

Village of South River  
Council Meeting – June 26, 2023

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Monday June 26, 2023. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councillor Teri Brandt, Councillor Brenda Scott in person and Councillor Robert Brooks (Virtual).

**Staff in Attendance:** Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person  
Janet Wedseltoft, Chief Financial Officer – In person  
Allister Johnston, Administrative Assistant – In person

1. **Call to Order** - The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Coleman at 5:30pm.

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

3. **Delegation and Public Meeting** – Grant Thornton – 2022 Financial Statements

In regards to Item 3 - Grant Thornton – 2022 Financial Statements Council heard from Grant Thornton Representative Judy Kleinhuis regarding Audits performed on Arena, Fire, Trust Funds, and consolidated for the Village. Ms. Kleinhuis noted all were a clean audit opinion.

*Grant Thornton representative Judy Kleinhuis leaves meeting at 6:09PM*

203-2023 Scott/O’Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the Consolidated financial statements, the South River Machar Arena financial statements, the South River Machar Fire Department financial statements and the Trust Funds financial statements for 2022 as presented by Grant Thornton.**

Carried

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

204-2023 O’Hallarn/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting June 12, 2023 as amended.**

Carried

5. **Accounts and Finance**

**5.1 Accounts Reports**

1. 2023 Municipal Budget
2. OREG 284-09 2023 Report and Calculations

In discussion of Item 5.1.1 2023 Municipal Report Budget Council discussed the increase of 5.5% and its impact on residents. Council also discussed the challenge the water department has as rising costs and system improvements will continue to put upward pressure on water bills. Council noted that South River’s budget is in line with neighboring municipalities.

Regarding Item 5.1.2 OREG 284-09 2023 Report and Calculations Council notes the positive impact of grants for the Village for capital projects. Council also requested that depreciation sheets and the Asset Management Plan be reviewed for all Village equipment at least annually.

205-2023 Brandt/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the 2023 Municipal Budget as presented with a 5.5% overall tax increase.**

Carried

206-2023 O’Hallarn/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the O-Reg 284/09 Budget 2023 report as presented.**

Carried

207-2023 Brandt/Scott

**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. 2023 Strategic Plan and Welcome Newsletter
2. Waste Connection 2024 Extension
3. Foodcycle Update
4. Public Works Meeting Minutes June 22, 2023

Regarding Item 6.1.1 Council discusses Newsletter and agrees it is an appealing Newcomers Newsletter. Council approved the strategic plan and notes they should renew both Newsletter and Plan annually.

In discussion to Item 6.1.2 Waste Connection 2024 Extension Council discussed an extension with Waste Connections for 2024 and transitioning to producer pay recycling in 2025. Council noted that they are generally pleased with the service from Waste Connections.

Regarding Item 6.1.3 Foodcycle Update Council discussed FoodCycle's offer to manage the Survey of Residents for interest in the FoodCycler Program and felt they should not move forward at this time given 2023 budget constraints.

Regarding Item 6.1.4 Public Works Meeting Minutes June 22, 2023 Council discussed temporary additional staff for snow removal similar to the recently hired temporary gardener. Council discussed obtaining fencing that Public School is removing and using it at the Cemetery. Staff to make enquiries.

208-2023 Scott/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the 2023 Strategic Plan and Welcome Newsletter.**

Carried

209-2023 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby recommend that a contract extension with Waste Connections for the 2024 calendar year with the option for the year 2025 for waste collection and recycling as per the terms presented.**

Carried

210-2023 Brandt/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT 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. SRM Fire Chief Maki June Report
2. SRM Chief Arena Operator May Report
3. SRM Library Meeting Minutes May 11, 2023

In regards to Item 6.2.1 SRM Fire Chief Maki June Report Council noted that the Firehall dispatch upgrades were complete.

Regarding Item 6.2.2 SRM Chief Arena Operator May Report Council discusses that the Arena

is beginning to create ice for the season and the new condenser is installed and operating.

In discussion of Item 6.2.3 SRM Library Meeting Minutes May 11, 2023 Council discussed having a booth at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration but were unable to commit to staffing a booth at this time. Council also noted they may have items from the 2007 Centennial Celebration they could share with the library.

211-2023 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 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. PSDSSAB June CAO Report
2. PSDSSAB Housing & Homelessness Plan Update 2023
3. Central Almaguin Planning Board Minutes May 3, 2023

In discussion of Item 6.3.1 PSDSSAB June CAO Report Council discussed different options for how to attract new home builders.

Regarding Item 6.3.2 PSDSSAB Housing & Homelessness Plan Update 2023 Council discussed the homelessness statistics from the PSDSSAB and housing crisis in Ontario.

212-2023 Brandt/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 #3.**

Carried

### **7. By-Laws and Resolutions**

1. Appoint Part-Time Arena Operator, Temporary Administration Assistant and summer Student
2. Canada Day Cake
3. First Responders Bill C-321

Regarding Item 7.2 Canada Day Cake Council discussed preparations for July 1<sup>st</sup> celebration.

213-2023 Brandt/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Robert Volland – Part-time Arena Operator, Allister Johnston – Temporary Administrative Assistant and Nate MacIntosh – Public Works Summer Student.**

Carried

214-2023 O'Hallarn/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the purchase of a Canada Day cake for the July 1<sup>st</sup> festivities at Tom Thomson Park.**

Carried

215-2023 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**The Council of the Village of South River wishes to express its support for legislative measures to help protect first responders from violence, particularly those found in Bill C-321.**

**Paramedics and other first responders provide an essential and valuable service in our community and often subject to increased levels of violence due to the nature of their jobs.**

**It is essential that all levels of government unite to demonstrate the importance of the safety and well-being of all first responders.**

## **8. Correspondence**

1. Land Registration - Subdivision and Condominium Registrations
2. FONOM - Housing Request for Resolution
3. N. Loney - 38 Ena Ave severance package
4. Mayor Ward - MAHC Hospital Local Share Update
5. Municipality of Shuniah – Resolution Re: Bill 3
6. Powassan Public Library - Fundraising Dinner
7. Township of Perry and Strong - ACED Regional Housing Task Force
8. Township of McGarry - School Bus Arm
9. Town of Essex - Code Red and Black - Letter to Premier
10. Norfolk County - Amendments to the Highway Traffic Act
11. Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury - Right to Repair

Regarding Item 8.3 N. Loney - 38 Ena Ave severance package Council discussed the severance and future usage of land.

Regarding Item 8.5 Council Re: Bill 3 recommended a resolution of support be brought forward to the next meeting of Council

Regarding Item 8.7 Council discussed the need for housing and how ACED Task Force would impact it. Council touched on housing By-Laws in South River.

Regarding Item 8.8 Township of McGarry - School Bus Arm Council discussed use and cost, in addition to cost to maintain after initial purchase. Council recommended a resolution of support be brought forward to the next meeting of Council

Regarding Item 8.11 Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury - Right to Repair Council discussed devices impacted. Council recommended a resolution of support be brought forward to the next meeting of Council

216-2023 O'Hallarn/Brandt

**WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial Governments need to support their most vulnerable households, the ones who are or are at risk of becoming homeless. Overall, housing and services for low-income, vulnerable, or marginalized people should be a primary consideration moving forward so we help those who need it the most.**

**WHEREAS the Village of South River understands every community across Ontario is impacted by a need for affordable housing and support for people at risk of homelessness. Municipal governments are working in collaboration with all orders of government to invest in permanent solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis in Ontario.**

**WHEREAS the Village of South River understands that the Federal National Housing Strategy allocation formula to provinces and territories for jointly funded housing initiatives, roughly follows their share of the national population. This approach leaves Ontario underfunded because, as per the 2021 Census figures, the number of Ontario households in Community Housing Network as a share of the national total is 44.1 percent, which is well above the provincial share of the national population at 38.5 percent. This is also by far the highest share of national Community Housing Network relative to every other province and territories.**

**WHEREAS receiving a by-population allocation from the federal government hampers Ontario's ability to reach more of those households in need that require assistance with housing.**

**WHEREAS the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can**

**undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock.**

**WHEREAS a similar situation occurs with federal homelessness funding to Ontario through Reaching Home, where the share allocated to Ontario is also below the provincial share of Community Housing Network nationally.**

**WHEREAS there is an inequitable distribution of Reaching Home funding in Ontario as only 25 of 47 Service Managers have designated communities receiving funding under the program, despite the prevalence of need across the entire Province.**

**WHEREAS the Village of South River understand the federal government takes the position that its role is to provide capital funding while Provinces and Territories are to fund operating expenses, but this approach does not create an equitable sharing of the burden of funding long-term operating costs, which continue for the life of a project.**

**WHEREAS taken altogether, the underfunding to Ontario for housing and homelessness relative to its share of national Canadian Housing Network amounts to approximately \$480 million over the term of the Federal National Housing Strategy.**

**WHEREAS the federal government previously provided leadership in ensuring the long-term financial and physical viability of the social housing stock under the Social Housing Agreement for several decades through federal social housing operating agreements that provided funding for both mortgages and operating costs.**

**WHEREAS without some flexibility on the part of the federal government, Ontario and its municipalities will be poorly positioned to take advantage of this funding, and this will turn into a significant missed opportunity, leading to a further deterioration in the long-term physical and financial sustainability of the community housing stock.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of South River also supports the provincial ask for federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED would appreciate the federal effort to repurpose this funding quickly from the main National Housing Co-Investment Fund program line, Service Managers across the province have indicated their challenges with meeting the terms of the federal proposal, particularly as they relate to cost matching and meeting the requirements for greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and accessibility.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of South River would like need-driven indicators incorporated into the funding allocation formulas for all federal programs.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that FONOM appreciates the federal government's commitment to end chronic homelessness and wishes this to be inclusive across all areas of our province by expanding Reaching Home funding to all Service Managers.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FONOM also supports the provincial position in relation to the provinces and territories Repair Fund under the National Housing Co-Investment Fund**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FONOM supports the Province of Ontario position on the application-based \$4 billion federal Housing Accelerator Fund. We wish to emphasize the importance of providing municipalities with maximum support in preparing applications to the HAF, understanding that some rural and northern municipalities may face capacity challenges in applying to this program on the anticipated tight timelines.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of South River wish to request that Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation consider actions taken by municipalities under the province's Housing Supply Action Plans into account when assessing municipal applications, recognizing that these initiatives have the potential to significantly increase the supply of housing in our communities.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of South River believes the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of South River believe the federal government should heed the precedent of the Social Housing Agreement and recommit itself to funding**

operating costs that often stretch out over decades for the lifetime of a housing project. As an example, the Rapid Housing Initiative's 20-year affordability requirement and lack of federal operating dollars will very likely result in housing providers asking Service Managers and the provincial government to fund operating expenses to ensure the long-term affordability of units given housing providers' limited revenue-raising capacity.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** This lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Village of South River urges the Federal Government provide additional funding for Ontario so that we can deal with our shortages of safe and affordable housing and at the same time build safer and healthier communities for all our residents.

**FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED THAT** a Copy of the Resolution be forward to the individuals listed below for consideration and support, Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Ahmed Hussen, Scott Aitchison MP , Premier Ford, Minister Clark, Minister Graydon Smith, Leaders of the Federal and Provincial Opposition Parties, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

217-2023 Scott/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support in principle the consent application for the severance of 38 Ena Ave known as Roll #49560000113820 as per the attached sketch for the purpose of future potential development.

Carried

218-2023 Scott/Brandt

**Whereas the Council of the Village of South River hereby receives ACED's resolution #2023-17 recommending that a Regional Housing Task Force be established;**

**Be it resolved that the Council of the Village of South River is in favour of the Almaguin Community Economic Development (ACED) Committee creating a regional task force to address opportunities and barriers regarding housing development, agrees to a regional approach to housing development is needed for the area, and agrees to participate in a task force if it is created.**

Carried

219-2023 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #11.

Carried

## **9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –**

Councillor Brenda Scott discussed the ACED Program and intends to request a sheet showing membership status for all municipalities in the Almaguin region. Councillor Teri Brandt voiced concerns that ACED services may need to change if funding isn't available.

Councillor Robert Brooks requests that two weeks would be better to review the annual Financial Statement rather than four days before presentation at a Council meeting.

Mayor Jim Coleman asked about updates on the Hockey League. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur states that he has requested a signed contract but not heard back at this time.

Clerk Administrator Don McArthur noted the arena NOHFC Application is scheduled for their next board meeting.

## **10. In Camera** – none

**11. Confirming By-law –** By-law #27-2023

220-2023 Scott/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# 26 -2023, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12. Adjournment**

221-2023

**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, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 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: 9:05 p.m.**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator**