

Village of South River  
Council Meeting – March 24, 2026

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

**Staff in Attendance:** Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person  
Janet Wedseltoft, Chief Financial Officer – In person  
Candice Robertson, Administrative Assistance – 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 March 10, 2026 and Joint Council March 18, 2026

126-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting March 10<sup>th</sup> and Joint Council Meeting March 18<sup>th</sup> 2026 as presented.**

Carried

**5. Accounts and Finance**

**5.1 Accounts Reports** –

1. South River Machar Community Centre 2026 Budget
2. South River Machar Fire Department 2026 Budget
3. Council Remuneration Report for 2025
4. Proposed Cemetery Fees

In regard to 5.1.4 Council discussed the changes proposed for the Cemetery Fees and noted there will no be increase to the Care and Maintenance fees.

127-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the South River Machar Community Centre 2026 Budget in the amount of \$428,088 with South River's contribution being \$188,851 a 55.89% decrease from 2025.**

Carried

128-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the South River Machar Fire Department 2026 Budget in the amount of \$534,286 with South River's contribution being \$267,143 a 13.1% increase from 2025.**

Carried

129-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the attached South River Machar Cemetery Fees effective April 1, 2026.**

Carried

130-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance #1 to #4.**

Carried

**6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees**

### **6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –**

1. Economic Development/Recreation Director March Report

In regard to 6.1.1 Council reviewed the Economic Development/Recreation report. The Economic Development Officer is currently working on the South River Machar dance program that is to begin April 27, 2026. Council discussed the signage project is almost complete and some signs have already been put up in the Village. The Economic Development Officer is also looking at option to set up debit at the snack bar at the arena.

131-2026 Brant/O'Hallarn

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

Carried

### **6.2 Reports from Shared Services –**

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

In regard to 6.2.2 Council reviewed the South River Machar Community Centre Chief Operator report and discussed Health and Safety policy updates. Clerk Administrator added that the ice will be coming out next week.

132-2026 O'Hallarn/Brandt

**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. Almaguin Highlands OPP Revised 2026 Budget
2. Central Almaguin Planning Board Decision B003-2026 Patterson Severance
3. PSDSSAB March CAO Report
4. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit 2025 Highlights
5. ACED 2025 Budget Reconciliation

In regard to 6.3.1 Council reviewed the Almaguin Highlands OPP revised budget. Council discussed they previously approved the budget and there has now been small modifications reduce the budget.

In regard to 6.3.5 the Clerk Administrator reviewed with Council ACED 2025 Budget reconciliation and the Village will be refunded the excess contribution.

133-2026 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 #5**

Carried

### **7. By-Laws and Resolutions –**

1. Resolution – Support OPP Detachment Board- James Bay East re: Victim Services
2. Resolution - Appoint Recreation Director
3. By-law 20-2026 GSS Agreement - Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

134-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby Support OPP Detachment Board- James Bay East calling on the Province to support Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) agencies across the province and the development of a coordinated Provincial Bail Notification Program and the that this resolution be sent to the OPP Detachment Board- James Bay East and MPP Graydon Smith.**

Carried

135-2026 O'Hallarn/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Tanvir Kabir as Recreation Director for the South River Machar Community Centre based on 364 hours from Feb 23, 2026 to Feb 22, 2027 and the amounts be included in the joint budget. It is understood that this is a trial and will not be renewed without the consent of both municipalities.**

Carried

136-2026 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# 20-2026, being a by-law to enter into an agreement with GSS Engineering for engineering and project management of the 2026 Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Project with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

### **8. Correspondence**

1. Women's Own Resource - Community Centre Request
2. ACED Business Monthly
3. MNR Annual Work Schedule for Algonquin Park Forest
4. Ryan Canada Advocacy - Assessment Delay Small Business
5. County of Prince Edward - Sustainable Police Services Funding
6. East Ferris Fire and Emergency Services Training Centre
7. MECP -Improving Conservation Authorities
8. Regional Municipality of York - Blue Box Equity
9. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit - Beach Sampling Discontinue
10. Town of Whitby - Request Review of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework

In regard to 8.1 Council reviewed the Women's Own Resource request to use the Community Centre for 12 days per year over 2 years to teach and prepare ready to eat meals for delivery to local food banks.

Council recommended a letter of support for item 8.6 and a resolution of support for item 8.10.

137-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the discounted rental amount of \$200 per day for approximately 12 days per year over the next two years for a Rural Community Kitchen Program and Soup Kitchen Program.**

Carried

138-2026 O'Hallarn/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #10.**

Carried

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

Councillor Brandt informed Council she will miss the next Council meeting.

Clerk Administrator McArthur shared there will be a kickoff meeting for the Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Project. Mayor Coleman and Deputy Mayor O'Hallarn will attend the meeting.

Chief Financial Officer reminded Council of the Cemetery Meeting on April 21 and moved the meeting from 9:30am to 2pm on April 21, 2026

Candice Robertson left the meeting at 3:38pm

### **10. In Camera –**

1. 281 HWY 124 Sale of Property
2. 11313 HWY 124 Disposal of Property

139-2026 O'Hallarn/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 that this Council proceed in Camera at 3:38pm. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.**

Carried

140-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 4:02pm. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.**

Carried

141-2026 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# 21-2026, being a by-law to enter into a lease agreement with T McMillan and the Township of Machar at the South River Machar Medical Centre with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**11. Confirming By-law –** By-law #21-2026

142-2026 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# 21-2026, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12. Adjournment**

143-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**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, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 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: 4:11p.m.**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator**