

Village of South River
Council Meeting – October 28, 2025

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday October 28, 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: 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

4. Adoption of Minutes – Council October 14, 2025

304-2025 Scott/ Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting October 14th 2025 as presented.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports -

1. 2026 Water Budget and Billing

In regard to 5.1.1 Council discussed a potential rate increase of 22% to compensate for the 50% operating cost increase from OCWA beginning January 2026. Council is not in favor of the increase, but did discuss that it was tendered out and OCWA was the lowest option. Council also discussed the option of the Village taking care of the water ourselves and or working with a larger community but working on our own would be more costly and no other community participated in the tender process. Council also discussed options of agreeing to a shorter contract and would there be any benefits. In addition to the water budget Council also discussed water billing to be moved to monthly billing from bimonthly beginning January 2026.

305-2025 O'Hallarn/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby direct administration to move to monthly water billing beginning in January 2026.

Carried

306-2025 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. Administrative Monetary Penalties Appointments
2. Empty Building By-law
3. Public Works Committee Minutes October 15 2025
4. South River 2025 Q3 Operations Report

In regard to 6.1.2 Council discussed having a empty building By-law to prevent buildings from sitting empty. Council agreed to having a draft by-law to review for the next council meeting

In regard to 6.1.3 Council reviewed the Public Works Meeting minutes discussing there are fire hydrants with slow leaks and need to be replaced beginning with the one on Howard St. There is also some curb stop failures that need replacement and will be reviewing in the spring. Council noted that the banners around the Village are going to be refreshed in the Spring. The Stirling truck is for sale and parked at the brewery and is posted on the Village social media page and the Village website. Council discussed Ottawa Ave drainage reviewing the new drainage basin and how it is working. Council also discussed a possible tree planting program, in the spring for Tom Thomson Park and have trees available for the residents as well to plant new trees to help replace the large number of mature trees in the Village.

In regard to 6.14 Council reviewed the South River 2025 Q3 Operations Report for the water treatment plant noting everything going well and no major issues at the water treatment plant. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur also noted the Annual Water Inspection happened at the beginning of October, we haven't received the report yet, but it appears to have gone well.

307-2025 O'Hallarn, 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# 42-2025, being a by-law to appoint D Hall as hearing officer and C. Robertson as screening officer with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

308-2025 O'Hallarn/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does authorize the Clerk-Administrator to enter into a five-year Land Use agreement with the Snowdrifters Snowmobile club as presented.

Carried

309-2025 Brandt/Brooks

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. SRM Fire Chief Report October 2025
2. SRM Chief Community Centre Operator Report September 2025
3. SRM Library Board Meeting Draft Oct 16 2025 Minutes

In regard to 6.2.1 South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki reviewed the Fire Chief report to Council, noting that September was the second busiest this year. This year the fire department has had the highest call volume to date and there is still 2 months remaining of the year. There is significant call response increase up from 65 to 112 calls. The South River Machar Fire Department has a response time of 6 minutes out the door from the time a call comes in which is comparable to a full-time department. The Fire Chief also reviewed equipment repaired and training updates noting 8 fire fighters completed the Hazardous Materials Course.

South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki left the meeting at 3:22pm

In regard to 6.2.3 Council reviewed the South River Machar Library Board meeting minutes noting they have a new board member April Savard from Laurier.

310-2025 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 #3.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --

1. ACED September 18, 2025 Minutes and Directors Report
2. PSDSSAB October CAO Report

In regard to 6.3.2 Council reviewed the PSDASSAB October CAO Report, noting the Powassan building is almost fully rented. There is now a partnership with Employment North to assist with finding employment. The DSSAB is starting more outreach and support, many people don't realize that if they are in financial hardship and water or hydro is being turned off they may be able to assist.

311-2025 Brooks/Scott

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 – Nil

8. Correspondence

- 1. South River Lions - Winterfest Request
- 2. Explorers Edge October Newsletter
- 3. Town of Ajax - Provincial Decision on Automated Speed Enforcement
- 4. Township of Edwardsburgh Support Resolution - Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)
- 5. Town of Plympton-Wyoming - Conservation Fee Freeze
- 6. MAHC Political Leaders Forum Minutes October 9, 2025
- 7. Township of Stone Mills -EAB Infestation Funding
- 8. Municipality of Bluewater - Climate Change as a Foremost National Priority
- 9. Township of Armour - Notice OPA Rezoning Public Meeting

Council supports 8.4 & 8.7.

312-2025 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby grant the use of the Community Centre on February 7th for Winterfest events.

Carried

313-2025 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) –

Councillor Brenda Scott discussed the Tourism Summit she attended with Economic Development Intern Tanvir Kabir. The tourism operators are excited for the train to come to South River and think businesses need to step it up and be aware of this opportunity the train can bring to the businesses. Councillor Scott suggest having a business summit/meeting with the businesses in the area to get them talking and start creating a plan to be ready for the train before the train starts to take advantage of this opportunity.

Councillor Robert Brooks asked about the expression of interest for the 281 Hwy 124, Clerk Administrator replied it is still open and normally submissions are in near or on the closing date which is November 5th. Councillor Brooks then inquired about the Train Station if there was any new interest in renting the space. The response was that there is not any news to share however the economic development intern was working with one enquiry. Lastly Councillor Brooks inquired about the Brewery. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur replied there was interest to pursue a long term lease.

Councillor Teri Brandt wanted to confirm Christmas in the Village date. Machar wants to partner with the Village and is good with Sunday Dec 14 or 21. Council decided having it on the Sunday when the kids are out of school to have a Christmas activity to do before Christmas and agreed on Sunday December 21st from 1pm-4pm. Councillor Brandt suggested a possible craft table for the kids to have something to go when they are not skating. Councillor Brandt was approached last year by someone that was interested in running a craft table. Council discussed if there was enough space to have a craft table.

Chief Financial Officer Janet Wedseltoft apologized for late notice cancelling the Cemetery Meeting and rescheduled the meeting for November 20th at 9:30am

Candice Robertson leaves the meeting at 4:33pm

10. In Camera –

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Personnel | - Economic Development Intern |
| | - SRM Firefighter Appointments |

314-2025 Brandt/O’Hallarn

Be it Resolved that this meeting of the Village of South River Council be closed under Subsection

239. (d) labour relations or employee negotiations and that this Council proceed in Camera at 4:34pm for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

315-2025 Brooks/Scott
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 5:04pm with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.

Carried

316-2025 Brooks/Brandt
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Phillip Stauffer, Samantha Ban, and Bobbi-Joe Vanderschee to the South River Machar Fire Department.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #43-2025

317-2025 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# 43-2025, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 28th day of October 2025 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

318-2025 Brooks/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 Thursday November 13, 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: 5:09p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator