

VILLAGE OF SOUTH RANGE
REGULAR MEETING
July 02, 2025
6:00 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Village of South Range Council was held on Wednesday July 02, 2025 at the Village of South Range Community Hall; 45 Trimountain Avenue; South Range, MI 49963

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM. The following council members were present: President Eakin, Trustee Marier, Trustee Hill, Trustee Parolini, Trustee Korby, & Trustee Balma. There were 10 guests in attendance. Others Present: Public Works Director Burkman, Assistant Public Works Director Swetich, Clerk Dorsey.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was not a public hearing but residents were given the opportunity to make a statement. Residents spoke about the concerns with the recent rain and flooding that the Village of South Range had experienced prior to the meeting. Several houses and streets were affected. Chief Balma noted that the fire department was called out to assist during the flooding. Public works director Burkman stated that public works also assisted with relieving the flooding. Trustee Parolini suggested that if flooding and damage happens again, it would be beneficial to hire an engineering company to assess our current infrastructure and potentially update drainage systems. Chief Balma suggested looking into using a push camera to examine our current drainage system.

P. Pakkala followed up with an ordinance complaint regarding her neighbor that she had submitted with The Village of South Range. Trustee Korby, Trustee Balma, and President Eakin mentioned that they were able to talk with individuals that were associated with the residents and encouraged them to clean up the junk in the yard.

S. Sabatini followed up with questions regarding his neighbor's garage. He submitted photos of the current structure to Clerk Dorsey to make sure it is aware that it could potentially collapse at any moment and fall into his yard. President Eakin assured him that if it does fall onto his property, The Village of South Range will assist with clean up of the structure.

President M. Goodrich with Keweenaw Wild Ones attended the meeting and explained ways that they can assist with local municipalities. She discussed ideas to prevent flooding at the local baseball fields. President Goodrich spoke with a Michigan Technological University professor and had him examine the South Range Baseball fields. She said that Keweenaw Wild Ones would be willing to help hands on with The Village of South Range and execute her ideas free of charge. President Eakin, along with Trustee Korby and the council encouraged Keweenaw Wild Ones to maintain their involvement with the project.

MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION made by Trustee Korby, with support from Trustee Parolini to approve the June 05, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Marier, Trustee Hill, Trustee Balma.

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Trustee Marier, with support from Trustee Balma to approve the June 17, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes as amended.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Parolini, Trustee Hill, Trustee Korby.

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

STREET COMMISSIONER REPORT (Presented by C. Burkman)

Public Works Director Burkman stated that the waste water discharge was completed and everything went smoothly. Local line and curb painting was started and is nearing completion. Equipment repairs and maintenance was performed. Public works put the 4th of July flags out on the main streets, including the large flag at the Community Hall. Local groundskeeping and cleanup is completed for the 4th of July celebration in South Range. Burkman discussed what equipment will be included in the children's 'touch a truck' 4th of July event that will be held in the Miner's State Bank parking lot in South Range.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Eakin discussed updates with the current property at 37 Trimountain Ave that will be under construction in the near future. Plans for the 4th of July were mentioned, including the 'touch a truck' event. U.P. Engineering is currently working on the Whealkate Estates pavement project that will be completed this summer. President Eakin and Clerk Dorsey assisted in letter mail-outs to residents that contain a schedule for the construction of the project. Eakin moved on to suggest that our council should have name plates for the monthly meetings, and also include photos of each council member for the village website.

CLERK REPORT:

Clerk Dorsey read a thank you letter from G. Harkonen and the 4th of July committee to the Village of South Range for the generous donation towards the annual event. Clerk Dorsey completed the village permit for the 4th of July parade that will allow the closure of Trimountain Avenue and M-26. An annual water quality report was completed by Clerk Dorsey and Commissioner Burkman and is available for the public.

FIRE REPORT:

Chief Balma spoke about future grants that the fire department was working on for communications and extra funding. The fire department previously took in a new member to replace a retired firefighter. The department participated in the local firemen's tournament in

Larium. Fireworks were purchased for the 4th of July event and the fire department is working on getting them ready. The fire department will be doing fundraisers for the 4th of July that will include a wood raffle and food sales. New hats were ordered for the current and retired firefighters. Chief Balma got a quote for new uniforms that will cost approximately \$14,000. Trustee Marier asked chief Balma to look into quotes for a new fire truck.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

President Eakin inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding the June 2025 bills, if none, asked for a motion to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Trustee Marier. Bills totaling: \$113,098.69 with \$66,367.32 in old bills, and \$46,731.37 in new bills.

Roll call: Ayes: Trustee Hill, Trustee Parolini, Trustee Korby, & Trustee Balma. Nays: None. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS-UNFINISHED/NEW:

C. Holmes from UPEA discussed drainage and mentioned that he had not heard an update from EGLE regarding local drainage on the East side of town. C. Burkman noted that drainage by the Catholic Church in South Range was full and beginning to overflow. Trustee Parolini inquired about the local landscape and Holmes noted that if the area grows and becomes a wetland, you are unable to disturb any local wetlands besides cutting the grass. Paving will begin on the Whealkate Estate paving project within the next few weeks. Holmes noted that the cost for the project came out less than the original bid, with a savings of approximately \$30,000-\$40,000.

A local resident inquired about information regarding the construction of a fence for his property. It was discovered that the local ally went on to his property and he would like to have it fixed. Options and zoning were discussed and it was determined that it would be further discussed at the next monthly meeting.

Commercial garbage rates were discussed. It was uncertain if a limit to the amount of garbage disposed should be established or an upcharge to the large amounts of garbage should be established. It was mentioned that the cost of wear & tear on our equipment, and the cost of disposal for the village will need to be determined. If possible, recycling options will be further looked at.

Community Hall renovations were discussed. Some areas on the property and within the building will need to be fixed before winter. Public works said that they will do some of the projects that they are able to assist on.

OHM included a final payment for industrial maintenance. Trustee Marier made a motion to pay the village's final payment of \$7,213.75 to Industrial Maintenance. Trustee Korby seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Parolini, Trustee Hill, Trustee Balma
Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

With no further business brought before the Council, Trustee Marier moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:35PM with support from Trustee Parolini. VOTE: All ayes.
MOTION CARRIED - Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Steven Dorsey, Village of South Range Clerk