

Village of South River
Council Meeting – April 28, 2026

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday April 28, 2026. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn, Councillor Teri Brandt, Councillor Brenda Scott, 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
Tanvir Kabir, Economic Development Officer – In Person

Guests: J. Whitelock – Shock Rodz Car Club
William Taylor – Makwa Xtrax Ltd

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 –
Councillor Brenda Scott – Item 3.2 Production of Oils

3. Delegation and Public Meeting –

1. J Whitelock – Shock Rodz Car Club
2. William P. Taylor-Makwa Xtrax Ltd

In regard to 3.1 J. Whitelock shared the Northern National Car Show is July 18 2026 and is coming together well. The Northern National Car Show will require the same detour as last year. Shock Rodz is bring in extra garbage cans and porta potties for the event and everything will run very similar to last year. J. Whitelock shared with Council that she is working on a list of Air BnB's and motels in the area and last year guest stayed from North Bay to Huntsville. The Weekly car show will move to Tom Thomson Park and will be 4 Thursdays in July and will be called Hot July Nights. Will have food vendors and believe with the larger space the weekly July show could become something large. Shock Rodz will have a section caution taped off and if the need to they will open another section as the show grows as needed. Spectators can park at the boat lunch parking lot for the weekly show and will be from 5pm – 8:30pm July 2, 9, 23, and 30. There will not be a weekly show the week of the Northern National Show.

J. Whitelock left the meeting at 2:18pm

Councillor Scott declared pecuniary interest in regard to 3.2 due to production of oils being part of her own business and left the Council Chamber for the presentation.

In regard to 3.2 W. Taylor presented his business botanical extracts, requesting we place a 30 day hold to the agreement with EMS for the Brewery Building. W. Taylor explained the extraction process briefly and explained why the Brewery location is the ideal location for his business being food grade and CO2 certified, has the correct hydro amperage and the square footage. Requesting Council would put a 30 day hold on the EMS agreement for him to put the numbers together with our Economic Development Officer to show the possibilities for this business in the Village and what it can bring to the Village. Council asked why this location and why not the breweries available in North Bay. Council stated a commitment with EMS has been signed with new health services being brought into the Village of South River that are needed.

W. Taylor left the meeting at 2:41pm
Councillor Scott returned to the Council Chamber.

4. Adoption of Minutes – Council April 14, 2026

168-2026 Scott/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting April 14th as presented.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance
5.1 Accounts Reports – Nil

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. Economic Development Officer April 2026 Report

In regard to 6.1.1 the Economic Development Officer (EDO) reviewed his economic report with Council. Discussing accommodation for star gazing in Tom Thomson Park. Looking at quotes from Bunkies Guys and North Country Sheds for the possibility 10 bunkies. Council discussed how they could have an impact on the Village and the park and should have community discussion. Council had questions who would take care of them and manage them when there are issues. The EDO and Council discussed permanent bathrooms at the park to support the increase usage with growing tourism and events. The EDO is working on receiving 3 quotes for septic, foundation and plumbing.

Council discussed the signage project for the Train cut out. The cut out is ready and needs a location. Council discussed the possibility of putting it at the back of the station once the Northlander starts for people to take their picture when they get off the train. Council discussed safety issues with children crossing the tracks to see the cut-out signage and agreed till the Northlander started the temporary spot should be by the community gardens and skate park.

The EDO reviewed the rideshare program and that it has been 1 yr since applying for OTIF grant and the Village has had no response and looking into alternative options. The EDO is also working on updating the South River Website and getting the number of people that visit the website. In addition to working on the Star Gazing designation process for the Tom Thomson Park by getting the light reading for the application to become a designated Dark Sky Park. The EDO suggested purchasing a telescope for the park that is beginner friendly and can hold events 3-4 times a year for stargazing. Can have organized groups to educate and have a partnership with the North Bay astronomy club.

6.2 Reports from Shared Services –

3. South River Machar Recreation Director Report for April 2026

The South River Machar Recreation Director (SRMRD) shared the Dance program has started and the first night was very successful. The program had a lot of interest and sold out. Discussing the option of holding a gala night at the end of the 8 weeks with the instructor.

The SRMRD received interest from someone who wants to start a guitar program and give lessons in the Village and working on getting more information. Soccer registration is coming soon and reaching out to Townsuite to set up the event for parents to register online like they do for Summer Camp. This year the process for registration for Summer Camp has been much simpler and select weeks and age groups are filling up.

169-2026 Scott/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the purchase of Celestron Star Sense Explorer LT 127AZ telescope with an approximate cost of \$259.99 plus shipping and taxes.

Carried

Tanvir Kabir left the meeting at 3:46pm

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

2. Public Works Committee Minutes April 21, 2026
3. Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Kickoff Meeting Minutes April 8 2026

In regard to 6.1.2 Council discussed the Public Works Minutes recommending a new steamer and the rental a Hot Box with the pothole prevention grant and to start replacing curb stops, many don't work. Chief Public Works Operator is preparing a plan to repair a cluster of them and we will work toward repairing them.

170-2026 O'Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Public Works Committee recommendation for an approximately \$17,000 curb stop replacement program, \$22,295 including HST for a new steamer, and Hot Box rental and associated materials in the amount of \$16,250 be included in the 2026 budget and these cost be offset by the Pothole Prevention Grant.

Carried

171-2026 Brandt/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee report #1 to #3 as presented.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services –

1. South River Machar Fire Chief Report for April 2026
2. South River Machar Community Centre Chief Operator Report March 2026

172-2026 Brandt/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 to #3.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --

1. Emergency Management Program Committee Minutes April 16, 2026
2. Emergency Management Program Committee – Emergency Information Plan

173-2026 Scott/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the joint Emergency Information Plan as recommended by the Emergency Management Program Committee.

Carried

174-2026 O'Hallarn/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 #2

Carried

7. By-Laws and Resolutions –

1. Resolution – 2026 Election Recount Policy
2. By-Law-27-2026-Advance-Poll-Dates
3. By-law-28-2026- Restrictive Period Delegation of Authority
4. By law 29-2026 - Joint Audit Compliance Committee
5. By-law 30-2026 - Sale of Property 281 Hwy 124
6. By-law 31-2026 – Mortgage 281 HWY 124

175-2026 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the 2026 Election Recount Policy as presented.

Carried

176-2026 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# 27-2026, being a by-law to set the advance poll dates for the 2026 municipal and school board election with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

177-2026 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# 28-2026, being a by-law to delegate authority during a restrictive election period with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

178-2026 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# 29-2026, being a by-law to appoint the Joint Audit Compliance Committee for the 2026 municipal and school board election with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

179-2026 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#30-2026, being a by-law to enter into a sale agreement for the property at 281 HWY 124 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the

corporate seal affixed.

Carried

180-2026 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#31-2026, being a by-law to enter into a mortgage agreement for the property at 281 HWY 124 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. Almaguin Adult Learning Retirement
2. District of Parry Sound Municipal Association Agenda Spring 2026
3. Explorers Edge April Newsletter
4. FONOM 2026 Conference Schedule
5. Green Trails Ontario - Launch
6. Hope Air - Support Request 7. MECP -Improving Conservation Authorities
7. Municipality of Magnetawan - Huntsville Cancer Clinic
8. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit's April 22 Minutes
9. Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
10. Municipal Engineers Association Comments to MTO Regulatory Registry
11. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing -Stormwater Fees Regulations
12. Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks – Waste Disposal Sites
13. MNEDG Tourism Campaign - South River Photos
14. MPP Graydon Smith - Family Health Team Announcement
15. MECP-Proposed EA Act Amendments
16. Township of Ramara Resolution - Intimate Partner Violence
17. Ontario Energy Board - MFA Intervention Extension
18. Explorers Edge - Women In Tourism 2026
19. Northwatch - NWMO Transportation
20. AHHC Minutes March 5 2026

Council would like to support 8.6 and 8.7.

181-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the attendance of all of Council, Clerk Administrator, and CFO to the spring meeting of the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association meeting on May 29, 2026 and expenses be paid as per Village policy.

Carried

182-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the use of Ottawa Ave at approximately 11:40 am on June 3, 2026 from the South River Train Station to the South River Public School located at 137 Ottawa Avenue for the Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run in support of Special Olympics.

Carried

183-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #20.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Councillor Scott shared her concern with the closing of the access point at Round Lake changing to online and will no longer have a people working at the that entrance. Council would like to write a letter expression their concern.

Deputy Mayor O'Hallarn noted the kids on the dirt bikes are back and being unsafe on the roads. The Clerk administrator noted that By-law is working with the police. Deputy Mayor O'Hallarn also inquired about the document of the restricted use of the park with the Ministry of Environment.

Mayor Coleman noted there is a commercial lot and residential home that appear to be in violation of the property standards by-law and should be investigated.

Councillor Brooks inquired on a update if there is any progress with the Restaurant at the Shell station. Mayor Coleman replied he had heard it was held up with the insurance.

Councillor Brandt inquired about the empty building in the downtown core. Councillor Brandt continued with the homeless seminar she attended and inquired about deferred taxes for a period of time to make empty buildings into multi res to have more housing in the Village. Mayor Coleman added their other empty buildings on Ottawa that could be an option for more housing.

Clerk Administrator McArthur asked if May 13 was good date for the recreation meeting.

Candice Robertson left the meeting at 5:20pm

10. In Camera –

1. 281 HWY 124 Sale of Property
2. 283 HWY 124 Disposal of Property
3. Don Ivens Memorial Award

184-2026 Brandt/Brooks

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 5:20 pm for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.
Carried

185-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 5:42 pm with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.
Carried

186-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the severance of 24 metres frontage by approximately 27 metres depth from the property 253 HWY 124 (CON 2 PT LOT 4 RP 42R12172;PART 1 RP 42R12194 PART 3 PT;PCL 6256 NS) to be attached to 281 HWY124 (CON 2 PT LOT 4 RP 42R12194;PART 2 PCL 17100 NS) for the purpose of sale with 281 HWY 124 as per the sketch attached.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #32-2026

187-2026 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# 32-2026, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 28th day of April 2026 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

188-2026 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, May 12th, 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: 5:50 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator