

Village of South River
Council Meeting – February 27, 2017

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held on Monday, February 27, 2017 in the South River Council Chambers. A quorum was present. In attendance were Deputy Mayor Sharon Smith and Councillors Doug Sewell and Teri Brandt.

Mayor Jim Coleman and Councillor Les Mahon were absent with notice.

Staff in Attendance: Sherri Hawthorne; Treasurer
Bart Wood; Public Works Chief Operator
Susan L. Arnold; Clerk Administrator

Public in Attendance: Paul Dyrda; OCWA Operations Manager, Near North Cluster
Darren Aljoe; OCWA Senior Waste and Water Project Operator
South River WTP

1. **Call to Order** –The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Sharon Smith at 5:30 p.m.

2. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**
None Declared

3. **Guests & Deputations**

The manganese in the river continues to be higher than normal. This is a naturally occurring event each year. This year due, it is thought, to the low flow rates in the river and the widely fluctuating temperatures the event is lasting longer. OCWA staff, the Ministry of Environment and the Council and staff of the Village of South River continue to search for new options which may help alleviate this situation. The chemistry of the river is not an exact science. A soda ash pilot project was successful and has been implemented. Soda ash improves the treatment process by adding alkalinity. Next, a pilot project to trial poly aluminum chloride (PACI) has been approved as a treatment option to replace the traditionally-used alum. Although alum is an excellent treatment option used widely across Ontario, through OCWA's experience, has found that PACI is a more successful option for river waters. The water is "stained" and requires the addition of chemicals to remove as much of the iron and manganese staining as possible. Not all staining can be removed. The colour from iron and manganese is not esthetically pleasing but does not pose a risk to health. The tap water continues to meet the Province's strict guidelines for municipal water.

The discoloration of the Raw Water brought into the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) results from organic and inorganics which includes iron that is typically removed by the treatment process. The water that passes through the filter media is very clear prior to being injected with chlorine.

Manganese that is "in solution" (not visible as colour) is NOT removed by the treatment process like any conventional treatment facility. Some of the iron in solution (not visible) also passes through without removal, but only a very small quantity. The chlorine disinfectant for providing protection of the drinking water supply from microorganisms reacts with manganese in solution that passes through the filter media and results in discoloration, but also the chlorine disinfectant reacts with the cast iron distribution components resulting in discoloration.

There have been rumours circulating regarding extra usage of water by a new business being the reason for the discoloration. This is false. Water Treatment Plant data indicates there has been a significant drop in total water usage on a month by month basis and at year-end. This is, in part, due to the discovery of several slow underground leaks which were repaired over the year as well as efficiencies at the plant with the replacement of several large pieces of equipment.

The WTP is now sixteen years old and significant capital investments have already taken place in the several years to update and upgrade the plant equipment and the distribution system with the use of provincial funding. More capital investment is planned for 2017. The Village submitted a grant application to the province requesting additional funding for these upgrades but the project was not approved. Other funding sources are being explored. Without funding the cost of these upgrades would be borne by the water consumers. Tax payers cannot be responsible for the cost of repairs and upgrades to the water system as not all taxpayers are water customers and not all water customers are taxpayers. The water budget must be kept revenue neutral with the operational costs being passed along to the consumer in the form of water rates and the flat rate fee. Without additional funding, upgrades and repairs would be added directly to the water bills in addition to the annual operational costs.

Bart Wood left the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Council continued the discussion with OCWA reps regarding the capital requests for 2017 and how each would benefit the WTP in the long term. The Treasurer, in preparing for the annual municipal audit, had some invoicing questions which would be investigated and an answer provided to the Treasurer the next day.

Council thanked the OCWA reps for their attendance at the meeting.

Paul Dyrda and Darren Aljoe left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

4. Adoption of Minutes

43-2017 Sewell/Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the minutes of Monday, February 13, 2017 as printed.

Carried

5. Accounts – Nil

6. Reports from Municipal Staff and/or Committees

44-2017 Brandt/Sewell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Heritage Improvement Preservation Society February 2, 2017 Minutes and note the recommendation for the Village to create a Train Station Committee.

Carried

45-2017 Sewell/ Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the estimated time frame and the estimated cost summary from Wayne Simpson & Associates to provide the Village a review of the Village of South River's Official Plan which will include Community Improvement Policies. The total cost of the project is estimated to cost \$10,000 plus HST spread over two budget years.

Carried

46-2017 Sewell/ Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Municipal Staff Reports: Agenda Items #1 and #2.

Carried

6.2 Reports from Joint Committees

47-2017 Brandt/Sewell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive drafts #1 and #2 of the South River Machar Arena Committee but will not provide direction or comment until due process has been followed and the arena committee has had an opportunity to review and understand the documents and provide a recommendation to the owner councils.

Carried

48-2017 Sewell/ Brandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Joint Committee Minutes for the South River Machar Fire Committee (February 7, 2017) and the South River Machar Medical Centre Committee (February 21, 2017) and supports the recommendations contained within each set of minutes: Agenda Items #1 and #2.

Carried

6.3 Reports from Regional Committees - Nil

49-2017 Brandt/Sewell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the draft Regional Committee Minutes for the Joint Building Committee (February 16, 2017) AND SUPPORTS THE Board's recommendation to approve the 2017 draft JBC budget in the amount of \$214,725 with South River's share being \$10,067; the Central Almaguin Economic Development Association Minutes (February 2, 2017) and the Central Almaguin Planning Board Minutes (February 15, 2017): Agenda Items # 1, #2 and #3.

Carried

7. Correspondence

50-2017 Brandt/Sewell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the correspondence item #1..

Carried

8. Council Information Update –

- **Marjory Robinson will be assisting this week in the preparation for the 2016 audit. The audit is scheduled to begin Wednesday, March 15, 2017 and will be conducted by the North Bay branch of Grant Thornton LLP.**
- **Reminders have been received by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the mild temperatures creating rapidly raising water levels around the region. The public is asked to use caution.**

- Reminders have also been given from the South River Machar Fire Department regarding unsafe ice conditions on area lakes and rivers due to significant rainfall and warmer temperatures.

9. In Camera - Nil

10. By-laws - Nil

11. Confirming By-law

51-2017 Sewell/ 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 #5-2017 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 27th day of February, 2017 with the signatures of the Deputy Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.

Carried

12. Adjournment

52-2017 Brandt/Sewell

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, March 13, 2017 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: 7:44 p.m.

Carried

Sharon Smith, Deputy Mayor

Susan L. Arnold, Clerk Administrator