

Village of South River
Council Meeting – February 24, 2026

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday February 24, 2026. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councillor Brenda Scott, and Councillor Teri Brandt. Absent with notice Councillor Robert Brooks.

Staff in Attendance: Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person
Janet Wedseltoft, Chief Financial Officer – In person
Candice Robertson, Administrative Assistance – In Person
Tanvir Kabir, Economic Development Intern – In Person

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Coleman at 2:00 p.m.

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. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof – Nil

3. Delegation and Public Meeting –

4. Adoption of Minutes – Council February 10, 2026

78-2026 Brandt/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting February 10th 2026 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. Public Works Committee Minutes February 17 2026 and Snowplow Quote
2. Vacant Building Registration Form and Fee
3. Joint Health and Safety Committee February 4, 2026 Minutes
4. AMPs Alternate Screening Officer Appointment
5. OCWA 2025 Section 11 Annual Water Report and Schedule 22 Summary
6. Economic Development Intern Report

79-2026 O’Hallarn/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the purchase of a new Freightliner 114SD Truck and Plow as specified with extended warranty at a total cost of \$367,767. plus HST and the amounts be included in 2026 budget.

Carried

80-2026 Brandt/O’Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the Vacant Building form and set the initial fee at \$150 for the first year and \$300 for each year thereafter that a property remains vacant.

Carried

81-2026 O’Hallarn/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint the Clerk-Administrator as an alternate screening officer for the AMPs program.

Carried

82-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept 2025 Section 11 Annual Water Report and Schedule 22 Summary as prepared by OCWA.

Carried

In regards to report from Economic development officer Tanvir Kabir.

In the last year he has been gathering local business knowledge and identifying the needs. Tanvir has been working to gain exposure for Village business promotions and created 6 business promotion videos have been posted on Facebook and Youtube pages. Tanvir has worked hard on promoting the Village owned properties and buildings for sale or lease to businesses. A Community garage sale was very successful last summer, there were 41 participants, and it will is schedule to return again this year. A rideshare (HOVR) program for the Village and a grant application for the program has been submitted. There is a dark sky designation being worked on for Tom Thomson Park. Highway signage is being looked into to help promote our Village to encourage travelers to stop in and check out our Village. Discussion ensued on the focus and goals for the upcoming year.

Tanvir Kabir left the meeting at 2:55 pm

83-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee report #1 to #6 as presented.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services –

1. South River Machar Fire Chief Report for February 2026
2. South River Machar Community Centre Chief Operator Report January 2026

84-2026 O'Hallarn/Brandt

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

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --

1. Almaguin Highlands OPP Board Minutes Feb 11 Draft and 2026 Budget
2. Central Almaguin Planning Board Nov. 5 and Dec. 3, 2025 and Jan 7, 2026 Minutes
3. PSDSSAB February CAO Report
4. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Minutes Nov. 26, 2025

In regards to 6.3.1 OPP minutes, Council discussed concerns about the budget and costs for travel and associations, discussed writing a motion/letter to address concerns, would like to see more community service.

In regards to 6.3.2 Minutes from the Central Almaguin planning board were reviewed, and the challenges with the unorganized township when something is approved, who follows up and supervises the follow through. It was felt the small financial contribution from the Province may not justify the work and costs organized communities take on at the Central Almaguin Planning board.

85-2026 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 #4.

Carried

7. By-Laws and Resolutions –

1. Resolution – Support Sundridge Resolution #2026-019 Road Salt Reduction
2. Resolution - Support Municipality of Markstay-Warren - Sudbury Life Labs Closure
3. By-law 14-2026 HSWS Water Treatment Plant Transfer Payment Agreement

86-2026 Scott /O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Village of Sundridge to minimize salt impacts through the use of sand and low-salt mixtures while maintaining public safety.

Carried

87-2026 Brandt/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Municipality of Markstay-Warren urging the Province of Ontario to engage with LifeLabs and the Ministry of Health to explore options that maintain local laboratory processing capacity in Sudbury for the residents of Northern Ontario.

Carried

88-2026 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 #14-2026, 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 HSWS Water Treatment Plant grant with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. ACED Business Monthly Newsletter
2. NBPSDHU Food and Housing Affordability Letter
3. Municipality of Highlands East - Resolution-Affordable Housing
4. County of Prince Edward - Protect Our Food Act
5. Municipality of Magnetawan - Bell Fibre Resolution
6. Town of Parry Sound - School Bus Safety
7. Explorers Edge February Newsletter

89-2026 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #7.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Councillor Scott- The South River referred to as Forest Lake and when we are talking branding, we should work on correcting to say South River, Forest Lake is the end of Joly Township. Consistency matters when branding. South River is connected to the Tom Thomson story not Forest Lake.

Deputy Mayor O'Hallarn- inquired about the digging on Highway 124. The Clerk Administer explained to council that there was a water main leak. Public Works noticed it Friday evening and was able to locate it, but older valves in that area didn't work and had to complete the repair live. It was repaired by 6pm on Saturday February 21, 2026.

Clerk Administrator updated that the train station needed to have minor plumbing fixed and the water meter changed as the water did not drain as anticipated and froze with the heat off at the train station. There is an online auction scheduled for March 10-12 to sell the equipment at 309 HWY 124. The building will be empty and broom swept by March 31, 2026.

Candice Robertson left the meeting at 4:08pm

10. In Camera –

1. 281 HWY 124 Sale of Property
2. Economic Development Officer Position
3. 68 Riverside
4. Train Station Lease

90-2026 Scott /Brandt

Be it Resolved that this meeting of the Village of South River Council be closed under Subsection 239. (b) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipal or local board purposes and (d) labour relations or employee negotiations and that this Council proceed in Camera at 4:08 p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

91-2026 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at

4:50 p.m. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.

Carried

92-2026 O'Hallarn/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Clerk-Administrator to counter the offer for the sale of 68 Riverside with the terms as outlined in-camera

Carried

93-2026 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the appointment of Tanvir Kabir to the position of Economic Development Officer per the terms of the collocative bargaining agreement.

Carried

94-2026 O'Hallarn/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 #15-2026, being a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk-Administrator to enter into a lease agreement with Joshua Wayner for 77 Ottawa Avenue, the former Train Station, with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #16-2026

95-2026 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# 16-2026, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 24th day of February 2026 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

96-2026 O'Hallarn/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, March 10th, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in the South River Council Chambers located at 63 Marie Street or at the call of the mayor. Time of Adjournment: 4:54 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator