

**Joint Council Meeting
Village of South River – Township of Machar
6:30PM Wednesday March 27, 2024**

In attendance for Machar: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Councillors Neil Scarlett and Pearl Ivens, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Angela Loney. In attendance for South River: Mayor Jim Coleman, Councillors Teri Brandt, Brenda Scott and Robert Brooks, Clerk-Administrator Don McArthur, and Chief Financial Officer Janet Wedseltoft. Also in attendance for both communities: Chief Arena Operator Justin Forget and Fire Chief Risto Maki.

- 1. Call to Order and welcome – Mayor Jim Coleman**
- 2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof - nil.**
- 3. Arena 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Budget**

Chief Operator Justin Forget touched on the highlights of his annual report and brought Councils up to date on the current state of the Arena upgrades with Black and McDonald already on site as the ice is being removed and the need for work to be completed and allow for TSSA inspections. Discussion about the design of the new pad to be installed in 2025. The RFP for the design to be out soon. Considerable discussion about public skating and its popularity during Christmas and March Breaks. For fall 2024 a set weekly schedule and sponsorships to be investigated as well as other opportunities such as School PD days. Councillor Scarlett brought up that there is interest in a private group upgrading the ballfield in exchange for access to one ball tournament per year. The Chief Operator knows the group and will continue to work with them to accomplish the goal of a more utilized ballfield for everyone. Councillor Scarlett also brought up whether it was possible to access the hall on one weekday evening every two or three weeks for a youth night. Discussion ensued about waivers, supervisors to youth ratios and costs. The state of the arena parking lot came up here and Machar representatives will take the problem back to their public works committee to see if there are economical options available to improve the gravel parking lot. Future capital costs for the arena roof were briefly discussed too. Councillor Brandt mentioned that the canteen is dated and tired. Chief Operator indicated the floor could be replaced this spring and a plan with costs for other upgrades could be developed for next year's budget. The Chief Operator indicated skates are available for loan for outside use.

Mayor Carleton enquired about the difference between the total capital costs in the 2024 Arena budget being higher than the projected upgrade costs. The discrepancy is the small amount of capital work to be done on the septic system that is not included in the grant eligible funding. There was no other discussion on budget with both Councils indicating the previous discussions were satisfactory.

4. Fire 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Budget

Fire Chief Maki went through his report item by item. Discussions centred on the NG 9-1-1 Project particularly the large amount of staff time dedicated to the project. Also discussed at length were staffing levels, recruitment, and training challenges. The mandatory certification process coming into effect was highlighted once again. Coming up the Fire Chief highlighted the Community Risk Assessment update and following that process the Establishing and Regulating By-law. Discussion also ensued on the MNRF Fire Agreements and the upcoming forest fire season.

Fire Chief Maki noted the 2023 capital budget included the parking lot paving that not only looks neater but also is more efficient for cleaning fire vehicles and keeping the Firehall clean. For 2024 the only significant capital item is the purchase of a new battery operated spreader for vehicle accidents. There was no further discussion on the fire budget with both Councils indicating the previous discussions were satisfactory.

5. HOC Summer Camp Update

Clerk- Administrator Don McArthur updated Councils on the current agreement with Eagle Crest Resorts to have summer camp again this year. The commitment is for 40 youth (20 age 5-8 and 20 age 9-12) each week for 8 weeks. Some sponsorship for youth have already been secured and more will be encouraged through the advertising. Unfortunately the registration process will once again be paper based. Registration will start in early April. The financial risk for the communities was noted with the budget being presented as a break even proposition.

6. Ad Hoc Joint Recreation Committee

The committee was scheduled to meet again in early 2024. It was decided to only have meetings as necessary for planning or events on an individual basis. Events such as the Candle Light Vigil organized by Councillor Scarlett and CMHA could be discussed and promoted together. September 10, 2024 was suggested as a possible date for the Vigil this year.

Fire Chief Maki left the meeting at 8:05 PM

7. Arena Parking Lot – discussed earlier with Annual Arena Report

8. Fire and Arena Agreement Renewal Schedule

The current Joint agreement for Fire and Arena expires on October 11, 2024. Discussion about the timing for renewal and appropriate length of agreement ensued. It was agreed that a committee of two Councillors and one administrator from each community would meet to discuss the renewal on Wednesday April 24th at 6:30 PM

ADJOURN

65-24 Ivens/Scarlett

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Apr 8, 2024. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney