

Village of South River
Council Meeting – Jan 28, 2025

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday January 28, 2025. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman (Chairing in-person in Council Chambers), Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councillor Brenda Scott, and Councillor Robert Brooks (Virtually)
Absent with notice: Councillor Teri Brandt

Staff in Attendance: Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person
Janet Wedseltoft, Chief Financial Officer – In person
Candice Robertson, Administrative Assistant – In Person
Risto Maki , South River Machar Fire Chief - In Person

Guests: Nick Loney

1.Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Coleman at 2:06 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 – N. Loney – Ball Diamond Lights

Nick Loney addressed the Council regarding community interest in repairing the lights at the ball diamond. He highlighted the demand for using the field for various leagues and events. N. Loney presented an estimate for the cost of the project and inquired whether the Village would be able to complete the repairs for 2025.

Nick Loney Left the meeting at 2:25pm

4. Adoption of Minutes – Council Tuesday January 14, 2025

27-2025 O’Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting January 14, 2025 as presented

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports

1. OMPF First Quarter Payment
2. Rent Revenue 63 Marie St and 281 HWY 124
3. Reserves – Annual Surpluses and Asset Sales

28-2025 Brooks/O’Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Chief Financial officer to set the rents at 63 Marie St and 281 HWY 124 as per the inflation increase of 2.4% CPI as reported by Statistics Canada.

Carried

29-2025 O’Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance #1 to #3.

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. South River Strategic Plan Review
2. Public Works Committee Minutes January 21, 2025

In regard to 6.1.1 Council reviewed the South River Strategic Plan, highlighting areas that required updating and further review.

In regard to 6.1.2 Council reviewed the minutes from the Public Works Meeting. Council discussed that the backhoe tires need to be replaced and will cost approx. \$5000. Council also discussed the truck traffic on Marie St and the road not being designed for truck traffic and they will be posting “No Truck” signs on Marie St. Council also noted that bleeder hoses have been installed in several locations to prevent freezing waterlines..

30-2025 Brooks/O’Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee reports #1 to #2 as presented.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services –

1. South River Machar Fire Chief Report January 2025
2. South River Machar Community Centre Chief Operator Report December 2024
3. South River Machar Library January 16 2025 Board Meeting Minutes – Draft

In regard to 6.2.1 South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki presented his report. He reviewed response averages for 2024, Firefighter hours worked in 2024, Vehicle and Equipment maintenance, and training that have taken place and is ongoing. South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki also noted that he met with the Council of the Township of Joly for the Fire Protection Agreement and that he participated in the Mutual Aid Advisory Committee Meeting.

South River Mahar Fire Chief Risto Maki left the meeting at 3:45pm

In regard to 6.2.2 Council reviewed the minutes from the South River Machar Community Centre Chief Operator report. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur added that dehumidifier installation is a tight fit in its current location and the contractor is looking at other options.

31-2025 Scott/O’Hallarn

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 #3.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --

1. PSDSSAB January 2025 CAO Report
2. Joint Building Committee Final Statistics 2024, 2025 Budget and Jan 16 Minutes
3. Almaguin Highlands OPP Board Appointments and Update
4. ACED Nov 28 2024 Minutes, Burks Falls Resolution, and Annual Report
5. Central Almaguin Planning Board October 2, November 6 and Dec 4, 2024 Minutes

In regard to 6.3.2 Council reviewed the Joint Building Committee minutes and the building permit summary for 2024 showing the number of permits issued and the value of permits.

In regard to 6.3.4 Council reviewed the ACED minutes and Burks Falls Resolution to withdraw at the end of the year.

32-2025 O’Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the Village of South River hereby appoint the following individuals to the Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board, with terms and responsibilities in accordance with the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, to serve until November 14, 2026

- **Joe Lumley, Township of Perry, Council Representative**
- **Dan Robertson, Township of Ryerson, Council Representative**
- **Neil Scarlett, Township of Machar, Council Representative**
- **Kevin Noaik, Township of Strong, Council Representative**
- **Robert Sutherland, Community Representative**
- **Krista Miller, Community Representative**

And further that Council of the Village of South River supports the Township of Perry remain as the lead municipality for the Almaguin Highlands OPP Board, whereas the Perry Township Deputy Clerk or designate acts as Secretary to the Board until a time when the Board formally appoints a Secretary;

And further that Council of the Village of South River supports paying its 1/12th share of annual

Insurance Costs for the Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board, as deemed required to protect the Board and its members, once the Insurance Provider and coverage details has been determined;

And further that Council of the Village of South River supports paying its 1/12th share of any other costs associated with the Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board, as required under O.Reg 135/24, including remuneration and travel costs for the Provincial Appointee and any other matters, programs, or items in which the OPP Detachment Board formally enact.

Carried

33-2025 Brooks/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 #5.

Carried

7. By-Laws and Resolutions

1. Resolution – Support FONOM - Financial Sustainability in Child Welfare
2. Resolution – Support Town of Kearney - Planning Act Change
3. By-law 08-2025 Joly Township Fire Agreement

34-2025 O'Hallarn/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support FONOM in their call for Financial Sustainability in Child Welfare and this resolution be circulated to FONOM, The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and MPP Graydon Smith.

Carried

35-2025 Brooks/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Town of Kearney in requesting a change to the one-size-fits-all approach to ARU development that may inadvertently overlook the distinct needs of rural communities and this resolution be circulated to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, MPP Graydon Smith , and the Town of Kearney.

Carried

36-2025 O'Hallarn/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# 8-2025, being a by-law to enter into a Fire Agreement with the Township of Joly with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. NOSDA PSDSSAB Media Release - Homelessness
2. Alzheimer Society - January Alzheimer Awareness Month
3. Crimestoppers – Crimestoppers Education Month 2025.
4. Town of Aylmer - Oppose Provincial Legislation on Cycling Lanes
5. Almaguin Highlands Health Committee Draft Minutes January 2025
6. Muskoka Almaguin Health Care - Political Leaders Forum Minutes Jan 9 2025
7. CUPW - Canada Post Industrial Inquiry Commission
8. Town of Hawkesbury - Municipal Accountability Act
9. FONOM - Industrial and Commercial Recycling

In regard to 8.2 Council suggested that the Alzheimer Society work with the South River Machar Medical Centre and the seniors in the community to bring awareness of the Alzheimer Society's services.

In regard to 8.7 and 8.9 Council would like to show support.

37-2025 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #9.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Mayor Jim Coleman asked for a follow up on our letter regarding Camp DARE. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur responded that he has been in touch with MP Graydon Smith’s office bringing them up to date and requesting a tour of the site.

Clerk Administrator Don McArthur let council know that he has been in touch with the commercial realtor and requested monthly updates on activity.

Chief Financial Officer Janet Wedseltoft asked Council to provide her with any remuneration they may receive from outside agencies as Council appointees to be able to complete a full report for 2024.

Candice Robertson leaves the meeting at 4:50 PM

10. In Camera –

- 1. CUPE Bargaining 2025 Update
- 2. ACED

38-2025 O’Hallarn/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 or local board and (d) labour relations or employee negotiations and that this Council proceed in Camera at 4:51pm for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

39-2025 Brooks/O’Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 6:04pm with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #9-2025

40-2025 Brooks/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# 9-2025, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 28th day of January 2025 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

41-2025 O’Hallarn/Scott

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, February 11, 2024 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: 6:05 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator