Village of South River

Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 11, 2016

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 in the South River Council Chambers. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman and Councillors Sharon Smith, Doug Sewell, Teri Brandt and Les Mahon.

**Staff in Attendance**: Sherri Hawthorne; Treasurer

Susan L. Arnold; Clerk Administrator

**Public in Attendance**: John Santarossa, Economic Development Officer, CAEDA

Terry Fagan, Jeff West and Shawn Fagan arrived at 5:35 p.m.

**1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Coleman at 5:30 p.m.

**2.** **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

None Declared

**3. Guests & Deputations** – John Santarossa reviewed the Business Retention and Expansion report which was recently completed. The Almaguin Chamber of Commerce will be arranging to speak to each Council regarding the report’s results. The report cited four (4) common regional challenges:

1. WORKFORCE

The region’s labour market poses a number of challenges which include the potential labour force as either inexperienced or needs preparation for the workplace, a lack of awareness about the career opportunities in the region and the need for relevant training.

1. EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES

While several respondents of the survey intend to expand their operations within the next 18 months, many of them indicated that they are

facing challenges with respect to real estate including the ability to find readily available information about land and buildings for sale/lease

within the region as well as appropriate and affordable options to meet their expansion needs. In addition, several respondents indicated a lack of knowledge regarding funding programs available to support their expansions. Furthermore, many businesses throughout the region

expressed challenges related to over-regulation (i.e. red tape) associated with all government levels and the lack of municipal support for various business start-up and expansion opportunities.

1. SUCCESSION / EXIT PLANNING

A large percentage of survey respondents indicated that they have no succession or exit plan. This may result in the loss of businesses and consequentially, a loss of jobs, services and tax base within the region.

1. REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Survey respondents were unaware about or had no contact with organizations that are available to assist with business development, research, programs, networking opportunities and workshops, events, seminars. Awareness, understanding and cooperation among municipalities and organizations within the region must be improved to ensure clear communication among stakeholders, regional unity, efficiency and to avoid unnecessary redundancy.

Council thanked John for his time and John Santarossa left the meeting at 5:50

Although Mr. Fagan was not scheduled to speak Council permitted a few minutes for him to speak on behalf of Mr. Allen Sohm whose property, located at 295 Highway 124, South River, Ontario and 291 Highway 124, South River, Ontario, has been advertised for Tax Sale. Mr. Sohm had been into the office earlier in the day to say he would not be in attendance at the meeting but Terry Fagan would be there to discuss his situation. Mr. Fagan cited the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, Section 382.(6) (a), (b) and (c) whereby the Treasurer may halt the tax sale proceedings. Mr. Fagan advised Council it will be placing a hardship on the business owners, its employees and their families and the community if the tax sale proceeds. As Mr. Sohm was not present and only provided his verbal approval for Mr. Fagan to speak on his behalf the Council could not discuss specifics about Mr. Sohm’s account at a public meeting except to say Mr. Sohm has had over four years with various deadlines to come into the municipal office to discuss his situation with the Treasurer and this has not happened until now. Nor has he responded to correspondence from the municipal lawyer. The Village’s solicitor, Robert Niemi, has provided Mr. Sohm with a registered letter confirming the tax sale would continue.

Terry Fagan, Jeff West and Shawn Fagan left the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

**4.** **Adoption of Minutes**

229-2016 Mahon/Smith

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the minutes of Monday, September 26, 2016, as printed.**

Carried

**5. Accounts**

230-2016 Sewell/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the following reports:**

**1) Income Statement to September 30, 2016**

**2) Cheques From September 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016**

Carried

231-2016 Smith/Sewell

**WHEREAS access to affordable and reliable broadband networks is an important part of everyday life; and**

**WHEREAS communities outside urban centers face challenges in accessing internet service levels comparable to those in cities due to factors such as remote location and challenging terrain; and**

**WHEREAS numerous Broadband projects were delayed in 2015 and then cancelled by FedNor in 2016 in favour of waiting for the national Connecting Canadians Broadband funding criteria to be announced; and**

**WHEREAS many of the cancelled Broadband projects already had committed NOHFC and Internet Service Provider partner funding and although backbone and institutional connectivity is crucial for a modern digital economy, the last mile opportunity that existed in these projects that have been cancelled is equally as important; and**

**WHEREAS FedNor’s mandate is to support regional collaboration that will enhance community economic development, business growth, competitiveness and innovation; and**

**WHEREAS access to Broadband is key to economic, educational, social and health development; now**

**THEREFORE the Corporation of the Village of South River requests that because FedNor has developed a strong network of Broadband advocates and local Northern Ontario intelligence, that the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development reviews the decision that no longer permits FedNor to fund Broadband initiatives and that the Broadband projects that have been cancelled all across Northern Ontario be reinstated and reviewed for potential funding.**

Carried

**6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees**

232-2016 Sewell/Smith

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Blue Sky Net partnership with MNRF to purchase the imagery for all participating municipalities at once and approve the signing of the Sub License Agreement between Blue Sky Net and MNRF with the cost based on $3.49 per sq. km plus cost of the sub-licensed products being $21.77, in accordance with the rates per sq. km as defined in the Participant Agreement and is subject to adjustment as provided in Section 2.2 and Section 2.3 of the Participant Agreement.**

Carried

233-2016 Mahon/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the Municipal Staff Reports: Agenda Items #1 to #4.**

Carried

**6.2 Reports from Joint Committees**

Members of the various joint committees provided council with an update on committee activities.

234-2016 Mahon/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Joint Committee Reports Item #1 and #2.**

Carried

**6.3 Reports from Regional Committees - Nil**

**7. Correspondence - Nil**

**8.**  **Council Information Update**

* **The new multi-unit municipal building was given its Occupancy Permit on Friday, September 30, 2016**
* **The smaller building located at 309 Ottawa Avenue is near completion.**
* **With many of the larger projects coming to an end the municipal staff will dedicate time to completing the new website prior to the Christmas break.**
* **Shawn Brown has agreed to providing snow removal services for the 2016/2017 winter season at the municipal office and library.**
* **Jamie Payne accepted the offer of employment and has returned to the position of Arena Manager. His first day was October 3, 2016.**
* **The “Ripples” newsletter was mailed on Friday, October 7, 2016.**
* **Budget Worksheets will be forwarded to department heads and committees are strongly encouraged to begin discussions regarding capital requirements and plans for the upcoming year.**
* **Councillor Brandt announced “Christmas in the Village” has been scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2016.**
* **Doug Sewell and Teri Brandt attended the Sundridge/Strong Culture & Rec Committee meeting on October 6, 2016 where the possibility of joining together to plan a larger event in 2017 was discussed.**
* **Councillor Smith advised the Almaguin Chamber of Commerce General Meeting will take place in the event room of the Highlander Brew Co on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**

**9.** **In Camera – Nil**

**10. By-laws – Nil**

**11**. **Confirming By-law**

235-2016 Brandt/Mahon

**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#30-2016 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 11th day of October, 2016 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12**. **Adjournment**

236-2016 Smith/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby adjourn to meet again as the South River Council on Monday, October 24th, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the South River Council Chambers located at 63 Marie Street or at the call of the Mayor. Time of Adjournment: 7:53 p.m.**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Susan L. Arnold, Clerk Administrator**