

Regular Meeting

Village of South Range

October 5th, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the Village of South Range was called to order at **6:00 p.m.** by President George Eakin.

Present: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, Justin Marier, Kristen Archambeau, Clerk

Absent: Craig Burkman, S.C.

Guests: Brian Maki, Janet Kokko, Steve Sabatini, Arbutus Paoli, Mike Renier, Dave Swetich-Village Public Works, Kody Maki-Village Public Works, Mike Balma-South Range Fire Chief

Recognition of Guests

Brian Maki

- Discussed the need for gravel along the highway in front of his home.
- Village Clerk will contact MDOT about that area.

Janet Kokko

- Asked about an update on the paving of Whealkate. Council gave an update about looking for bids in 2024 since the last of the Whealkate Lots sold.

Steve Sabatini

- Asked about Ordinance Enforcement updates.
- President Eakin gave an update stating that he will be enforcing Ordinance Violations.

Arbutus Paoli

- Inquired about Public Works doing snow differently as her side of the road seems to get the most.
- Public Works Employees present stated they will look at a solution.

Mike Renier

- Stated he has finished a few chapters of his book on the Village of South Range.
- Discussed the need for volunteers for the 4th of July Committee. He plans to attend the Township & School Board Meeting to get volunteers.
- Trustee Greg Harkonen volunteered to be on the 4th of July Committee.

Mike Balma, Chief-South Range Fire Department:

- Will be holding Fire Prevention 10/12/23 along with Adams Township Fire Department for South Range Elementary School.
- Fire Department has (3) people going to Fire School.
- Christmas in South Range will be in December.
- Village of South Range Fire will be hosting the Fireman Association Meeting at the South Range Community Hall on January 18, 2024.

Approval of the August 3rd, 2023 Minutes

Trustee Greg Harkonen made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of August 3rd, 2023.

Trustee Cody Bonini supported the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen & Greg Harkonen

Nays: None

Abstain: Justin Marier & Tim Korby

***Motion Carried**

Approval of the September 7th, 2023 Minutes

Trustee Cody Bonini made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of September 7th, 2023.

Trustee Tim Korby supported the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen & Tim Korby

Nays: None

Abstain: Greg Harkonen & Justin Marier

***Motion Carried**

Agenda Approval

Trustee Greg Harkonen made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted **with the change to add Certificate of Compliance & Signer for Sale of Property to the Meeting Agenda.**

Trustee Cody Bonini supported the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, & Justin Marier

Nays: None

***Motion Carried**

Street Commissioner Report(Presented by Craig Burkman)

- Public Works Employees Attended Fall Water Conference
- Brandon Skewes & Kody Maki are signed up for a Math Course for the end of the month for their Water Test in November.
- Several Miss Digs Completed
- Working on Alley of 4th & 5th Street
- Repaired Tank Hill
- Ordered Cutting Edges for Grader
- Will need sand & salt soon
- Sander needs a new chain
- Will be getting tire quotes for one of the dump trucks

Village President Report:

Village President George Eakin updated the Council with the following:

- President Eakin reached out to Pat Greeley, he said George would be the person in charge of the ordinance enforcement/procedure, per each ordinance requirement.
- Did ask Craig to call Range Communications concerning the tank communication issue, he hasn't heard back from them yet.
- OHM won't need to assist any longer with the alley between 4 th & 5 th street, the guys will now replace the pipe, the problem was found with the help of the Township, they were a huge help with their new camera in locating the large tree roots that were plugging it up. OHM will still assist with the alley between 5th/6th streets.
- U.P. Engineering is still working on the "model" for EGLE concerning the drainage ditch.

- Kristen quickly located the zoning ordinance in an office file. She's now been here 2 years. We are lucky to have her, she's done an awesome job for our Village. She is quick to handle every & ANY request that is asked of her. President Eakin stated has been on the Council for over 10 years now, & NEVER has had as much information brought out to the meetings, he truly hopes everyone appreciates that.
- Talked with Ron Petrelius concerning the drainage ditch near his late father's home, and wants to meet to discuss dredging it out a bit.

Clerk's Report

- Talked to Jeff from OpusWeb. Still need to get the Ordinances scanned in as individual PDF's, and send them to them to get them up. Then he will hand over the website and do training with me if needed.
- Received a call about Sleigh Rides within the Village. Someone has rented one with horses, for the end of December with an event at the Range Lounge. They were wondering if they could have Village or Township approval for what areas they could possibly do it in. Council would like to check with the Village Insurance about having horses.
- Quarterly taxes were completed.
- Received our yearly Insurance rates from the Hannula Agency. They stated the cost to build has gone up, therefore rates have with all our buildings. They suggested we look at some of our vehicles covered fully, and look at possible liability insurance for them if not in use. Council would like to look into other Insurance companies for quotes on rates before the renewal time next year.
- Transnation needs us to name George Eakin, Village President as the approved signer for the sale of the lot next to the Post Office.

Action Items: OLD BUSINESS

Flagpole

*Council was given a quote for take down, new pole, and set up of a new pole by one company. The only company to come back with a quote in the area.

**No action. Clerk will follow up with the Insurance Company, and will update at the November Regular Meeting.

Handbook

*Trustees Therese Parolini & Paul Saaranen gave President George Eakin a copy of the Employee Handbook that they have looked over and made suggestions in. President Eakin will look it over and add to the Agenda for the November Regular Meeting.

Action Items: NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Report & Transfer of Taxes

*Public Hearing will be held prior to the November Regular Meeting.

Annual Insurance Policy

A motion was made by Trustee Greg Harkonen, to accept the Hannula Insurance Policy.

Motion Seconded by Trustee Justin Marier.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, & Justin Marier

Nays: None

**Trustee Paul Saaranen requested to be noted in the Minutes that this motion was an emergency purchase. Village will check into other insurance companies for quotes 6 months prior to renewal.*

****Motion Carried***

Additions to the Agenda

Certificate of Compliance

Trustee Tim Korby made a motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance for Katarena Jarrell at 22 Fourth St. in the Village of South Range.

Trustee Greg Harkonen supported the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, & Justin Marier

Nays: None

***Motion Carried**

Signature for Sale of Village Property

Trustee Paul Saaranen made a motion to approve George Eakin, Village President as the approved signer for the sale of property with the address of:

Lot 20 Block 7 (Baltic Avenue)

Parcel # #31-045-107-020-00

Trustee Justin Marier supported the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, & Justin Marier

Nays: None

***Motion Carried**

Jeffers 5K Donation

Trustee Paul Saaranen made a motion to approve \$200.00 as a donation to the Jeffers 5K.

Trustee Greg Harkonen supported the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, & Justin Marier

Nays: None

***Motion Carried**

Purchase of Pipes & Supplies

Trustee Justin Marier made a motion to approve up to \$10,000.00 towards the purchase of pipes & supplies from Core & Main for the 4th & 5th Street Alley.

Trustee Cody Bonini supported the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, & Justin Marier

Nays: None

**Trustee Paul Saaranen requested to be noted in the Minutes that this motion was an emergency purchase.*

****Motion Carried**

Public Works Employees Meeting Pay

Trustee Therese Parolini made a motion to approve a one-time only Meeting Pay for attending the 10/5/23 Regular Council Meeting for Public Works Employees Dave Swetich & Kody Maki.

Trustee Greg Harkonen supported the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, & Justin Marier

Nays: None

***Motion Carried**

Payment of the Bills

Trustee Paul Saaranen made a motion to pay the bills totalling **\$63,057.68**. With **\$14,715.74 in old bills, and \$48,341.94 in new bills.**

Trustee Cody Bonini seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, & Justin Marier

Nays: None

***Motion Carried**

Poll of Trustees

- **Paul Saaranen:** Range Lions would be holding a Pancake Breakfast Saturday, October 7th.
- **Tim Korby:** Portage Lake Little League was wondering about more help or money from the Village. Also stated he would like to know who owns the empty lot in Whealkate that was not recently purchased.
- **Greg Harkonen:** Asked about Water & Sewer late fees. He would like to look at increasing them.
- **Therese Parolini:** Inquired about the structure behind Dollar General. The structure is located within Adams Twp. Stated she will need more money for flowers next year. She would like to have the fountain outside the Community Hall sealed.

Adjournment

Trustee Greg Harkonen moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Trustee Justin Marier seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, & Justin Marier

Nays: None

***Motion Carried**