



MINUTES – JOINT MEETING
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Township of Machar Council Chambers

In attendance for Machar: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Neil Scarlett, Pearl Ivens, and Blair Flowers. Clerk Administrator Angela Loney.

In attendance for South River: Mayor Jim Coleman, Councillors Bill O’Hallarn, and Teri Brandt in person. Councillor Robert Brooks attended via teleconference. Councillor Brenda Scott absent with notice. Clerk Administrator Don McArthur and Chief Financial Officer Janet Wedseltoft.

Staff attendance for both communities were Fire Chief Risto Maki and Deputy Fire Chief Bart Wood.

Mark Savill.

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Township of Machar acknowledges the Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaties on the land of the Anishinabek that we meet today. We seek to work respectfully with Indigenous people, and are thankful for their teachings and stewardship of the land.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof: Nil.

2. South River Machar Community Centre 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Budget

The South River Machar Community Centre Annual report was prepared by Chief Operator Justin Forget and presented by Clerk-Administrator Don McArthur. The past arena upgrade project was highlighted and the timeliness of the work, there were few questions. The consensus was the budget should be passed by each Council as presented.

3. South River Machar Fire 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Budget

The South River Machar Fire Joint Annual Report was presented by Fire Chief Risto Maki. A thorough discussion about the operations of the department was had. Concern was raised about the onus on the department for training under the new certification rules and the effect that has on both costs and affect on the volunteer firefighters. The Fire Chief requested the proposed amount of \$10,500 from response revenues to offset operating costs be reduced to \$0 while maintaining a transfer from reserves of \$24,000 for this year’s capital purchases. This change was supported by Councils and the consensus was the budget should be passed by each Council as amended.

4. The Women’s Own Resource Centre Rural Community Kitchen Program

The Women’s Own Resource Centre has received funding to resume the Rural Community Kitchen Program and also implement a new program to support area food banks with a monthly Soup Kitchen Program. Both Councils were supportive of the proposed \$200 daily rental fee for the community centre for the program and congratulated Women’s Own Resource on their community spirit and initiative.

5. In-Camera: Sale of Property – 11313 HWY 124
Disposal of Property – 287 HWY 124

039-2026

Moved By Scarlett

Seconded By McLaren

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; a proposed or pending acquisition or disposal of land by the municipality or local board. Time: 7:45pm.

Carried

040-2026

Moved By Flowers

Seconded By Ivens

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time: 8:23pm.

Carried

The consensus in-camera was that the sale of HWY 11313 HWY 124 be pursued as the PS EMS vacates the building. That process is expected to begin as early as late fall 2026 and as late as late spring 2027. The costs associated with facilitating the move, the status of the reserves, review of survey and zoning requirements to enhance the sale all to be investigated.

The Village of South River brought forward that a 20-metre portion of the jointly owned property at 287 HWY 124 could be severed and sold to a commercial entity. The Township of Machar was supportive of pursuing this option with terms as discussed in-camera.

The Township of Machar brought forward that a new medical service has approached the Medical Centre Board with a lease proposal for space at the Medical Centre. The Village of South River was supportive of the new revenue stream. Discussion ensued about the municipal tax status of medical centres.

6. Adjournment

041-2026

Moved By Scarlett

Seconded By McLaren

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mar 23, 2026.

Carried

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Angela Loney