

**Village of South River
Committee of the Whole of Budget Meeting
February 11, 2021
Minutes**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the South River Council was held on Thursday February 11, 2021 via teleconference and videoconference. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman, Councillor Doug Sewell, Councillor Bill O'Hallarn, and Councillor Brenda Scott.

Councillor Teri Brant was absent with notice.

Staff Present: Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator, Sherri Hawthorne Chief Financial Officer, Jamie Payne, Chief Arena Operator and Fire Chief Risto Maki.

Minutes recorded by South River Clerk Administrator.

1. Call to Order – Mayor Jim Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Mayor Coleman read a statement on the importance collaboration and new joint services agreements for Fire and Arena.

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

3. Guests and Deputations: Township of Machar: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Councillor Bart Wood, Councillor Ron McLaren, Councillor Neil Scarlett was absent with notice, Councillor Blair Flowers was absent without notice, and Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul. One member of the public attended via teleconference: Marv Nolan.

4. Fire Budget – Chief Risto Maki discussed in detail the case for removing the dependence on response revenue to fund operations. Doing this makes building reserves very difficult. There were some unique one-off savings in 2020 that allow us to contribute to reserves and bring forward a surplus to assist with 2021's budget. The third scenario presented with \$20,000 (2020 surplus) transferred from reserves and the paving and corresponding transfer from reserve removed. Paving will be reassessed if a significant savings opportunity presents itself. Consensus was reached on this option. Each municipality's portion is \$185,539. The overall increase from 2020 is 3.57% or \$6,393 each.

5. Arena, Culture and Recreation Budget – Chief Arena Operator Jamie Payne presented the draft budget with cuts to both operating and capital expenses and increased revenues. Due to the still highly uncertain operating environment revenues and expenses are subject to greater variability than normal. Chief operator again stressed the importance of the minor capital projects that are included. Discussion ensued about kitchen renovations and the decision to wait until firm costs for generators are determined by the RFP closing on March 17, 2021. The kitchen design will then follow with a firm budget. Consensus was reached to approve a total municipal contribution of \$254,778. \$88,259 from Machar (2.38% increase) and \$166,519 from South River (4.13% increase).

6. The next budget meeting will be at the call of the chair.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 PM.

26-21 Wood, McLaren

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Feb 22, 2021. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT