

Village of South River
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Wednesday February 15, 2023
South River Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor Jim Coleman, Councilors Teri Brandt, and Bill O'Hallarn in person, Councilors Brenda Scott and Robert Brooks virtually.

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Administrator Don McArthur, Chief Financial Officer Janet Wedseltoft and Fire Chief Risto Maki all in person.

Guests in person: Bart Wood

Guests virtually; Township of Machar Mayor Lynda Carleton and Councillors Ron McLaren and Pearl Ivens

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.**
2. **There were no declarations of pecuniary interest**
3. **Mayor Coleman welcomed all guests**
4. **Discussion ensued on the 2023 South River Machar Fire Department Budget**

The proposed Fire Budget reflects the cost of beginning to meet the Provincial Firefighter Certification Standards legislation. The increased training and certification requirements are estimated at \$20,000. The other significant change is the proposed increase in the Fire Prevention Officer Position. The budget as presented included increasing the position from one day a week to three days per week. Chief Maki indicated he felt the workload and enhanced response time would justify increasing the position to five days per week. The only significant capital item is the carry-over of the paving from 2022 should a favourable paving rate be secured. There was detailed discussion about the necessity of increasing the FPO position, the training program and what the Province would cover through grants. Also discussion on staffing levels in nearby joint Fire Departments. Suggested each Council follow up to MPP Minister Graydon Smith with how the fire regulation changes in regards to certification are leading directly to significant budget increases. Individual line items were discussed. South River administrative staff tasked to reassess all lines for potential savings.

5. **Discussion ensued on the 2023 Draft South River Machar Arena Budget.**

The 2023 proposed Arena budget was presented with a \$145,000 in capital. Individual line items such as wages, snack bar revenues and expenses, clothing costs, revenue estimates were discussed at length. NOHFC acknowledgement of moving to stage two with grant application was shared. South River administrative staff tasked to reassess all lines for potential savings.

Discussion ensued about next steps. Both Councils were encouraged to continue budget discussions at their next Council meeting. Any new information or suggestions could be shared at any time and brought to the South River Clerk Administrator for distribution. The goal is to pass both 2023 budgets at the Joint Council Meeting March 6th at 6:30 PM. The meeting location will be determined by the Township of Machar.

6. 54-2023 Brandt/O'Hallarn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Committee of the Whole of the Village of South River does hereby adjourn at 8:00 PM

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator