

Village of South River
Council Meeting – Nov 12, 2024

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday November 12, 2024. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman (Chairing in-person in Council Chambers), Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn, Councillor Robert Brooks, Councillor Teri Brandt and Councillor Brenda Scott.

Staff in Attendance: Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person
Janet Wedseltoft, Chief Financial Officer – In person
Candice Robertson, Administrative Assistant – In Person

Guest: Simon Drapeau

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 – 92 Ottawa Ave – By-law 48-2024 ZBA to Permit Residential

There were no submissions regarding Item 3.1 at the Public Meeting for rezoning 92 Ottawa Ave for residential purposes other than the applicant. The rezoning is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement Village and South River policy in regard to additional affordable housing

346-2024 O'Hallarn/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#48-2024, being a by-law to amend Zoning By-law #17-95 to permit a residential unit at 92 Ottawa Ave with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

Guest Simon Drapeau leaves at 2:05pm

4. Adoption of Minutes – Council Tuesday October 29 and Wednesday Nov 6, 2024

347-2024 Scott/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meetings October 29th and Nov 6th, 2024 as presented.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports

1. 2025 OMPF Allocation
2. Ministry of Finance South River Education Tax Rates

In regard to 5.1.2 Council discussed the tax rates/ratios for commercial new development and the vacant land rates. Council discussed possible adjustments to the rates to provide incentive to new commercial developments and to build on vacant land.

348-2024 Brandt/Scott

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

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. OPP 2025 Costing
2. 2025 Rest Areas - Environment 360
3. MOECP Inspection Report Permit to Take Water Audit 2024
4. OCWA 3rd Quarter Operations Report

349-2024 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the rest stations for 2025 from Environment 360 as per the attached quote.

Carried

350-2024 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee reports #1 to #4 as presented.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services –

1. South River Machar Arena Rehabilitation Report
2. South River Machar Community Risk Assessment
3. SRM Library Board Meeting Draft Minutes October 22, 2024

In regard to 6.2.1 Council discussed the cost and possible timelines for the renovation for the South River Machar Arena.

In regard to 6.2.3 Council discussed the minutes from the South River Machar Public Library. The South River Machar Public Library is preparing their 2025 budget. Council noted that some libraries have closed due to lack of funding and discussed the importance of the South River Machar Public Library to the Village of South River.

351-2024 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the additional cost of renovations to the South River Machar Arena and South River's \$111,000 share be allocated from reserves.

Carried

352-2024 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 #3.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees --

1. Town of Parry Sound EMS Advisory Committee
2. Joint Building Committee October 2024 Stats
3. Central Almaguin Planning Board Minutes July 3, August 7, and Sept 4 2024

In regard to 6.3.1 Council discussed the EMS lease expires in December.

In regard to 6.3.3 Council discussed the minutes from the Central Almaguin Planning Board. Council discussed that the Municipality of Magnetawan has redrawn from the planning board and now has their own planning board. Council also discussed the challenges involved with unorganized townships regarding the lack of information associated with them.

353-2024 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 #3.

Carried

7. By-Laws and Resolutions

1. Resolution of Support – Housing and Mental Health Crisis
2. Resolution of Support – Hope Air
3. Resolution - OCWA Notice of Intent to Tender
4. Resolution – Appointment of Keaton Brown to SRM Fire Department
5. Resolution – Appointment to Labour Negotiating Committee

354-2024 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support Resolution No. 229 of the Municipality of Tweed and further calls on the Ontario Government to immediately implement sustainable funding for small rural municipalities by reabsorbing the cost of the Ontario Provincial Police Force back into the provincial budget with no cost recovery to municipalities;

And WHEREAS an increase of 26% one year, which is \$68,000 dollars (roughly 5% tax increase) for South River and was not expected;

And further, the Village appreciates the Province's attention to the financial challenges faced by small rural municipalities and looks forward to a collaborative solution;

And further, that Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Solicitor General, Minister of Finance, MPP Graydon Smith, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

355-2024 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Ontario Big City Mayors "Solve the Crisis" campaign to address homelessness, addiction and mental health issues in communities throughout Ontario and this resolution be forwarded to Ontario Big City Mayors and Minister Graydon Smith

Carried

356-2024 O'Hallarn/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support Hope Air in their request for funding from the Ministry of Health and this resolution be forwarded to Hope Air and Minister Graydon Smith.

Carried

357-2024 O'Hallarn/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby advise OCWA of their intention to seek a new water services agreement through a competitive Request for Proposal process in 2025 for service beginning January 1, 2026.

Carried

358-2024 Scott/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Keaton Brown to the South River Machar Fire Department.

Carried

359-2024 Brooks/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Deputy Mayor Bill O'Hallarn, Councillor Teri Brandt, and Clerk-Administrator Don McArthur to the Labour Negotiating Committee.

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. Burk's Falls - Health Centre Ownership Model
2. Minister of Energy and Electrification - Energy Saving Act
3. MEPCO Annual Statement 2023
4. NBPSDHU - Perspectives from Northern Ontario on PH Funding Review
5. Happy Trails - Trail Mix and Mingle
6. Ontario Energy Board - Notice of Hearing Enbridge Gas
7. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit - Provincial Oral Health Strategy
8. OPP Charity Hockey Game
9. Township of Puslinch - Provincial Projects and Excess Soil Management Practices
10. Antoine Boucher President Good Roads - Highway Safety
11. Mayor Tom Mrakas Aurora - Fair Share Funding

360-2024 O'Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the OPP Charity hockey game on Dec 18th 2024 with two hours of free ice time.

Carried

361-2024 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #11.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Council discussed plans for Christmas in the Village. Council discussed organizing Christmas music/karaoke, possible Santa options, Food and beverages which would include hot dogs, popcorn, cookies, hot chocolate and cider. Council also suggested the snack bar at the South River Machar Arena should also be open that evening as well. Council agrees to have public skating that evening. Council approved postcard invites to be mailed out to the residents of the Village of South River as well as advertising on the Social Media page.

Chief Financial Officer Janet Wedseltoft reminded Council of the Cemetery meeting Tues Nov 19.

Candice Robertson leaves the meeting at 4:24 PM

10. In Camera –

1. Machar Shared Fire and Community Centre Services
2. 309 HWY 124 Sale or Lease

362-2024 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 4:24 p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

363-2024 Scott/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 5:50 p.m. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.

Carried

364-2024 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Clerk-Administrator to negotiate a lease with Hollywood North Distillery for 309 HWY 124 and the sale of the equipment based on the terms discussed in camera.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #49-2024

365-2024 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# 49-2024, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 12th day of November 2024 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

366-2024 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, November 26th, 2024 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: 5:54 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator