

Village of South River
Council Meeting – Sept 25, 2023

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Monday Sept 25, 2023. A quorum was present. In attendance were Deputy-Mayor Bill O’Hallarn, Councillor Teri Brandt, Councillor Brenda Scott and Councillor Robert Brooks. Mayor Jim Coleman absent with notice.

Staff in Attendance: Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person
Allister Johnston, Administrative Assistant – In person
Janet Wedseloft, Chief Financial Officer – In Person

Guests: Rocco Frangione, Media – Virtual

1. **Call to Order** - The Meeting was called to order by Deputy-Mayor Bill O’Hallarn at 5:30pm.

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

3. **Delegation and Public Meeting** –

4. **Adoption of Minutes** - Council Monday September 11, 2023

275-2023 Scott/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting dated Sept 11th, 2023 as presented.

Carried

5. **Accounts and Finance**

5.1 **Accounts Reports** - nil

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

6.1 **Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business** –

1. Personnel Committee Minutes September 12, 2023
2. HiPS Committee Minutes Sept 19 2023
3. Joint Health and Safety Committee Minutes September 13 2023

In regards to Item 6.1.1 Personnel Committee Minutes September 12, 2023 Council discussed Arena staff and their outlook on Arena operations. Council discussed new Chief Arena Operator training and the trial period for new Chief Arena Operator.

Regarding Item 6.1.2 HiPS Committee Minutes Sept 19 2023 Council discussed funding for HiPS projects and possible sources. Council discussed the station and the operating costs to staff and maintain it. Council noted that the station is part of the railroad experience stop and a pleasant experience will be beneficial to ensuring the long-term success of passenger rail in South River. Council indicated further discussion with ONR is required.

276-2023 Brandt/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby appoint Justin Forget to the position of Chief Arena Operator with the trial period extended to 180 days and that the position of Full-time Arena Operator be posted internally.

Carried

277-2023 Brandt/Scott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee report #1 to #3 as presented.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Shared Services

1. SRM Chief Arena Operator August Report
2. SRM Medical Centre Meeting Minutes August 22 and September 19
3. SRM Library Meeting Minutes July 13, 2023

During discussion of Item 6.2.1 SRM Chief Arena Operator August Report Council discussed staff function for Jamie Payne's retirement and being very pleased with attendance and work of staff to prepare for it. Council discussed mechanical issues with some equipment and expenses to repair. Council discussed Arena generators and their costs. Council discussed the Community Hall and ways to increase revenue and past usage.

Regarding Item 6.2.2 SRM Medical Centre Meeting Minutes August 22 and September 19 Council briefly discussed equipment and new insulation between upstairs and downstairs.

In regards to Item 6.2.3 SRM Library Meeting Minutes July 13, 2023 Council discussed 50th Anniversary turnout. Council discussed the library's change to digital receipts and change of waiting to send approved Minutes to Council. Council discussed concerns regarding consolidating shelving in one area and the ability of the existing reinforced flooring to accommodate that.

278-2023 Brandt/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. PSDSSAB September CAO Report
2. Joint Building Committee July and August Statistics

Regarding Item 6.3.1 PSDSSAB September CAO Report Council discussed a positive meeting and communication with PSDSSAB CAO and staff. They appreciated the opportunity for learning and discussing the PSDSSAB's various roles.

In regards to Item 6.3.2 Joint Building Committee July and August Statistics Councillor Brooks reported that the draft resolution concerning JBC surplus was well received by the JBC committee members and they requested a formal resolution. Council also discussed JBC plans to alleviate workload such as possible secondary building inspector hire or Online Permitting. Council reviewed new constructions in 2023.

279-2023 Brandt/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

Joint Building Committee Review Resolution

280-2023 Brooks/Brandt

Whereas the Joint Building Committee agreement has been in place since 2012 without significant revisions or review and,

Whereas the Joint Building Committee has consistently run operating surpluses for several years that now totals in excess of \$400,000

Therefore pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Joint Building Committee Agreement the Committee should exercise its right(s) to review and make recommendations for an adjustment to the continuing bank balance/surplus,

Furthermore it is recommended that the excess funds be forwarded to each member municipality based on an equitable formula of fees charged less expenses for each municipality,

Furthermore it is recommended that the forwarded funds be used for the member municipalities, but not limited to, insurance, legal, zoning compliance, and permit fee expenses,

Furthermore it is recommended that pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Joint Building Committee Agreement the Committee shall review the fees schedule and make recommendations for an adjustment such that the fees do not produce a continuing surplus that exceeds annual operating expenses,

Furthermore it is recommended that Section 6(3) of the Joint Building Committee Agreement be deleted which gives the JBC the right to hold onto excess funds and contradicts Section 4(2),

And that this resolution is circulated to the Joint Building Committee and the Councils of the Joint Building Committee member municipalities.

Carried

8. Correspondence

1. Municipality of Magnetawan - MTO Parade Requirements.
2. Town of Bracebridge - MFIPPA Review Request
3. Almaguin Highlands Community Living - 50th Anniversary Invitation
4. FONOM - Support for Northern School of Medicine
5. City of Hamilton - Request to Abandon Greenbelt Development
6. Town of Grimsby - Guaranteed Livable Income

Council brought forward Correspondence 8.4 for discussion ahead of other correspondence.

In regards to Item 8.4 FONOM - Support for Northern School of Medicine Council discussed request from NOSM (Northern Ontario School of Medicine) University to Provincial Premier Doug Ford requesting additional funding.

Regarding Item 8.1 Municipality of Magnetawan - MTO Parade Requirements. Council discussed provincial requirement for O.P.P. attendance for highway closures. Council discussed shortage of O.P.P. on days which there are commonly parades such as holidays. Council requested a resolution of support being brought forward to next Council Meeting.

During discussion of Item 8.6 Town of Grimsby - Guaranteed Livable Income Council discussed gathering of additional data for future discussion about Livable Wages.

281-2023 Brandt/Scott

WHEREAS the Village of South River recognized the urgent need for physicians in Northern Ontario as it is experiencing a shortage of trained physicians and specialist physicians

WHEREAS life expectancy of Northern residents is more than two years lower than the Ontario average, and mental health and addictions are at a four-times higher rate

WHEREAS one in eight Northern residents does not have access to a family doctor, and many must travel long distances to access healthcare services representing the failure of healthcare in Northern Ontario

WHEREAS communities in Northern Ontario require access to equitable health care,

especially underserved rural, Indigenous, and Francophone communities

WHEREAS in April of 2022, the Government announced an unprecedented medical expansion for NOSM University's medical programs

AND WHEREAS the current base funding rates for the Northern School of Medicine University (NOSM) have not been increased sufficiently to accommodate growth and expansion

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of South River strongly requests the Provincial Government grant NOSM University's request for a permanent increase in annual base funding by \$4.0 million before the end of this fiscal year so it can continue to deliver on the mandate that the Conservative Government initially established in response to the needs of Northern municipalities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones, Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop, MPPs Greg Rickford, Vic Fedeli, George Pirie, Ross Romano, Kevin Holland, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association and the leaders of the opposition parties of Ontario.

Carried

282-2023 Scott/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #6.

Carried

9. Council Roundtable (Items of Interest) –

Councillor Robert Brooks spoke of attending the Almaguin Recycling Event and thought it was an impressive, well-run event. Deputy-Mayor Bill O'Hallarn brought forward the North Bay recycling agreement. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur noted both hazardous waste products and electronics are taken there and the depot is open Wednesday to Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. year round.

Councillor Robert Brooks presented complaints he'd heard from residents regarding a lack of notice for the Friday garbage truck malfunction afterwards and no pick-up, the Hydro-One scheduled shutdown and the construction water shutdowns. Robert Brooks recommended a digital sign outside the Canada Post-Office for alerts for residents who lack internet and phone access to the Code Red system. Councillor Teri Brandt mentioned the (SR-M) Agricultural Society proposed something similar to the Village but to date no follow-up has been received.

Councillor Brenda Scott brought forward the Community Gardens and plans to move the Gardens to Employment North location. Brenda Scott mentioned that youth have been going to the Community Gardens and consuming the produce which can be a positive outcome. She also noted it would be a visual loss to have the Gardens moved. Brenda Scott suggested the current Community garden could stay and a second more secure garden be built at Employment North.

Councillor Brenda Scott brought forward the Pump Track the Lion's Club had completed and appeared to be well used. She has requested additional information on how the Lion's club would like the Pump track to be recognized.

Deputy-Mayor Bill O'Hallarn noted good progress for the Watermain Projects. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur remarked that pouring of concrete would happen soon on Broadway. Councillor Robert Brooks raised the issue of people speeding on the dirt roads created from construction on the watermains.

Clerk Administrator Don McArthur stated he had not yet heard back from Machar regarding the

Joint Recreation Meeting they had requested.

10. In Camera – Nil

11. Confirming By-law – By-law #39-2023

283-2023 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# 39-2023, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 25th day of September 2023 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

284-2023 Brandt/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 October 10th, 2023 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 7:23 p.m.

Carried

Jim Coleman, Mayor

Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator