

Village of South River
Council Meeting – March 27, 2023

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Monday March 27, 2023. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman (Chairing in person in Council chambers), Councillor Teri Brandt, Councillor Robert Brooks and Councillor Brenda Scott (Virtual). Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn was away with notice.

Staff in Attendance: Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person
Janet Wedseltoft, Chief Financial Officer – In Person
Kristen Greig, Administrative Assistant – Virtual
Alexis Jeffery, Law Student Intern – Virtual

Guests: Risto Maki, Fire Chief – In person
Rocco Frangione, Media – Virtual
John Witlox, Delegation – 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

1. John Witlox – Construction Project

John Witlox presented to Council the details concerning a contract established between Mr.Witlox and the Village of South River in relation to the construction of a salt storage shed on the Public Works property on 3 Industrial Road in South River. John Witlox stated that there was an outstanding balance for the work in the fall of 2021 for the salt shed; staff discussed the discrepancy in the contract regarding costs that were not approved. Mayor Coleman sent the review to the Public Works Committee and requested any additional documentation John Witlox would be able to provide.

John Witlox leaves the meeting at 5:43 PM.

With permission from Council, Mayor Coleman moved up Item 6.2.1 to accommodate Fire Chief Maki.

6.2 Reports from Shared Services

1. SRM Fire Chief Maki March Report and NG 9-1-1 Update

Regarding Item 6.2.1 SRM Fire Chief Maki March Report and NG 9-1-1 Update: Fire Chief Maki discussed the aspects of the PSAP NG9-1-1 Transfer Payment Agreement including a technical review, what the grant will cover and the costs associated with the project. Fire Chief Maki noted that the project funding requires urgency on our behalf. With permission from the Council, Fire Chief Maki would like to implement this project and make best use of the grant to enhance communication systems for emergency purposes.

Fire Chief Maki leaves the meeting at 6:15 PM

4. Adoption of Minutes

91-2023 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting March 13, 2023.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports

1. 2023 Fire and Arena Budgets

92-2023 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby recommend the 2023 Fire and Arena Budgets be approved as presented with municipal contributions of \$266,970 for Arena and \$215,913 for Fire be included in the 2023 South River Budget.

Carried

93-2023 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance #1.

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. ORNGE Helipad Maintenance Agreement
2. Public Works Minutes March 15 2023 and Staff Levels
3. Outbuilding at 289 HWY 124
4. HiPS Meeting Minute March 17 2023
5. Strategic Plan

During Discussion of Item 6.1.1 ORNGE Helipad Maintenance Agreement it was noted that the maintenance and care of the Helipad has fallen to the Village of South River for a considerable amount of years. However, Council expressed concerns regarding a section of the agreement that states the Village could be solely responsible if there was an issue with the navigation system. Council suggests that staff reach out to ORNGE for clarification purposes and review the agreement in a future meeting.

Regarding Item 6.1.3 Outbuilding at 289 HWY 124: Council suggests that staff contact the heritage society regarding the outbuilding, as there may be historical significance.

During Discussion of Item 6.1.5 Strategic Plan Council reviewed the comments received from the public in relation to the plan. Council agrees that the recommendation of adding a target for population size versus the physical limitations with considerations of water distribution would be beneficial. Council suggests staff improve the document presentation to include visual aids.

94-2023 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee reports #1 to #5 as presented.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services

2. SRM Chief Arena Operator February Report/NNDSB Ice Request
3. SRM Public Library March 7 2023 Minutes
4. SRM Medical Centre February 21 Minutes

Discussion of Item 6.2.2 SRM Chief Arena Operator February Report/NNDSB Ice Request highlighted that the Near North District School Board showed interest in use ice time of the arena. The principal of the school has requested to attend a Council meeting to further discuss the costs and parameters of the usage. Council would like to follow up on the topic at a future Council meeting.

95-2023 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 #4.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees

1. PSDSSAB March CAO Report
2. Joint Building Committee Minutes March 16, Budget and Permit Fee Average
3. ACED February 23 2023 Minutes and Directors Report

96-2023 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support Joint Building Committee recommended 2023 JBC Budget as presented in the amount of \$338,844.00 with no municipal contribution from the Village of South River.

Carried

97-2023 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Reports from the Regional Committees #1 to #3.

Carried

7. By-Laws and Resolutions

1. By-law 13-2023 Signage By-law
2. By-law 14-2023 PSAP NG9-1-1 Transfer Payment Agreement
3. By-law 15-2023 North Bay District Humane Society Agreement
4. Cemetery Fee Rate Bylaw Amendment

98-2023 Brooks/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 #13-2023, being a by-law to regulate signs in the Village of South River.

Carried

99-2023 Brandt/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 #14-2023, being a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk-Administrator to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario for the PSAP NG9-1-1 Transition as per Schedule A attached.

Carried

100-2023 Brandt/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 #15-2023, being a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk-Administrator to enter into an agreement with the North Bay District Humane Society as per Schedule A attached.

Carried

101-2023 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize that the Cemetery Fee schedule attached replace Appendix E of Cemetery By-law 15-2013 effective April 1, 2023.

Carried

Rocco Frangione leaves the meeting at 8:40 PM

8. Correspondence

1. NBPS Health Unit – Food Insecurity
2. J Whitelock – Tom Thomson Park Car Show Request
3. A Taylor – Dog Park Request
4. Almaguin Highland Chamber of Commerce – After Hours
5. AMO – Draft Homelessness Resolution
6. MNRF – Algonquin Park Work Resolution
7. MNRF – PLA Regulatory Proposal Update
8. County of Huron – Cannabis Act Information
9. MECP – EA Modernization Update
10. Essex – Municipal Act Forfeiture Clause
11. Municipality of North Perth – School Bus Stop Arm Cameras

102-2023 Brooks/Brandt

Whereas, improved financial stability allows municipal residents to participate, contribute, and invest in their local economies and communities; and

Whereas, poverty puts additional pressure on municipalities, who are responsible for delivering necessary and strained public and social services to support residents who are struggling with the consequences of inadequate income; and

Whereas, food insecurity has a detrimental impact on physical and mental health; and

Whereas, adequate income is an important social determinant of health that greatly

impacts food security and other social determinants of health such as mental health, housing and transportation; and

Whereas, the 2022 Cost of Eating Well report shows that households reliant on social assistance do not have enough money for the costs of living, including food; and

Whereas, 67% of households in Ontario with social assistance as their main source of income experience food insecurity.

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Village of South River support efforts to raise awareness about, and work to reduce, health inequities, including food insecurity; and

Furthermore, Be It Resolved That the Village of South River endorse the letter from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit and call on the Province of Ontario to:

- **legislate targets for the reduction of food insecurity as part of the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy; and**
- **increase social assistance rates to reflect the costs of living, and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward; and**
- **urge the province to resume investigating the feasibility of creating a guaranteed living wage (basic income) in the Province of Ontario; and**

Furthermore Be It Resolved, That the Village of South River provide correspondence of these resolutions to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, neighbouring municipalities, Victor Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing), Graydon Smith, MPP (Parry Sound-Muskoka), John Vanthof, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane), the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier), the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton (Minister of Children, Community and Social Service), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health) and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), MP Anthony Rota, MP Scott Aitchison, MP Marc Serre, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Regarding Item 8.2 J Whitelock – Tom Thomson Park Car Show Request: Council expressed concerns in regard to cars being parked on the grass within the park limits. To address this concern, Council suggests that Public Works be involved to help locate dryer areas throughout the park that could withstand the weight of a vehicle without causing damage to the grounds.

103-2023 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the use of Tom Thomson Park for a Classic Car Show on August 5, 2023 provided all rules of the park are observed.

Carried

Regarding Item 8.3 A Taylor – Dog Park Request: Council discussed possible locations throughout the village that may be acceptable and concluded that at this time a dog park would not be feasible at this time.

104-2023 Brandt/Brooks

A Call to the Provincial government to End Homelessness in Ontario

Please be advised that Village of South River at its meeting held March 27, 2023 adopted the following:

WHEREAS the homeless crisis is taking a devastating toll on families and communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario;

WHEREAS the homelessness crisis is the result of the underinvestment and poor policy choices of successive provincial governments;

WHEREAS homelessness requires a range of housing, social service and health solutions from government;

WHEREAS homelessness is felt most at the level of local government and the residents that they serve;

WHEREAS municipalities and District Social Administration Boards are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity or tools to address this complex challenge; and,

WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the provincial government on an emergency basis to develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent, reduce and ultimately end homelessness in Ontario.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of South River calls on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a. Acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic, and health crisis;
- b. Commit to ending homelessness in Ontario;
- c. Work with AMO and a broad range of community, health, Indigenous and economic partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; and the Minister of Health, the Association of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM).

Carried

105-2023 Brandt/Brooks

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

Carried

Alexis Jeffery leaves the meeting at 8:57 PM

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest)

Councillor Brandt discussed housing issues and the role of the Parry District Social Services Administrative Board and that market rent units were still available in Meadow View in Powassan that is owned by the DSSAB. Clerk- Administrator advised the Hockey Opportunity Camp may not be able to run this summer.

Kristen Greig leaves the meeting at 9:05 PM

10. In Camera – Commercial Lease

106-2023 Brandt/Brooks

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 of local board and that this Council proceed in Camera at 9:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

107-2023 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 9:45 p.m. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #16-2023

108-2023 Brooks/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 #17-2023, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 27th day of March 2023 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

109-2023 Brooks/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 Tuesday, April 11th, 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: 9:47 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator

