

Village of South River
Council Meeting – July 14, 2026

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday July 14, 2026. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Councillor Teri Brandt, Councillor Brenda Scott, and Councillor Robert Brooks. Absent with Notice Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn.

Staff in Attendance: Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person
Janet Wedseltoft, Chief Financial Officer – In person
Candice Robertson, Administrative Assistance – In Person
Tanvir Kabir, Economic Development Officer/Recreation Director – In Person
Risto Maki, South River Machar Fire Chief – In Person

Guest: A.Toth – Huntsville Cancer Care Clinic

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

1. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 39-2026 281 Hwy 124 Notice to Amend C2-1 Side setback and usage
2. A Toth – Huntsville Cancer Care Clinic

A.Toth Presented to Council the importance of having the Cancer Care Clinic in Huntsville and not move the clinic to the new hospital to be built in Bracebridge. Many Cancer patients visit the clinic multiple times a week/month for treatments and you get to know the staff and it makes it easier having a familiar setting and people that know you in an already stressful time. There are 3 specialized doctors that have expressed they may not be moving to the new clinic. Moving the clinic to Bracebridge results in greater travel for northern Almaguin. When Bracebridge and Gravenhurst have multiple options to travel, not having the same restrictions as residents in Almaguin and area. There is an aging population in the Huntsville and Almaguin area and travel to appointments can be difficult and moving it farther will make it more difficult. He thanked Council for their previous resolution of support and gathering signatures at the municipal front counter.

There were no presentations in favour or opposed to Zoning Bylaw Amendment 39-2026 281 Hwy 124 Notice to Amend C2-1 Side setback and usage submitted either before the meeting or at the public meeting.

246-2026 Brooks/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# 39-2026, being a zoning by-law amendment to amend the minimum setback from the side property line and the usage of the property with the legal description CON 2 PT LOT 4 RP 42R12194;PART 2 PCL 17100 NS municipally known as 281 HWY 124, with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed

Carried

4. Adoption of Minutes – Council Meeting June 23, 2026

247-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting June 23, 2026 as presented.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports –

1. June 2026 Income Statement and Machine Time
2. June 2026 Cheque EFT and Online Payments
3. 2025 and 2026 Municipal Reserves
4. SRPGC 2025 Audited Financial Statements

248-2026 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance #1 to #4.

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

2. Economic Development Report – July 2026

In regard to 6.1.2 Council reviewed the Economic Development Report discussing the Star Gazing event and possible partnership with Explorers Edge for advertising. Council agreed it will be better to advertise Tom Thomson Park once we received the Dark Sky Designation. The application for Dark Sky is under review.

6.2 Reports from Shared Services –

3. Recreation Report June 2026
1. Fire Chief Report for July 2026

In regard to 6.1.3 Council reviewed the South River Machar Recreation report. Discussing summer camp registration, the dance program ending, soccer is going well and having a point-of-sale system put into the snack bar at the arena. Council discussed the Skateboard program proposal for storage to be installed and ramp upgrades.

Economic Development Officer left meeting at 3:48pm

In regard to 6.2.1 South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki reviewed the report with Council discussing number of calls, response times, and continuous training

South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maker left the meeting at 4:18pm

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. Public Respect and Responsibility – Draft Policy
3. Ontario Northland Lease Amendment and Proposed Services
4. Joint Health and Safety Minutes June 24, 2026

In regard to 6.1.3 Council discussed proposed temporary parking and is suggesting an alternate plan on Montreal St.

In regard to 6.1.4 Council reviewed the Joint Health and Safety Minutes and discussed the municipal office not having any barriers to stop people that come into the office at the front desk and prevent them from walking into offices.

249-2026 Brooks/O'Hallarn

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 –

2. Community Centre Chief Operator Report June 2026
4. SRM Library Board Meeting Minutes June 25 2026 - Draft

In regard to 6.2.4 Council discussed the South River Machar Library board meeting minutes, discussed there are people not returning to the board and will have spots open on the library board. The SRM Library is also getting a computer program for the computers to clear information. Many people use the computers and do not clear their personal information before leaving the computer.

250-2026 Scott/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 #4 as presented.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --

1. Joint Building Committee June 18 Minutes and June 2026 Statistics
2. Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board Agenda Package
3. Almaguin Highlands OPP 2026 Spring PGO Conference
4. NBPSDHU Board and Property Committee Apr 22 2026 Minutes

251-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

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 2026 Municipal Budget and O Reg 284/09 Report
2. By-law 40-2026-Tax Rate
3. By-law 41-2026 Tax Ratio
4. By-law 42-2026 Renovation 309 HWY 124
5. Resolution Support Halton Hills - Invasive Plant Regulatory Framework
6. Support Town of Plympton-Wyoming - Development Charge Reduction Program
7. Support Municipality of Wawa call for the introduction of "Finlay's Law"

252-2026 Scott/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby recommend the 2026 Budget and appropriate tax by-law be brought forward with an overall tax increase of 3.5%.

Carried

253-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the O-Reg 284/09 Budget 2026 report as presented.

Carried

254-2026 Scott/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# 40-2026, being a by-law to provide for the adoption of tax rates and to further provide for penalty and interest for the year 2026 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

255-2026 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# 41-2026, being a by-law to set 2026 Tax Ratios for the prescribed property classes with the signature of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

256-2026 Scott/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# 42-2026, being a by-law to authorize the Clerk-Administrator and Chief Financial Officer to issue payments for renovations to 309 HWY 124 with the signature of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

257-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support Town of Halton Hills Resolution # 2026-0107 urging the Province to undertake a review and modernization of Ontario's invasive plant regulatory framework; and that this resolution be sent to MPP Graydon Smith, the Town of Halton Hills and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

258-2026 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support Town of Plympton-Wyoming letter of June 15, 2026 urging the Province of Ontario to consider establishing a dedicated program stream for small, rural, and northern municipalities under the Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program and that this resolution be sent to MPP Graydon Smith, the Town of Halton Hills and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

259-2026 Brandt/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Municipality of Wawa Resolution # RC26131 call on the Province of Ontario for the introduction of "Finlay's Law"; and that this resolution be sent to MPP Graydon Smith, the Municipality of Wawa and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. Townships of Armour, Strong, Ryerson, and Machar - OTIF Support
2. ACED Monthly Business Update – June
3. Explorers Edge Newsletter July 2026
4. Labour Market Group June Report and May Jobs
5. Higher Heights Christian Fellowship - Tebby Park Request
6. K Pichoskie -Oak Tree of Love
7. MAHC Political Leaders Forum Meeting Package Jul 9 26
8. MFOA - Permanent Doubling of OCIF Funding
9. Shock Rodz Car Show Poster
10. Village of Burks Falls - Cancer Oncology Clinic
11. CN Safety Week
12. County of Peterborough - Municipal Voters Lists
13. NBPSDHU - Access to Dental Care
14. NBPSDHU - Alcohol at Outdoor Public Events
15. Ontario - Amendments to FIPPA and MFIPPA
16. Town of Whitby - Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal
17. Township of Puslinch - Planning Act Changes Schedule 7 of Bill 119
18. Village of Sundridge - HWY 11 and 17 Road Visibility and Reflective Safety
19. J Bannister - Trailer During Construction
20. Ministry of Northern Economic Development - Collaborative Tourism
21. MMAH Minister Flack – Planning Act: Community Benefits Charges and Parkland
22. Ministry of Energy and Mines – Municipal Energy Plan Review
23. AMO 2025 Annual Report

Council would like to support 8.8, 8.16, and 8.18

260-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the use of Tebby Park by the Higher Heights Christian Fellowship for a picnic on Saturday August 15, 2026.

Carried

261-2026 Scott/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the request to not enforce the trailer by-law restriction at 52 Broadway St. up until December 31, 2026 while a valid building permit is held by the owner.

Carried

262-2026 Scott/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #23.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Councillor Scott shared the staff BBQ event went well and hoped all that came enjoyed it. Canada Day Celebration also went well. Councillor Scott suggested showing pictures of the South River Summer Camp at the HOC to show what the camp offers and many may not be aware of all the activities that take place.

Clerk Administrator McArthur advised Council that he will be away and suggested cancelling July 28, 2026 Council Meeting and the next council meeting be August 11, 2026. The Clerk Administrator shared the Township of Machar did have some suggestions for TV at the Community Center and would discuss it at their next council meeting.

Candice Robertson left the meeting at 6:16pm

10. In Camera –

1. SRM Firefighter Recruit Recommendation

263-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

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 6:16 p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

264-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 6:17 p.m. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.

Carried

265-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

The Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Lynn Cloutier as a Volunteer Firefighter with the South River-Machar Fire Department.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law –

By-law #43-2026

266-2026 Scott/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#43-2026, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 14th day of July 2026 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

267-2026 Brooks/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 August 11, 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: 6:19 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator