

Village of South River
Council Meeting – September 23, 2025

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday September 23, 2025. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councillor Brenda Scott, and Councillor Robert Brooks. Absent with notice Councillor Teri Brandt

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
Tanvir Kabir, Economic Development.

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 September 9, 2025

264-2025 Scott/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting September 9th 2025 as presented.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports -

1. OCIF 2026 Funding
2. Draft Extension Agreement By-law

In regard to 5.1.2 Council discussed the Extension Agreement By-Law.

265-2025 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# 37-2025, being a by-law to extend authority to enter into extension agreements for tax arrears to the Treasurer with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

266-2025 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance #1 to #2.

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. Administrative Monetary Penalties Schedule A Update
2. Public Works Committee Minutes Sept 16 2025
3. Joint Health and Safety Committee Minutes August 27 2025
4. Rural Ontario Development Grant Application
5. South River Artificial Intelligence Policy Draft
6. Joint Building Committee Draft Letter
7. Urban Sky Park Application – Tom Thomson Park
8. South River Strategic Plan Update

In regard to 6.1.1, Council discussed the Administrative Monetary Penalties Schedule reviewing updates to fine amounts and adding fines that were missing in the original draft.

In regard to 6.1.2 Council reviewed the Public Works Committee meeting minutes.

In regard to 6.1.4 Council reviewed the Rural Ontario Development Grant as presented by Economic Development Officer Tanvir Kabir, discussing the updates that were made based on the recommendation from the Rural Ontario Development. Updates to projects and our partners, building the capacity of the economic development in South River. Discussing projects needs addressing economic development and opportunities and the outcomes for jobs and businesses.

In regard to 6.1.7 Council discussed the Urban Sky Park Application for Tom Thomson Park. Council reviewed the different classifications and the qualifications for each classification. The Village is waiting on a response on requirements and measurement of light. The designation of a Urban Dark Sky Park may increase tourism as astro tourism is growing and Tom Thomson Park is an excellent location. Council discussed adding tents at Tom Thomson Park for people to rent and enjoy the stars in Tom Thomson Park.

267-2025 Brooks/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Public Works Committee recommendation to rent a wood chipper for one week at a cost of \$1800 plus HST.

Carried

268-2025 O'Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Rural Ontario Development Grant Application as presented.

Carried

269-2025 Brooks/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the South River Artificial Intelligence Municipal Use Policy as presented.

Carried

270-2025 O'Hallarn/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support a letter be sent by Mayor Coleman to the Mayors and Council of all members of the Joint Building Committee urging a review of the Joint Building Committee's reserve policy.

Carried

271-2025 Scott/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support an application to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada for an Urban Dark Sky Park designation.

Carried

272-2025 Brooks/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the updates to the South River Strategic plan as presented.

Carried

273-2025 Brooks/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee report #1 to #8 as presented.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services

1. SRM Fire Chief Report August 2025
2. SRM Chief Community Centre Operator Report August 2025

In regard to 6.2.1 South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki reviewed the South River Machar Fire Chief Report. The Fire Chief noted the challenges with social services and mental health work. Victim Services and Crisis services for this area is very limited and only available in very narrow defined circumstances. This can make it very difficult for fire fighters and emergency responders dealing with victims and their families. The call volume has increased over 18% over last year. The Fire Chief also noted that Code Red is very effective and there has been some great updates and more options for alerts that can be made out to residents.

South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki and Economic Development Officer Tanvir Kabir left the meeting at 4:00pm

274-2025 Brooks/Scott

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. ACED Minutes and Directors Report August 28, 2025 and Draft Shared Services

- Agreement
2. PSDSSAB September CAO Report

275-2025 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 – Nil

8. Correspondence

1. Good Happenings Foodbank - Thank You.
2. Community Emergency Preparedness Grant 2025
3. FCM - Building Canada Homes Policy Analysis
4. Township of Armour - Post Transition of Blue Box
5. Township of Larder Lake - Moratorium on Spraying of Glyphosate
6. Municipality of St.-Charles - Natural Gas Expansion Project Cancellation
7. Town of Bluewater - Closure of Before and After School Programs
8. AHHC Minutes of July 3, 2025

In regard to 8.2 Council discussed the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant seeking funds for a generator for the Emergency Operations Centre and municipal office.
Council supported items 8.6 and 8.7 and requested resolutions for the next meeting.

276-2025 Scott/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support an application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant to assist in the cost of preparing the municipal office as an Emergency Control Centre with adequate generators to maintain the HVAC and electronic communications.

Carried

277-2025 O’Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #8

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Councillor Brenda Scott discussed the recent Northern Lights were excellent at Tom Thomson Park and there is growing interest at the park for star gazing.

Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn noted there is a lot of dead trees in South River, some of them on Village property and some on residents and the cost to remove and take trees down safely is very expensive. Can the government help support to take trees down for residents that cant afford to do it on their own. Administrative Assistant Candice Robertson added there have been calls from residents wanting public works to look at the trees and determine if they are on Village property or not and if the Village can assist them with taking trees down. Public Works gets notified and has looked at several trees. Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn asked administration to inquire of the province if any financial assistance is available to the Village and/or low-income property owners with problem trees.

The Clerk Administrator added that there are orange t-shirts orders for staff for Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30th and there will be a learning video for staff to watch.

Candice Robertson leaves the meeting at 4:42pm

10. In Camera – 281 HWY 124 Draft Lease Agreement 2026-2030
ACED Draft Shared Services Agreement

278-2025 Brooks/O’Hallarn

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 4:41pm for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

279-2025 O’Hallarn/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 6:06pm with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.

Carried

280-2025 Brooks/O’Hallarn
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby direct administration to negotiate an extension to the existing lease with the current tenant as per the parameters set out in closed session.

Carried

281-2025 O’Hallarn/Scott
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Councillor Robert Brooks to the ACED Board.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #38-2025

282-2025 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# 38-2025, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 23rd day of September 2025 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

283-2025 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 Tuesday October 14, 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: 6:11 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator