

Southern Victoria Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 2, 2026

Present: Mayor McLaughlin, Deputy Mayor Shaw, Councillors - Sheila Cummings, Paul Legace, Tami McPhail, Sara Plant, Todd McGuire, and Assistant CAO Justine Waldeck.

- 1) Mayor McLaughlin called the meeting to order.
- 2) No conflicts of interest were declared.
- 3) Delegations: Community Recovery & Connection Committee – Sarah Corbett & Tasha Baker presented on the work being done in the region on homelessness and on the local committee for addiction.
- 4) DTI Projects
 - a. Gabion Wall – CAO met with DTI regarding the Gabion Wall project. The proposed solution will be a 6–8 year fix until the new bridge and street infrastructure design work is completed and implemented. The cages on the wall along Route 109 will be fixed, and anchors will be fabricated and driven 8-10 feet into the earth to better secure the wall. The wooden retaining wall along Route 105 will have the necessary timbers replaced, and anchors will also be used to help better secure the wall. The work is proposed to be bid in the spring of 2026.
 - b. East Riverside Drive Paving Project. In 2024, DTI awarded \$600,000 for this 1.7 km paving project which could not be completed until 2026. The projected cost for this project now is substantially higher. Council will send a letter to the Minister of DTI asking for additional funding in 2026 to complete the full project. If this is not rewarded, the decision will have to be made to shorten the distance to be resurfaced in 2026 and ask DTI to put the rest in the 2027 Provincial-Municipal Highway Partnership Program.
 - c. 5 Year DTI Road Plan – Council discussed the vision of the plan which will be submitted to DTI and will submit after a response comes from the Minister.
- 5) Municipal Building Project – CAO discussions with the province on different funding options for the building. It was suggested that the municipality reach out to the MLA and MP to request additional funding. Staff will follow up on both items.

Staff have identified over 60 potential additional funding opportunities we can submit applications to. The goal will be to submit 1-3 each week where possible. A webpage is being developed in-house for this project and is fifty percent complete.

A design update was given. Feedback was received from all partners on system requirements. The energy modeling is completed, and the structural design will be finalized over the upcoming weeks. The next outcome will be to confirm the foundation drawings and begin the tender process.

- 6) Criminal Background Check Policy – changes were made to the policy to implement that the vulnerable sector check completed. This policy will be voted on at the February 9 meeting.

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Where the Sterling Background check platform does not enable the vulnerable sector check, this platform will no longer be used by the municipality.

- 7) The RCMP report dated the end of December 2025 was presented.
- 8) Public Safety Stakeholder Meeting – Council discussed the agenda and invitation list for this meeting. Invitations will be sent out this week.
- 9) Animal Control By-law Update – Council reviewed the by-law. More discussion will commence at upcoming meetings to finalize the document. It was noted that the SPCA will only enforce waste cleanup for dogs, not any other animal.
- 10) Overview of Municipal Expansion Process – Council reviewed the process required to submit a proposal to expand the municipal boundaries. Council agreed to look further into this initiative to include the service area of Southern Victoria High School.
- 11) RSC Health Committee Update – Mayor McLaughlin gave an update on the RSC Health Committee meeting with Susan Holt. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for this Friday.
- 12) Property Tax & Assessment – Council discussed the property tax assessments for 2026 completed by the province. It was noted that there were some significant increases in assessments. It was noted that the province put a one-year freeze on value for taxation, meaning that the 2026 taxation year will be the same value for taxation as 2025. Additional details regarding the justification for the municipal tax rate will be presented to Council at an upcoming meeting.
- 13) In Camera

Councillor Plant **MOVED** to move into an in-camera session to discuss land covenants. **SECONDED** by Councillor McGuire. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilor Cummings **MOVED** to move out of in-camera session. **SECONDED** by Councilor McPhail. **MOTION CARRIED**
- 14) Adjournment.