Village of South River

Council Meeting – November 14, 2016

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held on Monday, November 14, 2016 in the South River Council Chambers. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman and Councillors Sharon Smith, Doug Sewell, Teri Brandt and Les Mahon.

**Staff in Attendance**: Sherri Hawthorne; Treasurer

Susan L. Arnold, Clerk Administrator

**Public in Attendance**: Steve Mc Arthur; Account Manager MPAC

**1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Coleman at 5:30 p.m.

**2.** **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

None Declared

**3. Guests & Deputations**

Steve McArthur began his presentation with some background regarding the new assessment cycle which will begin January 1, 2017 and continue for the next four tax years (ending 2020). MPAC has been preparing for this tax cycle since 2014; two years earlier than previous assessment updates. There were several changes to the process. Assessment Notices were sent out on a twenty-five (25) week mailing schedule. Also, there were changes in the valuation approach which took into account some of the complexities of some properties such as sawmills, golf courses and other special purpose businesses.

Municipalities do not set the tax rates alone. Included in that decision are contributions by the Provincial Government which passes legislation, sets assessment policies and determines education tax rates. The Province also operates an independent assessment appeal tribunal known as the Assessment Review Board (ARB).

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation determines Current Value Assessments and classifications for all properties in ntario and pass along those assessment values to the individual municipalities.

The municipalities determine its revenue requirements based on provincial levies for such services as the policing, nursing homes, social servies and health units (to name a few). The municipality must also include costs such as road maintenance and repair, fire protection, garbage disposal and property maintenance (to name a few). Some of these items have requirements which have been mandated through legislation and not through levies. Once these costs have been determined for the year Council will establish a tax rate by by-law. High assessment bases do not necessarily mean high property taxes. It may mean there are more properties to share the cost of expenses. A low assessment base means there are fewer properties to share the cost of services.

This assessment cycle has seen very little change in the Residential class and, in some cases, residential assessments have gone down from the previous cycle. To date; approximately four (4) Request for Reconsideration (RfR) have been received by MPAC for the 2017 tax year from residential owners in the Village of South River.

In this taxation cycle there are some changes to some commercial and special purpose businesses within the Village of South River. Until the Village receives the Minutes of Settlement for these properties its effect cannot be calculated. Steve McArthur did assure Council that MPAC and his team would work with the municipality to help the Village maintain its assessment base.

Council asked several questions which Steve McArthur answered. Steve thanked Council for its time and left the meeting with a willingness to return at any time should Council wish to have more discussions.

6:05 p.m. Steve McArthur left the meeting.

**4.** **Adoption of Minutes**

250-2016 Brandt/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the minutes of Monday, October 24, 2016, as printed.**

Carried

**5. Accounts**

251-2016 Brandt/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the following reports:**

**1) Income Statement to October 31, 2016**

**2) Cheques to October 31, 2016.**

Carried

252-2016 Brandt/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby write-off the following taxes on municipal property:**

**1) Roll #4956-000-001-00300 and 4956-000-001-00302 in the amount of $2,536.58**

**2) Roll #4956-000-001-05200-0000 in the amount of $1,422.25**

Carried

253-2016 Mahon/Smith

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby request the Treasurer provides direction to the municipal solicitor to prepare and register a Tax Arrears Cancellation Certificate for the property known as 291 Highway #124 and 295 Highway #124 as soon as all taxes, accumulated interest and legal costs are paid, in full, to the municipal solicitor, Michal Hardy & Associates.**

Carried

**6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees**

254-2016 Mahon/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the naming of the commercial land legally described as 309 Highway 11, South River, Part Lot 4, Concession 2, Part Lot 1 on PSR2378 Part 1 on 42R9485 as “*Happy Landing Commercial Court”.***

Carried

The announcement of the naming for the commercial property will be made at the Multi-Unit Commercial Building’s Grand Open to be held on Friday, November 18, 2016 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

255-2016 Brandt/ Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the closure of the Municipal Office between Christmas and New Years’ with staff using 2016 vacation time for the three days not considered Stat Days. The South River Municipal Office will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.**

Carried

256-2016 Brandt/Mahon

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby complete the 2016 annual review of the following:**

**1) The Village of South River Emergency Plan**

**2) Village of South River Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Checklist.**

Carried

257-2016 Smith/Mahon

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Municipal Staff Reports: Agenda Items #1 to #4.**

Carried

**Reports from Joint Committees – Nil**

**Reports from Regional Committees - Nil**

**7. Correspondence**

258-2016 Mahon/Sewell

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

**8.**  **Council Information Update**

* The CBC TV show “Still Standing” with host, comedian, Jonny Harris, will be visiting our village in December. From coast to coast to coast, Still Standing showcases Canada's vast beauty and highlights the country's unique and diverse characters. Viewers journey with Jonny on the ultimate cross-country road trip. The crew will be in the Village the week of December 5th and will host a comedy show, free to the community, on December 10th. The time and place of the show are yet to be announced.
* The Municipal Auditors will begin the preliminary work for the 2016 external audit on Wednesday, November 16th. The main audit will take place in March 2017.
* The Clerk Administrator will meet, on November 17th, with our three municipal partners to review the first year of the newly created shared By-law Officer position. Some “tweaks” may be recommended to Council at its next meeting.
* The Council of the Village of South River traditionally meets only once in December. This year the meeting date will be Monday, December 12, 2016.
* Councillor Mahon attended the Source Water Protection Agency meeting where Green Algae in Callendar Bay was discussed and the possibility of a study being commissioned.
* Councillor Smith advised that Almaguin Forest Products is looking for employees.
* Mayor Coleman had been approached at the Remembrance Day Service about curb-side garbage which hadn’t been picked up. He asked staff to discuss this oversight with Progressive as a replacement driver was doing collection on November 11th.
* The Clerk Administrator announced the security camera project was set to proceed. The security company will notify us of the installation schedule.
* Website training is currently being scheduled for a half day during the next month. The office will be closed during the morning to allow all staff to participate.
* Councillor Mahon and Councillor Sewell provided dates in December when they are able to meet with the Union Reps to negotiate the next Collective Agreement. The Clerk Administrator will pass along these dates.

**9.** **In Camera –** Nil

**10. By-laws**

259-2016 Mahon/Smith

**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 #33-2016 being a by-law to amend Schedule ‘B’**

**(Building Permit Fee Schedule) to By-law #15-2009 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk**

**Administrator and the corporation seal affixed.**

Carried

260-2016 Brandt/.Smith

**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 #34-2016 being a by-law to regulate parking within**

**the Village of South River with the signature of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the**

**corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

261-2016 Brandt/Smith

**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 #35-2016 being a by-law to regulate the purchase and**

**disposal of municipal assets with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the**

**corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**11**. **Confirming By-law**

262-2016 Sewell/Mahon

**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#36-2016 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 14th day of November, 2016 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12**. **Adjournment**

263-2016 Smith/ Mahon

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby adjourn to meet again as the South River Council on Monday, November 28, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the South River Council Chambers located at 63 Marie Street or at the call of the Mayor. Time of Adjournment: 7:37 p.m.**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Susan L. Arnold, Clerk Administrator**