

Village of South River
Council Meeting – December 12, 2022

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Monday December 12th, 2022. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman (Chairing in person in Council chambers), Deputy Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councilor Robert Brooks, Councilor Teri Brandt and Councilor Brenda Scott.

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

Guests: Rocco Frangione, Media – Virtual
Micah Streeter, Black Fly Festival Representative – In Person

1. **Call to Order as the Council of the Village of South River and Swearing In**
– The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Coleman at 5:32 PM

Councilors Brenda Scott swore and signed the Declaration of Office for the 2022 -2026 term of office.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof -Nil

3. Delegation and Public Meeting

1. Micah Streeter – 2023 Black Fly Festival

Regarding Item 3.1 Micah Streeter – 2023 Black Fly Festival: Black Fly Festival Representative, Micah Streeter, encourages the restoration of the famed Black Fly Festival that was previously held in South River prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Streeter explains that the core festival is proposed to take place over the course of two days dated for the May long weekend in 2023, including pro and amateur tournaments, disc golf vendors and community involvement. The 80 player tournaments will take place on the Tom Thomson Park disc golf course, as the course is recognized for the ability to hold competitors and spectators alike. The festival is being proposed as a way to help grow the awareness of disc golf in the area in addition to influence community involvement and increased economic growth for the community, as local businesses will be encouraged to participate. Streeter requests that the Village supports the event and provides essential facilities for the event, this includes; portable washrooms, maintenance of the disc golf course, extra garbage cans, use social media platforms to share promotional material and most importantly support from Council and the Village to continue with the development of the festival. Council noted that their support for the event and that the South River Sportsman Show took place on the May long weekend last year. If it should take place again on the same weekend both events would benefit from the added visitors. Council stated that they welcome the event and are excited to see more organizations utilizing Tom Thomson Park.

4. Adoption of Minutes

340-2022 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meetings on November 28 and December 7, 2022 as presented.

Carried

5. Accounts and Finance

5.1 Accounts Reports

1. November 2022 Income Statement
2. November 2022 Accounts Payable Ledger
3. MMAH Financial Indicator Review and Profile
4. 2023 Draft Water Rates
5. 2023 Budget Schedule
6. CSBT Group Health Renewal Letter
7. Happy Landing Commercial Court Vacant Land Tax Write Off

Discussion of Item 5.1.1 November 2022 Income Statement Council referenced the need to see the correlation of the current year and previous years statements side by side for comparison value. Council anticipates that the new accounting program Townsuite will provide this information in a practical format. Council recommends that the bank reconciliation be revisited once the transition to Townsuite software is completed.

During Discussion of Item 5.1.4 2023 Draft Water Rates Council highlighted how comparable municipalities operate the water billing rates and the structure that is utilized. Council discussed the contrasting water service charge formats that have been used for previous billing; concluding that current meter by consumption configuration is the format that best suits the Village appropriately. The billing system effectively shares the base load for delivery and fire protection while also discouraging waste by charging an escalating amount for consumption.

341-2022 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to increase the Water Rates in Schedules A and B for 2023 by 8% except the monthly rate for properties with water turned off at the curb shall increase by \$4 per month as per the attached schedules.

Carried

Regarding Item 5.1.5 2023 Budget Schedule: Council directed that the day of the week be added into the budget schedule.

342-2022 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the 2023 Budget Schedule as amended.

Carried

During Discussion of Item 5.1.6 CSBT Group Health Renewal Letter Council examines the

renewal costs for the group benefits and suggests offering a RFP for the summer of 2023 for the following year to inquire regarding cost structure and benefit plans of comparable companies.

343-2022 Scott/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve writing off the municipal tax portion on municipally owned land in the amount of \$619.67 on Property Roll #4956-000-001-00302-0000 (309 Hwy 124)

Carried

344-2022 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance Items #1 to #7.

Carried

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business

1. Procedural By-law 02-2023
2. Policy 1-2023 Pregnancy and Parental Leave Policy – Members-of-Council
3. OCWA DWS Management Review Nov 30 2022
4. South River Power Generation Corporation Office Lease

During discussion of Item 6.1.1 Procedural By-law 61-2022 it was noted that based on By-law #34-2014, being a By-law to govern the calling, place and proceeding of meetings of the Council, Committees and Joint Boards of the Corporation of the Village of South River, that any modifications being made to the procedural by-law must be publicized in a newspaper having general circulation in the area, the Municipality's website and on a schedule of meetings posted in the municipal office. Before the updated Procedural By-law can be passed these steps must be taken.

345-2022 Brandt/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does recommend that the Pregnancy and Parental Leave Policy for Members of Council be adopted as presented and the appropriate by-law be brought forward.

Carried

During discussion of Item 6.1.4 South River Power Generation Corporation Office Lease Council recommends the lease agreement of office space for the South River Power Generation Corporation as presented. Council highlights that there is a possibility of additional office space availability, however there are concerns regarding accessibility and it is noted that the topic will be discussed further during the upcoming strategic planning meeting.

346-2022 Brooks/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of South River does hereby recommend the lease agreement for office space to the South River Power Generation Corporation as presented and the appropriate by-law be brought forward.

Carried

347-2022 Brandt/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. Machar Shared Services Letter

Council directed that Mayor Coleman reply to the letter with the 2023 Budget Meeting Schedule and request for payment of the balance of 2022 budgeted amounts for Fire and Arena. Council noted that they had previously informed the Township of Machar that the Special Council Meeting of South River on September 20, 2022 was initiated by the Township of Machar stating on September 14, 2022 they would not be paying the 2021 Arena deficit. No further comment was needed on this point as the information was all publicly available.

348-2022 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 Items #1.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees - Nil

7. Correspondence

1. New Adventures in Sound Art – Community Improvement Application
2. OPP Charity Hockey Game – Ice Donation Request
3. Labor Market Group November Letter and October Jobs Report
4. Magnetawan – DSSAB Representative Support Resolution
5. Callander – PS District Health Unit Nomination
6. Kearney – Integrity Commissioner Appointment
7. PSDSSAB Information Package
8. MAHC Mayoral Congratulatory Letter – J Coleman
9. Plympton – Wyoming, Toronto, Orangeville, Magnetawan – Bill 23
10. Twp of Malahide – Federal Cannabis Act Review
11. City of Stratford – VIA Rail Resolution
12. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce – Membership
13. Minister Thompson OMAFRA – RED Program
14. MECP – Ontario Regulation 101/07

Regarding Item 7.1 New Adventures in Sound Art – Community Improvement Plan: Council approves the Community Improvement Plan provided by New Adventures in Sound Art with the assessment set at \$99,000.

349-2022 O'Hallarn/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the Community Improvement Plan Application for New Adventures in Sound Art and the base assessment to be set at \$99,000.

Carried

Regarding Item 7.2 OPP Charity Hockey Game – Ice Donation Request: Councils agrees to a donation of ice-time to support the OPP Charity Hockey Game.

350-2022 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does approve the donation of ice-time on December 21, 2022 for the Annual OPP Charity Hockey Game.

Carried

351-2022 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby approve the 2023 Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce membership in the amount of \$300.

Carried

352-2022 Scott/Brooks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #14.

Carried

8. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest)-

Councilor Scott and Councilor Brandt discussed the possibility of investigating accessory dwellings bylaws in more detail. Mayor Coleman notes that it could be helpful to compare similar bylaws from neighboring municipalities.

Councilor O'Hallarn noted that there may be a need for connection with the OPP regarding the current activity and statistics for the Village of South River, specifically if there are issues that Council could be helpful with.

9. In Camera- Nil

10. By-Laws and Resolutions

1. Appointment of Signing Officer – Robert Brooks

353-2022 Brooks/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Council Robert Brooks as an authorized signing officer for the Corporation of the Village of South River for legal documents and financial instruments with banking institutions.

Carried

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #61-2022

354-2022 Scott/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 #61-2022, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 12th day of December 2022 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

355-2022 Brandt/Brooks

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 January 9, 2022 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: 8:43 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator