the OMERS Act contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes;

Carried

42-2026 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby Support the Municipality of Magnetawan Resolution #2025-333– Invest Ready-Certified Site Designation program be amended to accept alternate servicing methods such as drilled wells, septic systems, and propane or hydro heating that are proven reliable services in Northern Ontario.

Carried

43-2026 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 #9-2026, being a by-law to authorize the Mayor to sign a three year contract with Ornge for helipad maintenance with the signature of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

44-2026 Brooks/Brandt

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 #10-2026, being a by-law to authorize the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement contract with the Ministry of Transportation for Pothole Prevention and Repair with the signature of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. Friendly Circle Support Request
2. Village of Sundridge - Canada Post's Reduced Distribution of Library Books
3. Township of Armour – Planning Notice of Refusal 2026
4. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce Up-date Letter
5. PSDSSAB - Homeless Summit Invite
6. Hon Graydon Smith - Invite Feb 7 Event
7. NBPSDHU Contact Information 2026
8. Good Happenings Food Bank Grant Request
9. Township of Hornepayne - Small Northern New Residential Property Tax Class
10. City of Peterborough - Sustainable Funding for Police Resolution
11. Minister Trevor Jones - OMAFA
12. Crime Stoppers - Appeal Letter Crime Stoppers Month
13. NorthWatch – Nuclear Waste Transportation Central Ontario

Council would like to support 8.2

45-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the South River Friendly Circle for 2026 with a donation of \$2900.

Carried

46-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the purchase of the 2026 membership in the Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$475.

Carried

47-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Good Happening Food Bank Fundraising Event at 131 Ottawa Ave on Saturday Feb 7, 2026.

Carried

48-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Good Happening Food Bank for 2026 with a donation of \$2100.

Carried

49-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #13.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Clerk Administrator let Council know that the Mayor was invited to North Bay for the Northlander presentation Friday morning and would like to know if any of Council would go with the Economic Development Officer on behalf of the mayor because he can't attend. Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn said he would attend.

Candice Robertson leaves the meeting at 4:29pm

10. In Camera –

1. Brewing Equipment Sale
2. Economic Development Position

50-2026 O'Hallarn/ Scott

Be it Resolved that this meeting of the Village of South River Council be closed under Subsection 239. (a) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipal or local board purposes and that this Council proceed in Camera at 4:18pm for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

51-2026 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 5:26pm with Mayor Jum Coleman as Chair.

Carried

52-2026 O'Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Clerk-Administrator to enter into a contract with Moonstone Mechanical for the sale of the surplus brewery equipment at 309 HWY 124.

Carried

53-2026 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Clerk-Administrator to create a position within the CUPE Local 4616-03 bargaining agreement for Economic Development/Recreation Director.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #10-2026

54-2026 O'Hallarn/Scott

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# 11-2026, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 27th day of January 2026 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

55-2026 Scott/O'Hallarn

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, February 10th, 2026 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: 5:29p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator