

Village of South River
Council Meeting – May 13, 2025

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday May 13, 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

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 April 22, 2025

143-2025 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting April 22nd 2025 as presented.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports

1. April 2025 Income Statement and Machine Time
2. April 2025 Cheque EFT and Online Payments
3. Marsh Insurance Volunteer Firefighter Proposal

144-2025 O’Hallarn/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the renewal of the Volunteer Firefighters Insurance with Marsh Insurance at an annual premium of \$3808.

Carried

145-2025 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 #3.

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. OTIF Draft Application Form
2. OCWA South River 2025 Q1 Operations Report
3. Train Station Committee Minutes April 23 2025
4. South River Accessibility Plan 2025 Draft

In regard to 6.1.1 Council reviewed the OTIF Draft Application for the potential rideshare program in the Village of South River.

In regard to 6.1.2 Council discussed the OCWA Q1 report Operations Report.

In regard to 6.1.3 Council reviewed the Train Station Committee Minutes. Discussing the repair status, commercial space available and holding an open house July 1st from 11-3.

146-2025 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support an application to the Ontario Transit Investment Fund for a rural ride sharing pilot project as presented.

Carried

147-2025 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the review and revised changes to the South River Accessibility Plan 2020 and adopt the new plan, South River Accessibility Plan 2025 as presented.

Carried

148-2025

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

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services

1. SRM Arena Construction General Review #2 and 3.
2. SRM Library Board Meeting Minutes Apr 17 and CEO Letter

In regard to 6.2.1 Council reviewed the SMR Arena. Discussing the construction being on schedule, cement was poured and will be ready to start cooling in June.

In regard to 6.2.2 Council discussed the minutes from the SRM Library Board and suggesting the Village of South River and the Township of Machar donate money to the library to help support the library update their computers. Noting that residents rely on the library to have computers and printer available as more forms are only available online and not everyone has access to a computer at home. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur suggested the possibility of donating the municipal office computers as the Village updates computers.

149-2025 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 #2.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --

1. Central Almaguin Planning Board Minutes Jan 9 and Feb 5, 2025
2. ACED Director April Report, March 27 Minutes, and Visit Schedule
3. Joint Building Committee April 2025 Statistics

150-2025 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 #3.

Carried

7. By-Laws and Resolutions –

1. Resolution – Support – Oppose Strong Mayor Powers
2. Resolution – Support Prince Edward County - Ontario Work Assistance Rates

151-2025 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby oppose the proposed “Strong Mayor Powers” as provided for by Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001, to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities, and that this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford and MPP Graydon Smith.

Carried

152-2025 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does support Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Committee resolution to increase Ontario Works rates to match the ODSP rate increases that have already been made and be indexed to inflation;
And further commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen; and this resolution be sent to Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Committee and MPP Graydon Smith.**

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. Good Happenings Food Bank Challenge
2. Higher Heights Parking Request

3. O'Hallarn - Thank you
4. AHSS Hockey Academy - Spring Ice
5. Women's Own Resource - Support
6. Village of Sundridge - Advocacy for Increased Seniors and Aged Care Housing
7. MPAC Financial Statements 2024
8. AHCC Newsletter – May 2025
9. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare Minutes Advocacy Policy and Press Releases
10. Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team (MAOHT)
11. Almaguin Pride Flag Request
12. AHHC Draft Minutes May 2025
13. Town of Georgina - Salt Management Resolution
14. C. Balesdent - BESS Facility
15. City of Richmond Hill - Exotic Animals
16. Town of Parry Sound - Inclusive Research to Reflect Diversity of Canadian Communities
17. Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan - Daylight Savings Time
18. Township of Springwater - Redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax

In regard to 8.1 Council discussed making a donation to help offset the rent costs for the food bank.

In regard to 8.2 Council supports adding a additional accessible parking spot in front of the Higher Heights Church.

In regard to 8.13 Council suggest bringing forward at the Public Works Committee Meeting.

Council indicated support for items 8.6 and 8.18 to be brought forward at the next meeting.

153-2025 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support Women's Own Resource with a 2025 municipal contribution of \$550.50 representing \$0.50 per resident.

Carried

154-2025 Brandt/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #18.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Councilor Brenda Scott inquired when the Porta Potties would be placed back at the parks. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur responded they are being received this week. They are in place May 15- October 15.

Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn said he has received complaints on property standards and why some things slide. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur responded that they need to fill out a compliant form and bring to office, and we would act on them promptly.

Councillor Robert Brooks inquired on the property for sale on Main St, saying he seen an excavator digging. Council replied the lot next to it has sold and is the property that has the excavator. Councillor Brooks also asked for an update on the Brewery location and the RFP for the water Treatment Plant. There has been no change since last meeting on the status of the Brewery and there are 3 interested in the RFP for Water Treatment Plant and closes June 2.

Councillor Teri Brandt inquired if the Township of Machar agreed to grade the parking lot at the Arena. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur responded they did and it will be done once inside construction is complete. Councillor Brandt also inquired if you need a permit to put in a driveway on your own property. Council responded they would need to fill out the Public Works Form to request a driveway and the Chief Public Works Operator approves the work.

Mayor Jim Coleman asked for an update on 18 Isabella - Clerk Administrator Don McArthur responded that people are actively looking at the property and it is a private sale.

Clerk Administrator Don McArthur asked the Recreation Committee Members if they were available for a Recreation Meeting on June 19.

10. In Camera – Nil

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #21-2025

155-2025 O’Hallarn/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# 21-2025, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 13th day of May 2025 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

156-2025 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, May 27th, 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: 4:41 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator