

Village of South River  
Council Meeting – May 12, 2026

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday May 12, 2026. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councillor Teri Brandt, Councillor Brenda Scott, and Councillor Robert Brooks (virtually)

**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** – Nil

**4. Adoption of Minutes** – Council April 28, 2026

189-2026 Brandt/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting April 28, 2026 as presented.**

Carried

**5. Accounts and Finance**

**5.1 Accounts Reports** –

1. April 2026 Income Statement and Machine Time
2. April 2026 Cheque EFT and Online Payments
3. VFIS 2026-27 Insurance Renewal Proposal

In regard to 5.1.1 Council discussed the OCWA Chemical invoice received after the statements were printed. It will show the expense on the May Statement and noted that a portion of the invoice was chemicals from 2025.

In regard to 5.1.3 Council reviewed the Insurance renewal proposal. Council inquired about death benefit coverage. The Clerk Administrator will confirm the coverage details and share with Council.

190-2026 Scott/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the renewal of the Volunteer Fire Fighters’ Accident Coverage from Marsh Insurance with an annual premium of \$4027 effective June 6, 2026.**

Carried

191-2026 Brandt/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. Water Treatment Plant Upgrades GSS Change Order 1
2. Round Lake Kawawaymog Office Closure Letter
3. Train Station Committee Minutes April 30 2026
4. Marriage Solemnization Draft By-law
5. Community Improvement Plan – Residential Properties

In regard to 6.1.2 Council discussed the change order for the Water Treatment Plant upgrade making an alteration to the backwash pumping system.

In regard to 6.1.3 The Committee would like to hold an event around the time the Northlander Train begins service. In addition to the Train Station Committee minutes Mayor Coleman shared on Friday May 8 he along with the Mayors of Huntsville, Bracebridge and Gravenhurst celebrated the return of the Northlander with the ONR Hon. Graydon Smith MPP. Mayor Coleman shared he had the opportunity to go in one of the trains and is excited for its return. The more we can offer people the more people will come. Mayor Coleman added there will be a magazine on the train for businesses to advertise in.

In regard to 6.1.4 Council discussed if this should be a service the Village offers and discussed looking at fees of surrounding municipalities and to bring forward a By-Law for the next meeting.

In regard to 6.1.5 Council reviewed the Community Improvement Plan discussing who can benefit from the plan and build incentive for buyers. Focusing on multi-residential buildings with 3 or more units and specific buildings. Council agreed more researched needs to be done on different plans before altering the Community Improvement Plan.

192-2026 Brandt/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the Water Treatment Upgrade Project Engineering Change Order #1 in the amount of \$6500 plus HST to design an improved backwash pumping system.**

Carried

193-2026 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 #5 as presented.**

Carried

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

1. South River Machar Library Board Minutes Draft April 23, 2026

In regard to 6.2.1 Council reviewed the South River Machar Library Minutes noting the Library will be kicking off the Summer Reading Program. They did not get funding for a summer student and they will have a volunteer. The library is interested in doing events with the telescopes the Village of South River is purchasing. Councillor Scott added she would like to have another Dark Sky event around August 13 when the Meteor Shower is at its peak. Mayor Coleman agreed that is an excellent idea and suggested including the North Bay Astronomy Club.

194-2026 Brandt/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.**

Carried

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

1. Almaguin Highlands O.P.P. Detachment Board April 8, Minutes Meal Policy and Budget
2. Joint Building Committee April 2026 Statistics
3. North Bay Parry Sound Medical Officer of Health Report April 2026
4. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit February 25, 2026 Minutes

In regard to 6.3.1 Council reviewed the Almaguin Highlands O.P.P Detachment Board minutes and budget. Councillor Scott asked why the Sundridge court still requires officers to show up in person instead of having the option to be virtual. There are significant costs requiring the officer to be present for the day at court vs being virtual for the 15-20 minutes they are needed to be present. Many other courts have the officer virtually which helps keeps costs down and not keeping a officer in a court room all day. Council requested more research on who is responsible for deciding whether court is in-person or virtual.

In regard to 6.3.2 Council discussed that building permits are down and the revenue from permits is also lower. There is currently one permit for a single-family dwelling in the Village. Also noted that Magnetawan is hiring and Chief Building Officer.

195-2026 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 #4.**

Carried

## **7. By-Laws and Resolutions –**

1. Resolution – Support Municipality of Huntsville – Cancer Care

196-2026 O'Hallarn/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan Resolution #2026-87 opposing the relocation of the Huntsville Cancer Clinic to Bracebridge and Council calls upon the Government of Ontario, the Ministry of Health, and Ontario Health to retain cancer care services in Huntsville and that this resolution be sent to MPP Honourable Graydon Smith, and the Municipality of Magnetawan.**

Carried

## **8. Correspondence**

1. Employment North Parking Request
2. Canada Summer Jobs – 2026 Funding Not Approved
3. Almaguin Chamber - May 2026 Newsletter
4. MFOA - 2026 Federal Spring Economic Update
5. North Bay Humane Society - Spay and Neuter Program
6. Women's Own Resource - Annual Funding Request
7. MPAC 2025 Annual and Performance Report
8. MPAC 2025 Financial Statement
9. City of Pickering Resolution - School Board Governance Consultation Process
10. United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry - Land Transfer Tax
11. Labour Market April 2026 - March 2026 Jobs Report

In regard to 8.1 Council suggested the medical building as closer option. Also concerned about access with snow. Council is open to trying it and working with Employment North and also have the arena as a backup.

In regard to 8.3 Council reviewed the Almaguin Chamber newsletter and discussed new businesses in the Village.

In regard to 8.5 Council suggested to share the information with the South River Machar Agricultural Society since they already offer a similar program.

197-2026 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support Women's Own Resource with a 2026 per capita levy of \$0.50 for a total of \$550.50**

Carried

198-2026 Brandt/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #11.**

Carried

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

Councillor Scott asked about the Community Gardens if they are all ready. Administrative Assistant replied all the community garden boxes are taken this year. Councillor Scott asked if we will expand or can we expand for next year? Clerk Administrator mentioned the interest at one time to have them at the Food Bank/Employment North. Do we want a second location? Council also discussed the option of adding more to the current location and the cost to build more boxes.

Councillor Scott also suggested having feeding trees (fruits trees and shrubs) buying trees and have residents buy and plant them in their own yards. Can look at ordering and presell them to residents. Councillor Scott mention again making the August Dark Sky an annual event at Tom Thomson Park.

Clerk Administrator discussed he attended and AMCTO meeting and one of the topics was staff harassment to Municipal staff. Many municipalities sharing stories of harassment to Public Works, office staff and Councils in person and on social media. Huntsville and Perry passed a resolution asking the province for legislature. Mayor Coleman asked if should we have a policy? The Clerk added we could support the resolution.

Candice Robertson left the meeting at 4:06pm

## **10. In Camera –**

1. 281 HWY 124 – Sale of Property

199-2026 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 4:06pm for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.**

Carried

200-2026 Scott/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 4:25pm with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.**

Carried

**11. Confirming By-law –** By-law #33-2026

201-2026 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#33-2026, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12. Adjournment**

202-2026 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, May 26<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: 4:36p.m.**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator**