

Village of South River
Council Meeting – March 10, 2026

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday March 10, 2026. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn, Councillor Teri Brandt, and Councillor Robert Brooks. Councillor Brenda Scott absent with notice.

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 2:00 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 –

4. Adoption of Minutes – Council Meeting February 24 and Committee of the Whole Meeting February 25, 2026

97-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting February 24th and Committee of the Whole Meeting February 25th 2026 as presented.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports –

1. February 2026 Income Statement and Machine Time
2. February 2026 Cheque EFT and Online Payments

In regard to Accounts and Finance Councillor Brooks inquired about the OCWA monthly invoice amount, noting the amount was less than he was expecting with the amount of the increase from OCWA. The Clerk Administrator responded that the chemical costs are no longer included with the monthly invoice and are now billed quarterly.

98-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance #1 to #2.

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. South River Personnel Committee Minutes February 25, 2026
2. Enbridge Temporary Land Use Request
3. Proposed Zoning Amendments 68 Riverside, Poplar Cres., Mill Rd., and Hunter St.
4. Rural Ontario Development (ROD) Program Application
5. EDO Economic Development Training
6. WTP Award

In regard to 6.1.2 Council discussed Enbridge request for temporary land use. Enbridge would like to clear and use a portion of land next to their lot on Ottawa Ave.

In regard to 6.1.3 Council discuss rezoning lots to R2 to prepare to sell lots and encourage new development in the Village of South River.

99-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the following to facilitate new residential construction;

- 1) zoning amendment at 68 Riverside Ave with reduced frontage, lot size, and side setback,
- 2) the rezoning of 10 and 12 Poplar St from Open Space to Residential R1,
- 3) the area shown on the attached map from Mill Rd to Hwy 124 from Rural to Residential R2.

Carried

100-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the attached application to Rural Ontario Development (ROD) Program.

Carried

101-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

The Council of the Village of South River does hereby recommend that EDO Economic Development Training in the amount of \$3500 be included in the 2026 budget.

Carried

102-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the recommendation of the reviewing committee and award RFP 01-2026 Engineering Services for the South River Water Treatment Plant Upgrades at the upset limit cost of \$179,355 excluding HST to GSS Engineering.

Carried

103-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee report #1 to #6 as presented.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services – Nil

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --

1. Eastholme 2026 Budget and Levy Apportionment Schedule
2. PS EMS Agenda Package and Minutes Feb 26 2026 and 2026 Levy
3. Joint Building Committee February 2026 Statistics

104-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize payment of the Eastholme Home for the Aged 2026 levy in the amount of \$28,991 and be included in the 2026 Budget.

Carried

105-2026 O'Hallarn/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize payment of the Parry Sound EMS 2026 levy in the amount of \$28,786.82 and be included in the 2026 Budget.

Carried

106-2026 Brandt/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 #3

Carried

7. By-Laws and Resolutions –

1. Resolutions - Almaguin Police Services Board Letter and 2026 Budget
2. Resolution – Support Municipality of Highlands East - Affordable Housing
3. Resolution - Support County of Prince Edward - Protect Our Food Act
4. Resolution – Support Municipality of Magnetawan - Bell Fibre Costs
5. Resolution – Support Town of Parry Sound - School Bus Safety
6. Resolution – Support NBPSDHU - Food and Housing Affordability
7. By-law-17-2026 - Appoint Deputy Fire Chief Bart Wood
8. By-law 18-2026 - Enbridge Temporary Land Use

107-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Mayor sending a letter to the Almaguin Highlands Police Services Board outlining cost concerns.

Carried

108-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board 2026 Budget as presented at \$15,397.15 with each municipality paying \$1283.10 and that amount be included in the 2026 budget.

Carried

109-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Municipality of Highlands East Resolution # 2026-63 calling for the removal of GST/HST for all new homes in Ontario in order to assist with housing affordability and the that this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities; And to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, our local MP and MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Municipality of Highlands East.

Carried

110-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the County of Prince Edward Resolution # 2026-32 supporting Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act and the that this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, MPP Graydon Smith and the County of Prince Edward.

Carried

111-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Municipality of Magnetawan - Bell Fibre Resolution 2026-20 urging the Federal government and ISED to strengthen affordability requirements tied to federal broadband funding and universal access programs and this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney, the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, the Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, and the Municipality of Magnetawan.

Carried

112-2026 Brooks/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Mayor of the Town of Parry Sound's February 9, 2026 letter to the Honourable Doug Ford calling on the Province of Ontario to provide municipalities with the necessary funding tools, legislative support, and implementation guidance to advance school bus stop-arm camera systems and complementary child-safety initiatives across Ontario and further that this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, MPP Graydon Smith and the Town of Parry Sound.

Carried

113-2026 Brooks/Brandt

Whereas, improved financial stability allows municipal residents to participate, contribute, and invest in their local economies and communities; and

Whereas, poverty puts additional pressure on municipalities, who are responsible for delivering necessary public and social services to support residents who are struggling with the consequences of inadequate income; and

Whereas, poverty, homelessness and food insecurity have detrimental impacts on physical and mental health; and

Whereas, income is an important social determinant of health that greatly impacts a household's ability to pay for the basic costs of living, including housing and food; and

Whereas, the 2025 North Bay Parry Sound food affordability results show that households reliant on social assistance do not have enough money for the costs of living; and

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Village of South River support efforts to raise awareness about, and work to reduce poverty, homelessness and food insecurity; and

Furthermore Be It Resolved, That the Village of South River endorse the recommendations from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit and call on the Province of Ontario to increase Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates to reflect the costs of living, and index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward; and

Furthermore Be It Resolved, That the Village of South River provide correspondence of these resolutions to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, neighbouring municipalities, Victor Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing), Graydon Smith, MPP (Parry Sound-Muskoka), John Vanthof, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane), the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community and Social Services), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), Pauline Rochefort, MP (Nipissing-Timiskaming), Scott Aitchison, MP (Parry Sound-Muskoka), District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB), District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSAB), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH).

Carried

114-2026 Brandt/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# 17-2026, being a by-law to confirm the appointment of Bart Wood to the position of Deputy Fire Chief of the South River Machar Fire Department with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

115-2026 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# 18-2026, being a by-law to authorize the Clerk-Administrator to enter into a temporary land use agreement with Enbridge Gas Inc on the property at PCL 5420 SEC NS; PT LT 9 CON 3 MACHAR AS IN LT31069; S/T LT40268, LT97015;in Machar Township to facilitate upgrades to the natural gas infrastructure with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. Almaguin Gazelles - Letter
2. Hydro 1 - Sudbury Barrie Transmission Line Project Announcement
3. Michel D'Amours - Return of Ontario Northland Railroad
4. Higher Heights Christian Fellowship - 25 Montreal Parking
5. AHCC March 2026 Newsletter
6. Labour Market February 2026 - January 2026 Jobs Report
7. OPP Board James Bay East - Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario
8. City of Sarnia - Mayoral Authority and Municipal Police Budget Sustainability
9. Township of McNab Braeside- Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

In regard to 8.2 Council discussed the Hydro one Sudbury Barrie Transmission Line Project announcement.

In regard to 8.4 Council discussed the Higher Hights Christian Fellowships inquiry in regard to parking at 25 Montreal. Council discussed the limited possibilities for uses now that a septic system has been installed on the property.

Council supports 8.7

116-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #9.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Councillor Brooks discussed the water issues in communities around us. Noth Bay by the airport having contamination and Verner constructing a pipeline to bring in water in from Cache Bay. Rama is also having issues with water.

Deputy Mayor O’Hallarn noted the Province came to a decision on Conservation Authorities. This will amalgamate the province's 36 existing conservation authorities into nine regional, watershed-based authorities. There will be a transition period that will start after the municipal election. With the new, consolidated structure expected to be fully operational by early 2027. Mayor Coleman inquired if the Joint Building Committee will look at local septic permits.

Mayor Coleman shared he stopped in at the train station and the new tenants are in and very happy. They are continuing to set up their business. Mayor Coleman added that Public Works crew has been doing a great job keeping the snow and water off the streets.

Clerk Administrator McArthur reviewed dates for upcoming meetings. The Joint Council Meeting March 18 at 6:30 pm, the Public Works meeting is moved to March 22 at 2 pm and the Train Station meeting is moved to March 20 at 10 am.

Mayor Coleman asked if anyone was interested in attending the announcement for the ONR in North Bay Friday March 13th. He was invited and can not attend. Councillor Brooks said he would be interested in going depending on weather.

Candice Robertson left the meeting at 3:40pm

10. In Camera –

1. 281 HWY 124 – Sale of Property
2. 309 HWY 14 – Long Term Lease

117-2026 O’Hallarn/Brandt

Be it Resolved that this meeting of the Village of South River Council be closed under Subsection 239. (b) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipal or local board purposes and that this Council proceed in Camera at 3:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

118-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 4:41 p.m. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.

Carried

119-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Clerk-Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Parry Sound EMS for the renovation and use of 309 HWY 124 as per the terms attached.

Carried

120-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Clerk Administrator to counter off to 100040633 Ontario Inc with the terms as discussed in-camera.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #19-2026

121-2026 Brandt/Brooks

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# 19-2026, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 10th day of March 2026 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

122-2026 Brandt/Brooks

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, March 24th, 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: 4:54p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator