

Village of South River  
Council Meeting – April 14, 2026

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday April 14, 2026. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn, and Councillor Robert Brooks. Councillor Teri Brandt 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

Guests: M. Paradis, E. Samuel – Near North District School Board

**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** –

1. Rezoning 10 and 12 Poplar Street OS to R1
2. Rezoning Hunter St., Mill Rd, and Whitetail Dr. RU to R2
3. Amend R2 – 68 Riverside Avenue
4. Re-Nature Foundation and Near North District School Board- Outdoor Classroom

In regard to 3.1 M. Paradis inquired 10 and 12 Poplar St currently designated as park/Open Space, and being rezoned to residential with the intent to build will the money from the sale of the property be allocated to the parks in the Village and if the lots will be sold at market value.

In regard to 3.2 Council received letters of support from T. McFadden and J. Payne for the rezoning of Hunter st, Mill St and Whitetail Dr from Rural to residential.

In regard to 3.3 M. Paradis inquired about the lot size with easements. It is a small lot will you be able to build a house with a septic on the lot. Council agreed the lot is a smaller lot but there are other similar small lots in the Village. There is a pending sale for this lot, pending the rezoning to be able to build a home.

In regard to 3.4 E. Samuel from the Near North District School Board presented a proposal to team up with Re-Nature for outdoor learning. Kids spending more time on screens and research shows issues with depression, anxiety and problem solving. Spending time outdoors helps release stress, and develops stronger skills, confidence and self-esteem. Re-Nature is a Canadian not for profit organization to recreate landscapes for schools to uncover funding opportunities to put forest back in school yards, like an outdoor classroom. South River Public School has lost nature space in their yard when the new transit loop was added for the busses and this makes the South River school a good candidate for the Re-Nature program. We are asking for the support of the Village to apply for the grant Growing Canadas Community Canopies but it is a matching grant. The Near North School Board will put in the funds and be no cost to the municipality just a resolution. Mayor Coleman asked if they have determined a site at the school. The Near North School Board advised they are still working on the right location looking at space available and the current trees on the school's property.

144-2026 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# 23-2026, being a zoning by-law amendment to amend from Open Space (OS) to First Density Residential (R1) the properties with the legal description PLAN M394 LOT 20 and PLAN M394 LOT 19, municipally known as 10 and 12 Poplar Street, with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed**

Carried

145-2026 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# 24-2026, being a zoning by-law amendment to amend from the existing zoning Rural (RU) to Second Density Residential (R2) for 17 vacant properties on Hunter St., Mill Rd., and Whitetail Dr. as listed in the By-law with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed**

Carried

146-2026 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# 25-2026, being a zoning by-law amendment to amend the property with the legal description PLAN 134 LOT 15 municipally known as 68 Riverside Avenue with reduced frontage, side lot setback and minimum lot size with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed**

Carried

147-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

**Whereas, The Village of South River has the following interest: Improving our schoolyards by creating outdoor learning spaces and tree canopy environments; and**

**Whereas, The Re-Nature Foundation is undertaking the "Growing Near North District School Board Canopies with Re-Nature" program, which will be building outdoor learning spaces and planting trees at the elementary schools within the municipality.**

**Now Be it Resolved that the Council of The Village of South River acknowledges and supports the funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' "Growing Canada's Community Canopies" initiative for the "Growing Near North District School Board Canopies with Re-Nature" program, which will be building learning spaces and planting trees at the elementary schools in the municipality, in partnership with The Village of South River.**

**And that Council also recognizes that the lifetime contribution from the "Growing Canada's Community Canopies" initiative will not exceed \$10 million for tree planting within our municipality, inclusive of a maximum contribution of \$1 million for infrastructure activity costs, and that if approved this project will be counted towards that limit.**

Carried

All guests left the meeting at 2:31pm

#### **4. Adoption of Minutes** – Council Meeting March 24

148-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting March 24<sup>th</sup> as presented.**

Carried

#### **5. Accounts and Finance**

##### **5.1 Accounts Reports** –

1. March 2026 Income Statement and Machine Time
2. March 2026 Cheque EFT and Online Payments
3. MLEO 2026 Budget
4. FONOM Annual Membership

In regard to 5.1.3 Council discussed the MLEO budget and the completion of training the By-law Officer has completed compared to previous By-Law Officers

149-2026 Brooks/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the joint budget as presented for Municipal Law Enforcement in the total amount of \$96,810 with South River's contribution being \$24,202.50.**

Carried

150-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the payment of the 2026 FONOM Membership dues in the amount \$176.40.**

Carried

151-2026 Brooks/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. South River Public Works Committee Minutes March 23 2026
2. Gateway Signage Explorers Edge Application
3. 2026 Election By-laws - Draft
4. Integrity Commissioner Annual Report
5. E360 Portable Washroom Quote 2026

In regard to 6.1.1 Council reviewed the Public Works Committee Minutes. Discussing the steamer that is used to open frozen culverts is old and working at 50%, will need to look at replacing. Council also discussed if we should develop our own restrictions for half loads to protect our roads.

In regard to 6.1.2 Council discussed the Highway signage and the value of having signage versus the cost. Council would like to wait on grant before moving forward with the new signage.

152-2026 Brooks/O’Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does support an application to Explorers Edge for \$11,500 to partner in a gateway signage project with a total cost of \$24,500.**

Carried

153-2026 O’Hallarn/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the rental of 5 portable washrooms for 2026 as per the quote provided.**

Carried

154-2026 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 #5 as presented.**

Carried

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

1. South River Machar Library Board Minutes Draft March 26 2026
2. South River Machar Library Budget 2026

155-2026 Brooks/O’Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the South River Machar Public Library with municipal contribution of \$49,076.77, a 2%increase, for 2026 and the amount be included in the 2026 Municipal Budget.**

Carried

156-2026 O’Hallarn/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 #2.**

Carried

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

1. Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board Agenda Package April 8, 2026
2. Joint Building Committee March 2026 Statistics

157-2026 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 –**

- 1.Resolution – Support Town of Whitby - Comprehensive Review of the Provincial Municipal Fiscal Framework

158-2026 Brooks/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support Town of Whitby Resolution # 41-26 urging the Province to establish a predictable, housing linked revenue stream for municipalities that reflects the economic, social, and infrastructure demands associated with growth and that this resolution be sent to MPP Graydon Smith, the Town of Whitby and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.**

Carried

### 8. Correspondence

1. CEPG2025-26 Grant Application Notification
2. South River Friendly Circle - Thank You
3. Royal Canadian Legion BR 390 - Patio License Request
4. Shock Rodz Car Club - Sponsorship Request
5. NBPSD Health Unit Honours Local Partners
6. BFL Canada - Bring Your Own Alcohol at Outdoor Public Events
7. ACED April Newsletter
8. Almaguin Chamber - April 2026 Newsletter
9. Almaguin Pride - Councillor Training
10. Discovery Routes Trail Map Partnership-Almaguin
11. Don Ivens Community Memorial Award
12. Labour Market March 2026 - February 2026 Jobs Report
13. Local Labour Market Plan 2026
14. Minister Cho - Seniors Award
15. Minister Robert Flack - Spring Housing Bill
16. Municipality of Chatham-Kent Food Insecurity Declaration
17. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit - Age Friendly Planning
18. Ministry of Transportation – Rideshare Regulatory Registry Stakeholder Notification
19. Sudbury Barrie Transmission Line Project Announcement
20. Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands - Tar and Chip
21. Explorers Edge March 2026 Newsletter
22. Ontario - Buy Ontario Directive
23. City of Mississauga - School Board
24. CN Rail - Three Year Network Plan- Newmarket Subdivision
25. CN Right-Of-Way Vegetation Management 2026
26. HG Control Introduction - Waste Management

159-2026 Brooks/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support a liquor license extension for Royal Canadian Legion Branch 390 to have an outdoor patio on the premises that conforms with all AGCO requirements from April 1 to November 30, 2026.**

Carried

160-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Shock Rodz Car Club with a Gold Car Show Sponsorship of \$1000.**

Carried

161-2026 Brooks/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the 2026 Discovery Route Trail Map with a sponsorship of \$250.**

Carried

162-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

**The Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Don Ivens Memorial Community Volunteer Award with a contribution of \$167. And the amount be included in the 2026 budget.**

Carried

163-2026 O'Hallarn/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #26.**

Carried

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

Councillor Brooks noted the Trout Creek arena is not getting funding and working on something else. Councillor Brooks also noted the fares for the Northlander train were released and are reasonable especially if you prepurchase 4 days in advance.

Deputy Mayor O’Hallarn inquired about the Election Candidate information session. The Clerk Administrator replied that it is posted on the village website and Facebook page. There is a Candidate Information session for anyone interested to run for council.

Mayor Coleman commented there is a Shay train at the St. Thomas Train museum and to see if there is a way to display at the South River Train Station. Deputy Mayor O’Hallarn added that North Bay is hoping to rebuild a steam train and do short excursions and we could reach out to them too.

Clerk Administrator McArthur shared the office will be closed on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup> for first aid training. The Village is looking at insurance renewal and look at quotes.

Chief Financial Officer reminded Council of the Cemetery Meeting on April 21 at 2pm

Candice Robertson left the meeting at 4:28pm

**10. In Camera –**

1. 281 HWY 124 – Sale of Property

164-2026 O’Hallarn/Brooks

**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 4:28 p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.**  
Carried

165-2026 O’Hallarn/Brooks

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 4:40pm. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.**  
Carried

**11. Confirming By-law –** By-law #26-2026

166-2026 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# 26-2026, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12. Adjournment**

167-2026 Brooks/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 28<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: 4:41p.m.**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator**