

Village of South River
Wednesday January 24, 2024

Committee of the Whole Meeting South River Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor Jim Coleman, Councilors Teri Brandt, Brenda Scott and Bill O'Hallarn in person, Councilor Robert Brooks virtually.

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Administrator Don McArthur, Chief Financial Officer Janet Wedseltoft and Fire Chief Risto Maki all in person.

Guests in person: Township of Machar Councilors Ron McLaren and Pearl Ivens.

Guests virtually: Mark Savill

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.
2. There were no declarations of pecuniary interest
3. Discussion ensued on the 2024 Draft South River Machar Fire Budget.

Fire Chief Maki went through the budget on a line basis answering questions as they came up.

The municipal contribution is a proposed increase of 5.06%.

The transfer from reserves of \$35,000 includes the capital purchase of an E-draulic Spreader (extrication tool) for \$25,000 and \$10,000 towards operating costs.

The salary line and wage expenses include the increase from 3 days per week to 5 days per week for the Fire Prevention Officer beginning April 1st.

The proposed Fire Honorarium #2 line reflects the cost to meet the Provincial Firefighter Certification Standards legislation. The training was delayed in 2023 due to concentrating on the NG9-1-1 grant and upgrading the dispatch to meet the new standards. For 2023 and 2024 the NG9-1-1 grants have 100% covered the expense of the transition. The SRMFD was able to recover a portion of Fire Chief Maki wages under the NG9-1-1 grant for 2023 and 2024.

Mayor Coleman requested the cost of the increase per average household in South River; it would be \$16.59 per year. As Machar has more than twice as many households it would be less than half that per household.

Councillor McLaren stated any reduction or savings from the proposed budget would be appreciated. Councillor Brooks left the meeting at 6:59PM

4. Discussion ensued on the 2023 Draft South River Machar Arena Budget.

The 2024 proposed Arena budget was presented with 0.33% operating decrease. Revenues in 2023 were higher than budgeted and 2024 appears to be strong as well. The NOHFC Arena Grant upgrades were discussed at length which accounts for all of the additional proposed contribution for 2024. A chart was shared showing by year the schedule of capital upgrades at the arena. The only additional capital proposed for 2024 outside of the grant is the completion of the septic project at \$3000. Discussion about the failing dehumidifier and hope that it can be nursed through the coming 10 months until the new one is installed. The design costs for 2024 and the ice pad costs for 2025 are estimates. Councillor Brandt requested the design look at the cost of enlarging the ice surface and reducing the size of the lobby. The significant capital contribution increase was briefly discussed as to whether it would come from reserves or current year taxation and is a decision for each municipality to make on their own. Capital planning should begin to replace the membrane on the roof as it is beginning to fail. CFO discussed the changes to HST reporting that amount to approximately 1% savings on all purchases at the arena.

Discussion ensued that both budgets were first drafts and were to be refined after the 2023 final numbers are available and updated for the Feb 21st Budget meeting. The goal is to pass both 2024 budgets at the Joint Council Meeting in March.

4. 36-2024 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Committee of the Whole of the Village of South River does hereby adjourn at 9:11 PM

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator