

Village of South River  
Council Meeting – November 25, 2025

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Thursday November 25, 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

Guest: Ontario Clean Water Agency - P. Dyrda and S. Lemieux  
South River Machar Fire Chief – Risto Maki

**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** - Ontario Clean Water Agency 2026 Contract and Capital  
P. Dyrda and S. Lemieux

Ontario Clean Water Agency P. Dyrda and S. Lemieux reviewed with Council the 2026 Contract and Capital forecast. Ontario Clean Water Agency broke down the cost increases in the agreement explaining the increase cost to operate, cost of chemicals and insurance increases. Ontario Clean Water Agency also discussed with Council the repairs and improvements needed at the water treatment plant and the associated costs.

Ontario Clean Water Agency left the meeting at 2:36pm

334-2025 Brooks/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does authorize the Clerk-Administrator to draft a by-law to enter into a five-year operating agreement with the Ontario Clean Water Agency for water treatment and distribution services as per the terms and conditions presented today.**

Carried

**4. Adoption of Minutes** – Council November 13, 2025

335-2025 Brandt/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting November 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 as presented.**

Carried

**5. Accounts and Finance**

**5.1 Accounts Reports** -

1. BFL Cyber Insurance Renewal
2. CSBT Group Health Insurance Renewal
3. Penalty Interest Rate on Overdue Water Accounts

In regard to 5.1.1 Council reviewed the BFL Cyber Insurance renewal and rates have decreased for 2026.

In regard to 5.1.2 Council discussed the CSBT Group Health Insurance renewal and the rate increase. Council discussed the option to put a tender out for next year to compare rates.

In regard to 5.1.3 Council discussed reducing the interest rate for overdue water accounts. Chief Financial Officer Janet Wedseltoft prepared a comparison chart of the surrounding municipalities water billing cycles and interest rates.

336-2025 Brooks/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does authorize the renewal of BFL Municipal Insurance Renewal Proposal dated November 17, 2025 as presented at a cost of \$3709.80 including tax.**

Carried

337-2025 O'Hallarn/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does authorize the renewal of CSBT Group Insurance Proposal dated November 1, 2025 as presented with an average increase of 6.3% for 2026.**

Carried

338-2025 O'Hallarn/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does set the overdue water account penalty rate at 1.25% per month effective January 1, 2026.**

Carried

339-2025 O'Hallarn/Brooks

**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. Surplus Property 68 Riverside Listing
2. Industrial Commercial and Institution Recycling List
3. Public Works Committee Minutes November 17 2025

In regard to 6.1.1 Council discusses listing the surplus property at 68 Riverside for sale. Council also discussed other surplus properties the Village has and would like to rezone the properties and prepare them to be ready to list for sale.

In regard to 6.1.2 Council reviewed the Industrial Commercial and Institution list effected by the new recycling policy for 2026. Council discussed what the Village could do as an option. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur noted he is waiting on a price from Emterra if they would pick up the recycling what the additional costs would be. The Clerk Administrator also noted he is waiting on confirmation from Emterra that garbage pickup would remain on Fridays and they recycling cycle would remain in the same cycle for residents.

In regard to 6.1.3 Council reviewed the minutes from the Public Works Committee meeting. Council discussed capital planning and looking at a plow truck suitable for Village needs and pickup truck to be reassessed in 2026. Council reviewed the suggested backhoe maintenance contract with Brandt and the capital items for the water treatment plant as recommended from OCWA. Council also noted they would get the flowers for the Village from Variegated Divas again for next year. H and G Control was information on a process that turns garbage into fuel.

340-2025 Brandt/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Clerk-Administrator to enter into a listing agreement with Royal Lepage for the sale of the vacant property 68 Riverside Ave with a listing price of \$55,000.00.**

Carried

341-2025 Brooks/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the Public Works Committee recommendation to purchase the Backhoe Maintenance Contract with Brandt as presented.**

Carried

342-2025 Brooks/O’Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the following capital items for the water treatment plant in 2026 as recommended by OCWA and funded through OCIF funding;**

Potassium Permanganate Dosing Pumps (2)	\$5,000
Sodium Sulphite Pump (1)	\$5,500
Waste Decant Pump (1)	\$10,000
Turbidity Analyzers	\$27,000
Tanks	\$2,000
Header, Pipes	\$22,000
At a total budgeted cost of \$71,500.	

Carried

343-2025 Scott/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee report #1 to #3 as presented.**

Carried

**6.2 Reports from Shared Services –**

1. SRM Fire Chief Report October 2025
2. SRM Chief Community Centre Operator Report September 2025
3. SRM Community Centre Minutes November 18, 2025

In regard to 6.2.1 South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki reviewed the October report and asked for Councils support for a resolution regarding Firefighter Certification. The resolution to be brought forward at the next meeting.

South River Machar Fire Chief left the meeting at 3:36pm

In regard to 6.2.3 Council discussed the SRM Community Centre minutes discussing details for Christmas in the Village. Councillor Broks brought forward the idea of a large TV to watch for movie nights in the Community Centre. Criterion license is \$500 for a year and gives you access to hundreds of movies including new releases. Council also discussed the J.Peever Dance Program Proposal to have a 8 week dance program at the Community Centre from April – June.

344-2025 Brandt/O’Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support working with the Township of Machar and J Peever on a trial dance program for April and May 2026 for youth to be delivered at the SRM Community Centre and the cost be included in the 2026 Community Centre Budget.**

Carried

345-2025 Scott/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 #3.**

Carried

**6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --**

1. ACED 2026 Participation
2. PSDSSAB November CAO Report and National Housing Day
3. Almaguin Highlands OPP Board Minutes Nov 12, 2025
4. JBC Reserve Response – Township of Strong

In regard to 6.3.1 Council discussed ACED at length and if they would participate as a member in 2026.

In regard to 6.3.4 Council discussed the Joint Building Committee response to the letter the Village had written. It was felt the intent of the letter was misunderstood but South River Council did not want to pursue the issue any further.

346-2025 Brandt/O’Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby notify ACED that the Village of South River not be participating in 2026 and 2027.**

Carried

347-2025 Brandt/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 #4.**

Carried

**7. By-Laws and Resolutions –**

1. By-law 45-2025 – Vacant Building
2. By-law 46-2025 – Eagle Crest Resorts Arena Rental 2026-2030
3. Resolution – Support Algonquin DiscGolf

348-2025 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# 45-2025, being a by-law to regulate vacant buildings with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

349-2025 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 #46-2025, being a by-law to enter into an arena rental agreement with Eagle Crest Resorts for the summers of 2026 to 2030 with the signature of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

350-2025 Scott/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby budget up to \$3500 to assist the Algonquin DiscGolf with the purchase of new baskets as per their proposal.**

Carried

**8. Correspondence**

1. Saugeen First Nation Zaag'idiwin Naaknigewin - Children Services Letter and Contact
2. Hon. Jill Dunlop - FPT Meeting on Emergency Management
3. Deputy Minister Pegg - EMESA Launch
4. Hon. Rob Flack - Building Faster Bill
5. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - Conservation Authorities
6. RED Gala December 9, 2025
7. MMAH -2025 Virtual Northeast Municipal Workshop Series
8. Almaguin Highlands Special Olympics Baseball Team
9. MFOA Building Faster Update
10. Municipality of Wawa - Rent Protection for Tenants
11. NBPS Health Unit Strategic Plan Sessions
12. Ontario Construction Secretariat - Responsible Procurement Campaign
13. 2025 Almaguin Chamber Awards
14. AHHC Minutes – October 2, 2025

In regard to 8.8 Council would like to donate to the Almaguin Highlands Special Olympics Baseball Team and a resolution to be brought forward to next meeting.

351-2025 Brandt/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #14.**

Carried

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

Councillor Brenda Scott asked if there is any additional money in the budget allocated for donations if we could donate to the Good Happenings Food Bank. Councillor Scott has asked the food bank what the most needed food item is and would like to donate. Chief Financial Officer will bring the amounts to the next council meeting what has been donated and how much is left.

Councillor Bill O’Hallarn said he has been receiving positive feedback in regard to moving the date of Christmas in the Village to a Sunday afternoon and some said it was difficult to attend when it was a Friday night. Councillor Robert Brooks added that the same evening there is a Christmas Dinner happening at the South River Legion.

Councillor Bill O’Hallarn asked if the next Public Works Committee meeting on Dec 10 could be rescheduled because he can’t make it. Clerk Administrator and Council have moved the meeting to Dec 12

Candice Robertson leaves the meeting at 5:05pm

**10. In Camera** – Surplus property -281 Hwy 124

352-2025 Brooks/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 5:06 p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.**

Carried

353-2025 O’Hallarn/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 5:30 pm with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.**

Carried

The conditional offer to purchase the property at 281 HWY 124 has been accepted. If the conditions are removed a by-law will be brought forward to complete the sale.

**11. Confirming By-law** – By-law #47-2025

354-2025 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# 47-2025, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12. Adjournment**

355-2025 Brandt/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 December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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: 5:32 p.m.**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator**