

Village of South River  
Council Meeting – April 25, 2022

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Monday April 25, 2022. A quorum was present. In attendance were Deputy Mayor Doug Sewell (Chairing in person in Council chambers), Councilor Bill O’Hallarn (in person in Council chambers) and Councilors Teri Brandt and Brenda Scott (virtual). Mayor Jim Coleman was absent with notice.

**Staff in Attendance:** Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person  
Sherri Hawthorne, CFO – Virtual  
Janet Wedseltoft, CFO In Training – Virtual  
Kristen Greig, Administrative Assistant – Virtual

**Guests:** Rocco Frangione, Media – Virtual  
Al. Bottomley, Almaguin Climate Group – In Person

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Doug Sewell at 5:30 p.m.

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

**3. Delegation and Public Meeting**

1. Almaguin Climate Group
2. Public Meeting Rezoning 15 Grant Court – Accessory Dwelling Unit

Regarding item 3.1.1: Almaguin Climate Group member, Al Bottomley, warned that Canada has been affected by climate change since the early 1990’s and that Canada’s carbon output has been increasing every year since the Kyoto Agreement was signed in 1997. Mr. Bottomley then referred to the problematic weather patterns carving a destructive path around the world highlighting recent extreme weather events and the refugee problems these events create. He noted the lack of progress in regard to the federal government environmental action plan. In response to this, Almaguin Climate Group urges local communities to discontinue the use of fossil fuels and encourage the use of electric vehicle technology. The Group asked council for a resolution stating that there is a climate emergency, with the intention to create a plan to be non-reliant on fossil fuels within ten to thirteen years. Council was not opposed to making a plan; however more information was requested before making further decisions. While Council agrees with the aim of reducing the use of fossil fuels it had concerns about whether it will be practical or fiscally responsible to completely eliminate their use by 2035 as requested by Almaguin Climate Action.

There were no submissions regarding Item 3.1.2 The Public Meeting Rezoning 15 Grant Court for an accessory dwelling unit other than the applicant. The rezoning is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement Village and South River policy in regard to an accessory dwelling unit.

Al Bottomley left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

113-2022 Scott/O’Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting on April 11, 2022 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. Joint Health and Safety Committee Minutes April 7, 2022
2. Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes April 21, 2022
3. Canada Summer Jobs Approval
4. ICIP Green Stream 2021 Approval

Discussion of item 6.1.1 Joint Health and Safety Committee Minutes April 7, 2022 noted that the committee is well on the way to developing detailed policies and procedures.

Discussion of item 6.1.2 Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes April 21, 2022 highlighted the ongoing watermain project and noted the delay in the crosswalk installation on Eagle Lake due to this project. The temporary water plan submitted to GSS will be reviewed and once accepted the construction will continue. Council discussed the Alternate Locate Agreement with Lakeland Energy and accepted the recommendation to enter into an agreement via by-law. Council noted the depth of fibre optic installations and that installations are usually on private property.

Regarding item 6.1.3 Canada Summer Jobs Approval: The Village of South River applied for funding for two summer positions but was only approved for one summer position. Council raised health and safety concerns over a single applicant doing outdoor and physical work alone. The matter will be discussed further amongst staff and council.

Regarding item 6.1.4 ICIP Green Stream 2021 Approval: Council is pleased the Village will receive funding for a further watermain rehabilitation project and the replacement of the high lift pump at the water treatment plant. This project will not commence until the current watermain project is completed. Discussion included the financing implications of our portion of the price of the project.

114-2022 O'Hallarn/Brandt

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

Carried

## **6.2 Reports from Shared Services**

1. Chief Arena Operator Report for March 2022
2. South River Machar Fire Department Chief Report April 2022

Discussion of item 6.2.1 Chief Arena Operator Report for March 2022 described the kitchen renovations with new cupboards being ordered and new flooring to be installed.

Discussion of item 6.2.2 South River Machar Fire Department Chief Report April 2022 noted that the province went ahead with the certification legislation. Council is concerned with the increased costs associated with the certification requirement, particularly compensation for the extra time required by volunteers. It was also noted that our Fire Department uses some volunteers on a specialist basis but the new requirements will require all volunteers to have a basic certificate for all facets of training This may cause staffing issues in the future.

115-2022 Brandt/Scott

**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. ACED March Director's Report
2. PSDSSAB April Quarterly Report

Discussion of item 6.3.1 ACED March Director's Report focused on the Village's partnership with ACED and the benefit of working with an organization focused on marketing; an area in which the Village has limited expertise and resources.

Discussion of item 6.3.2 PSDSSAB April Quarterly Report highlighted that there are still subsidized apartments available at The Meadow View in Powassan

116-2022 Scott/O'Hallarn

**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. Correspondence**

1. Minister of Solicitor General – Firefighter Certification
2. Premier Ford – Ontario Northland
3. Ministry Environment Conservation & Parks-Letter to Drinking Water Owners
4. Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Avian Flu Update
5. AMO Policy Update – Fire Certification
6. Town of Halton Hills – Build it Right the First Time
7. Peterborough – Report on Floating Accommodations
8. Emergency Management – Chief's Emergency Planning Week
9. Grey Highlands – HST Rebate New Homes
10. Lake of Bays – Floating Accommodations
11. Town of Gravenhurst – Floating Accommodations
12. Town of Gravenhurst – Russian Sanctions
13. Town of Mulmur – More Homes for Everyone Act Resolution

Regarding Item 7.1 Minister of Solicitor General – Firefighter Certification: Council deferred discussion until they can hear from Fire Chief Maki.

Regarding Item 7.2 Premier Ford – Ontario Northland: Council acknowledged the proposed reinstatement of railroad service to Northern Ontario and the potential stop in South River and looks forward to the release of further details.

Regarding Item 7.3 Ministry Environment Conservation & Parks – Letter to Drinking Water Owners: Council noted that OCWA manages our drinking water system and requested more information about OCWA's cyber security as it relates to the Village.

Discussion of Item 7.4 Canadian Food Inspection Agency- Avian Flu Update referenced the increasing number of chicken coops on residential properties in the Village. Council proposed that staff post a copy of the letter to the Village of South River Facebook page and Website.

Regarding Item 7.6 Town of Halton Hills – Build it Right the First Time: Council discussed the potential outcomes for exceeding building codes and the problems that can come from this process.

Regarding Item 7.7 Peterborough – Report on Floating Accommodations: The Village has not had any problems with this issue at this point but felt it could become a problem in the future. Council notes that offshore accommodations would not be subject to Village By-laws and felt the province should be creating regulations to cover this area.

Regarding Item 7.8 Emergency Management – Chief's Emergency Planning Week: Council recommend staff include the emergency planning week information and Code Red in the latest addition of Ripples.

Regarding Item 7.9 Grey Highlands – HST Rebate New Homes: Council agreed that the current \$450,000 maximum eligible construction cost for the HST rebate is too low and supported raising the threshold in principle.

Regarding Item 7.12 Town of Gravenhurst – Russian Sanctions: Council agrees that the situation in Ukraine is unfair and appalling but feels that sanctions by the Village of South River would have no impact.

117-2022 O'Hallarn/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the council of the Village of South River does hereby**

receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #13.

Carried

## **8. Council Roundtable**

Councilor O'Hallarn reported that the Train Station Committee is taking the initial steps towards refurbishing the Station. Members will be removing displays from the museum portion of the building to a safe storage site. One of the major decisions still to be made is whether to build a stand alone washroom building or build washrooms in the existing structure.

Councilor Brandt reminded Council that medical equipment such as walkers and wheelchairs are available for loan to those in need. The equipment is stored at the Medical Centre and residents are to contact Linda Flowers to arrange for an item. Council suggested that the loan cupboard be highlighted in an upcoming edition of Ripples.

Councilor Scott had concerns regarding the covers over the fibre optic hubs throughout the village, noting that some were damaged or out of place. It was reported that liability for any injury would be the responsibility of Lakeland. It was unclear whether Lakeland regularly inspects the covers or whether Public Works should report any damaged ones they note. Lakeland is looking at replacing some covers with more sturdy ones.

Councilor Scott also questioned how the Village is planning to thank those who submitted photos for the Banner Project. Possibilities were discussed and it was also recommended that a public Thank you and personal note be done when the banners are ready for installation.

Chief Financial Officer Hawthorne noted that one new crossing guard has been hired on a casual part time basis. The Village is still looking for at least one more.

Rocco Frangione left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Kristen Greig left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

## **9. In Camera**

1. Machar Shared Services

118-2022 Brandt/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting of the Village of South River Council be closed under Subsection 239. (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board (and that this Council proceed in Camera at 6:58 p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.**

Carried

119-2022 Scott/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourns the closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 7:36 p.m. with Deputy Mayor Doug Sewell as Chair.**

Carried

## **10. By-laws and Resolutions**

1. By-law 16-2022 NOHFC Contribution Agreement
2. By-law 17-2022 Election 2022 Municipal Resources
3. By-law 18-2022 Zoning Exemption 15 Grant Crt. Accessory Unit

120-2022 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 #16-2022, being a by-law to enter into an agreement with the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund for the capital improvements to the train station with the signatures of the Deputy Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

121-2022 Brandt/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 #17-2022, being a by-law to regulate the use of municipal resources during municipal elections with the signatures of the Deputy Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

122-2022 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 #18-2022, being a by-law to permit an accessory dwelling unit at 15 Grant Court with the signatures of the Deputy Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**11. Confirming By-law**

123-2022 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# 19-2022, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 25th day of April 2022 with the signatures of the Deputy Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12. Adjournment**

124-2022 Brandt/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby adjourn to meet again as the South River Council on May 9, 2022 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: 7:40 p.m.**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator**