

Village of South River  
Council Meeting – July 22, 2025

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday July 22, 2025. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councillor Brenda Scott, Councillor Teri Brandt, and 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

Guests: Rebecca MacDonald – Pahapill CPA  
Sarah Cooke – Almaguin News  
Risto Maki – South River Machar Fire Chief

**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** – 2024 Annual Financial Statements Presentation  
Rebecca MacDonald, CPA, CA – Pahapill CPA

Council reviewed the Statement of financial Position as of December 31, 2024 as presented by Rebecca MacDonald CPA, CA from Pahapill CPA.

Rebecca MacDonald left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

**4. Adoption of Minutes** – Council July 8, 2025

216-2025 Scott/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as presented.**

Carried

**5. Accounts and Finance**

**5.1 Accounts Reports** -

1. Office Computer Purchase

In regard to 5.1.1 Council reviewed the quote options for updating 4 new office computers.

217-2025 O’Hallarn/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the purchase of four desktop computers and associated software from VS Group at a cost of \$7140 plus HST as per the attached quote.**

Carried

218-2025 Brooks/Scott

**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. Cold Weather Policy - Crossing Guards
2. Rural Ontario Development Grant Application
3. Train Station Substantial Performance Letter
4. Riverwood Estate Support Resolution

In regard to 6.1.1, Council discussed a cold weather policy for the crossing guards for extreme cold temperatures. Many crossing guards not having any shelter from the winter elements and considering their safety and well-being. Council discussed how to notification will be sent by the school board when they send alerts for bus cancellations for extreme temperatures.

In regard to 6.1.2 Council discussed the Rural Ontario Development Grant Application for Economic Diversification and Competiveness funding. Funding could assist us with a number of upcoming projects.

219-2025 Brooks/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the Cold Weather Policy for Crossing Guards as attached.**

Carried

220-2025 Brandt/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the severance on Part 1 to Lot 49 RP 134 as depicted on Plan 42R-22415 as Part 2 and that Riverwood Estates Draft Plan of Subdivision Lot 3, Concession 2 as prepared by EJ Williams dated Feb 7, 2023 for Lewis and Bogart St Lots 1 to 11 with the following conditions;**

- 1) The agreed storm water management plan dated April 3, 2024 be followed
- 2) That only the combined lots 5 and 6 be approved for immediate development of one single family dwelling with a hold placed on lots 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 prohibiting development until a plan for road, water and storm water are approved by Council
- 3) Lots 2 to 11 be rezoned from Residential R3 to Residential R2
- 4) This resolution replaces and revokes the support offered in Resolution 162-2024

Carried

221-2025 Brooks/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee report #1 to #4 as presented.**

Carried

## **6.2 Reports from Shared Services**

1. South River Machar Fire Chief Report July 2025
2. South River Machar Community Centre Chief Operator Report June 2025

In regard to item 6.2.1, Risto Maki, South River Machar Fire Chief, presented and reviewed the Fire Chief's report with Council. He noted an increase in the number of calls, highlighting that the department responded to two fires, one of which occurred within the Village of South River. Chief Maki also reviewed the types of calls received, response times, and provided an overview of both ongoing and upcoming training initiatives aimed at maintaining and improving the department's readiness and effectiveness.

Risto Maki, South River Machar Fire Chief left the meeting at 3:03pm

222-2025 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 #2.**

Carried

## **6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --**

1. Joint Building Committee June Reports and Draft Letter
2. ACED Signage Plan Applications

In regard to item 6.3.1, Council reviewed the Joint Building Committee's June report and held a discussion on the draft letter. During the discussion, Council considered the importance of obtaining broader support and agreed that the letter should first be circulated to member municipalities for their feedback.

223-2025 Brandt/Scott

**WHEREAS the Village of South River has adopted and supported the implementation of the 2018 Almaguin Highlands Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan and the 2021 Almaguin Brand**

Strategy which call for the establishment of a unified regional brand;

AND WHEREAS the Village of South River recognizes the importance of aligning physical and digital elements within the collective brand strategy throughout the Almaguin Highlands Region as well as the efforts of the ACED to implement the Brand Strategy;

AND WHEREAS the ACED Brand Alignment & Regional Signage Project will enhance the use of the regional brand while promoting recreational, tourism, and business activity throughout the region;

AND WHEREAS the ACED Members’ contribution to the project shall be funded through the ACED reserve;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of South River hereby declares their support in principle for the ACED Brand Alignment & Regional Signage Project as well as associated applications for financial assistance to complete the project.

Carried

224-2025 O’Hallarn/Brooks

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

7. By-Laws and Resolutions –

- 1. By-law 28-2025 Emterra Garbage Collection By-law
- 2. By-law 29-2025 - 2025 Tax Ratio By-law
- 3. By-law 30-2025 - 2025 Tax By-law
- 4. By-Law 31-2025 Loney Subdivision Agreement
- 5. Resolution – ACED Funding Model

225-2025 Brooks/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# 28-2025, being a by-law to enter into an agreement with Emterra Environment with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

226-2025 O’Hallarn/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# 29-2025, being a by-law to set 2025 Tax Ratios for the prescribed property classes with the signature of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

227-2025 Brandt/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# 30-2025, being a by-law to provide for the adoption of tax rates and to further provide for penalty and interest for the year 2025 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

228-2025 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# 31-2025, being a by-law to enter into a subdivision agreement with Nick Loney of Riverwood Estates with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed

Carried

229-2025 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the funding model shown as Figure 3 – Scenario 2 in the ACED Staff report dated June 12, 2025 that included all municipalities in the Almaguin Highlands with the same percentage based on their level of taxation.

Carried

8. Correspondence

- 1. Highland Players - Community Centre Request
- 2. Town of Aylmer - Increase Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

3. Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan - Proceeds of Crime Transactions
4. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare - Political Leaders Forum July Minutes

230-2025 Brooks/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #4.**

Carried

Sarah Cooke – Almaguin News left the meeting at 3:40pm

#### **9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –**

Councillor Brenda Scott extended congratulations to the car show and the Train Station Open House both were very successful.

Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn noted the car show was amazing and congratulations on the effort put in to organizing it. Deputy Mayor O'Hallarn also noted he has gotten complaints of dirt bikes riding around the village at high speeds causing safety concerns for the riders, vehicles, and residents in the village.

Councillor Robert Brooks asked how we are doing with the Tebbby Playground. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur replied that he sent information to Kristina Martin giving options of what they can get at a set price point and waiting on a response and will follow up with Kristina. Secondly Councillor Brooks asked for an update on the previous brewery location. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur responded there was a meeting with ACED, EDO intern and the selling agent for further marketing. Councillor Brooks suggested the possibility of seniors or affordable housing units to help with the housing issues. Council replied that the property is not suitable for residential development and discussed other areas of South River where that is possible.

Mayor Jim Coleman noted the canoe repair is almost complete and he was going to see it today. Asking council for locations the canoe can be placed suggesting having it be somewhere it can be out of the elements to prevent additional repairs in the future. Council made suggestions on possible locations for the canoe.

Clerk Administrator Don McArthur let council know he received an inquiry about purchasing the location at 281 Hwy 124. Council was open to looking into the process of selling in accordance with the land disposal policy. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur also noted we are providing assistance with a gardener to the South River Machar Medical Centre and the time used is billed to the medical centre. Council asked about a formal opening for the Train Station with a ribbon cutting with funding partners.

Councilor Robert Brooks asked about when the kiosk for the South River Train stop was being built. Councilor Brandt responded in the presentation that train station committee had they are expecting to build and make the parking area in the fall.

Candice Robertson leaves the meeting at 4:32pm

#### **10. In Camera –** Water RFP 01-2025 Committee Review

231-2025 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 that this Council proceed in Camera at 4:32pm. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.**

Carried

232-2025 Scott/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 5:09pm. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.**

Carried

Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn and Clerk-Administrator Don McArthur were directed to meet with OCWA to discuss their proposal.

#### **11. Confirming By-law –** By-law #32-2025

232-2025 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# 32-2025, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2025 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12. Adjournment**

234-2025 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, August 26, 2025 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: 5:14p.m.**

Carried

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Jim Coleman, Mayor

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Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator