

**Village of South River**  
**Wednesday February 25, 2026**  
**Village of South River Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**South River Council Chambers**

In attendance: Mayor Jim Coleman, Councilors Brenda Scott, Ter Brandt, and Bill O'Hallarn in person, Councilor Robert Brooks absent with notice.

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

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

**1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM River and Land Acknowledgement**

*The Village of South River acknowledges the Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaties on the land of the Anishinabek that we meet today. We seek to work respectfully with Indigenous people, and are thankful for their teachings and stewardship of the land.*

**2. There were no declarations of pecuniary interest**

**3. Discussion ensued on the 2026 Draft South River Machar Fire Budget.**

Councillor Ivens said Machar Council had reviewed the budget in detail and understood why the increase was necessary and felt there was little if anything that could be trimmed. Discussion resumed on whether to use more than the \$5000 from reserves for capital originally proposed. Councillors Ivens and McLaren suggested an amount more than the original but less than \$29,000 that was shown as an option. A third option of \$24,000 from reserves was also circulated. South River Council felt that using anything more than the original \$5000 was putting additional future strain on the capital requirements required for new truck purchases over the next five years. The Machar Councillors would prefer an amount more than \$5000 and will take back the discussion to their whole Council. A final decision to be made at the Joint Council meeting in March.

The cost of the increase per average household in South River this year is \$5.76 per month and for Machar \$3.36 per month.

The reserves were reviewed as well with the anticipated amount after 2025 is finalized to be a combined \$294,102.

**4. Discussion ensued on the 2025 Draft South River Machar Community Centre Budget.**

The 2026 proposed Community Centre budget was discussed with the year end adjustments to date for HOC Summer Camp, the addition of the proposed one day per week recreation director, the dance program, soccer budget, and additional gravel for the parking lot. This added \$15,877 in overall cost increasing each municipalities contribution by \$7,938 to \$191,499 representing a 55.33% decrease from 2025. The budget as circulated was supported by all with the provision that the one day per week recreation director be approved for one year only as a trial and be noted in a joint resolution when the budget is passed. The recreation directors time will be allocated as needed to equal seven hours per week over the course of the year.

The reserve contribution schedule from 2023 to present was reviewed. The anticipated combined Community Centre reserve after 2025 is finalized is \$260,576

The Joint Council Meeting is set for Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Location to be determined.

**4. 97-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Committee of the Whole of the Village of South River does hereby adjourn at 7:22 PM**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator**