

Village of South River
Council Meeting – Nov 26, 2024

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Tuesday November 26, 2024. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman (Chairing in-person in Council Chambers), Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councillor Teri Brandt and Councillor Brenda Scott.
Absent: Councillor Robert Brooks

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

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 – Nil

4. Adoption of Minutes – Council Tuesday Nov 12, 2024

368-2024 Brandt/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meetings November 12th, 2024 as presented

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports

1. October 2024 Income Statement
2. October 2024 Cheque Register
3. BFL 2024 Cyber Insurance Proposal

369-2024 Brant/O’Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the renewal of the cyber insurance policy with BFL for 2025 in the amount of \$4,740 including taxes.

Carried

370-2024 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 #3.

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –

1. Public Works Committee Minutes November 21, 2024
2. Municipal-IMS-Emergency-Plan 2024
3. Near North Snowdrifters Land Use Agreement
4. OPP Primary Public Safety Answering Point Contract

In regard to 6.1.1 Council reviewed the Public Works Committee minutes, discussing the Public Works Meetings will be moved to Tuesdays and that they would be ordering the 2025 flowers from Variegated Devas Nursery again. Council also discussed the intersection at Tom Thomson Lane to Howard St noting the visibility issues for traffic coming from Chemical Rd.

371-2024 Scott/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby authorize the Clerk-Administrator to sign the Near North Snowdrifters Land Use Agreement as presented.

Carried

372-2024 Brant/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#50-2024, being a by-law to enter into an agreement with the OPP as a 9-1-1 Primary Public Safety Answering Point with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

373-2024 Brant/O'Hallarn

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. Chief Arena Operator Report October 2024
2. SRM Fire Chief Report for November 2024
3. SRM Medical Centre September 17, 2024 Minutes

In regard to 6.2.1 Council reviewed the Chief Arena Operator report. Council discussed that ice rentals have increased and there have been rentals of the Community Centre. Council continued the conversation of the elevator repair, discussing the continuing troubleshooting to find the cause..

In regard to 6.2.3 Council reviewed the SRM Medical Centre Minutes. Council discussed the RPN that comes to the South River Machar Medical Centre. There will be a transition to go from paper files to digital records to make it easier for doctors to access. Lifelabs will be going in to the main conference room and there is a plan in place to bring in a Social Worker. The transition has been a slow process. Council discussed wanting to have more communication to the public to make the residents aware of the services that are available as a result of being an affiliated with the Powassan Health Team. Currently residents must ask their doctor which services are available.

374-2024 Brandt/O'Hallarn

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. Emergency Management Program Committee October 3, 2024 Minutes
2. District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board Nov CAO Report

375-2024 Scott/O'Hallarn

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 to Support Township of Puslinch - Provincial Projects and Excess Soil Management Practices
2. Resolution to Support Ontario Good Roads - Highway Safety
3. Resolution to Support Tom Mrakas Mayor Aurora - Fair Share Funding
4. Emergency Management Program Committee Appointments
5. Municipal Emergency Control Group Appointments
6. By-law 51-2024 - Emergency Plan 2024
7. By-law 52-2024 - Community Emergency Management Coordinator
8. Arena Upgrade Project Award

376-2024 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support the Resolution No. 2024-378 of the Township of Puslinch for the Protection of Agricultural Lands and Sustainable Development in Relation to Provincial Projects and Excess Soil Management Practices.

And further, that Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Township of Puslinch.

Carried

377-2024 Brandt/O'Hallarn

WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural strained health care system;

AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of South River requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources, and the Good Roads Association

Carried

378-2024 Brandt/O'Hallarn

Whereas municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development; and

Whereas the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities; and

Whereas the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs; and

Whereas redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

Whereas a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

1. ***Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That*** the Village of South River Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and

2. ***Be It Further Resolved That*** the Village of South River Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and

3. ***Be It Further Resolved That*** this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and

4. ***Be It Further Resolved That*** copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and the Mayor of Aurora

Carried

379-2024 Scott/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint the following to the Joint Emergency Management Program Committee of the Townships of Joly and Strong and Villages of South River and Sundridge;

Mark Smuck, Bill Black, Brenda Scott, Risto Maki, Robyn Ferrante, Andrew Torrance, Kevin Noaik, Katey Brimacombe, Nancy Austin, Caitlin Haggart, Sharon Smith , Samantha Elik, Don McArthur, and Jennifer Martin

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Mark Smuck is appointed the Chair of the Joint Emergency Management Program Committee.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all previous appointments be rescinded

Carried

380-2024 O'Hallarn/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint the following to the Joint Municipal Emergency Control Group of the Townships of Joly and Strong and Villages of South River and Sundridge;

Mayors Tim Bryson, Justine Levesque, Brian McCabe, and Jim Coleman

Fire Chiefs Risto Maki and Andrew Torrance

Clerk Administrators Nancy Austin, Caitlin Haggart, Don McArthur, and Jennifer Martin

Public Works Employees Nick Thompson, Al Raney, Pat Stickland and Seppe Maes

CEMC Mark Smuck

CEMC Alternates Samantha Elik, Robyn Ferrante, Katy Brimacombe and Don McArthur

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all previous appointments be rescinded

Carried

381-2024 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#51-2024, being a by-law to adopt an Emergency Plan 2024 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

382-2024 Brandt/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#52-2024, being a by-law to appoint Mark Smuck Community Emergency Management Coordinator and Don McArthur Alternate Community Emergency Management Coordinator with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

383-2024

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby direct that Mitchell Jensen Architects award the Arena Upgrade project to Venasse Building Group Inc and the appropriate by-law be brought forward.

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. RCL Branch #276 Kearney - Raffle Inquiry
2. EV ChargeON Program Letter
3. Labour Market Group October and Jobs Report September 2024
4. Township of Terrace Bay - Ambulance Shortages and Healthcare System Issues
5. Terrace Bay Resolution of Support for Billy Bishop Airport
6. Township of Papineau-Cameron - Ontario Building Code
7. Near North District School Board - Community Partners NNDSB
8. City of Toronto - Respecting Local Democracy
9. MAHC - Community Funds New Bone Mineral Densitometry Machine
10. AHHC November Draft Minutes
11. Via - On Demand Transit
12. NG911 -2024-07-1-2959668800 - South River Fire Services
13. Ministry of Northern Development - NSBA Modernization RR posting

In regard to 8.1 Council has asked to have more information and to further review.

384-2024 O'Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #13.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Councillor Brenda Scott discussed the Toronto Blue Jays Charity donated \$50,000 to Burks Falls to help refurbish a baseball diamond and suggested the program should be looked into fro the SRM baseball diamond.

Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn inquired about the Friendly Circle still being used as an emergency warming spot. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur replied to the inquiry stating they are currently not listed as an emergency warming spot.

Mayor Jim Coleman asked Council about reviewing and updating the letter that was written about the use of Camp DARE and resubmitting a new letter stating the Village of South River would like to see the building used for mental health services.

Councilor Teri Brandt asked about the mailing of postcards for Christmas in the Village since there is a postal strike. Council agreed to social media posts and posters to post around the Village of South River and to use the street sign in front of the Brewery.

Candice Robertson leaves the meeting at 4:30 PM

10. In Camera –

1. CUPE Bargaining update
2. 309 HWY 124

385-2024 Scott/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 4:32p.m. for the purpose of discussing issues related to the above.

Carried

386-2024 Brandt/O’Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council adjourn the Closed meeting and reconvene in Open Session at 5:42p.m. with Mayor Jim Coleman as Chair.

Carried

387-2024 Scott/O’Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby direct that the property at 309 HWY 124 be listed as per the proposal presented by Royal Lepage and the adjacent lands also be listed with the same brokers with an asking price of \$200,000 and the appropriate listing agreements and by-law be brought forward.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #53-2024

388-2024 Scott/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# 51-2024, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 26th day of November 2024 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

389-2024

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, December 10th, 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: 5:44 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator