

VILLAGE OF SOUTH RANGE
REGULAR MEETING
August 07, 2025
6:00 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Village of South Range Council was held on Thursday August 07, 2025 at the Village of South Range Community Hall; 45 Trimountain Avenue; South Range, MI 49963

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. The following council members were present: President Eakin, Trustee Marier, Trustee Hill, Trustee Harkonen, Trustee Korby, & Trustee Balma. There were 7 guests in attendance. Others Present: Clerk Dorsey.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was not a public hearing but residents were given the opportunity to make a statement. Local residents discussed the flooding issues from the August 7th meeting. P. Foefisch mentioned that the drainage ditch near her house was overflowing from the past thunderstorms and had bad flooding in her basement. President Eakin stated that he, along with public works, will take a look at it but need to be cautious when digging in that area. P. Foefisch also stated that people were doing burnouts and tearing up the trail near her property on 7th street. It was suggested that a "no trespassing" sign be installed. Trustee Marier supported the idea.

C. Aho also mentioned that people were doing burnouts in vehicles around her house and that she witnessed a motorcycle accident in front of her home. She called 911 and reported the incident to authorities.

Gina K. and Tom K. asked about the recent fence project that they installed at their property. It was addressed that the project would be reviewed and discussed at the September 4th meeting.

W. Shuett stated that the new Whealkate Estates road paving looks really good, but there were issues with the ditch in front of his garage. It was stated that access to his garage was eliminated and asked if the Village of South Range could fix it. Council stated that public works will take a look at it.

MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION made by Trustee Marier, with support from Trustee Korby to approve the August 07, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: Trustee Harkonen. MOTION CARRIED.

STREET COMMISSIONER REPORT (Presented by Clerk Dorsey)

Public Works Director C. Burkman was absent. Clerk Dorsey did the report for public works and stated the following: The ditch between 3rd and 4th street was redone on whealkate drive. The alleyway behind the South Range Pub was also redone/relocated and had top soil placed and mulched. Public works dealt with recent thunderstorm clean-ups and proceeded to clean the storm catch-basins. Pot holes within the Village were patched and the community hall stair railing was repaired. Veteran banners were placed on the light poles throughout town. Maintenance on equipment was performed including the loader plow being repaired at A&E Industrial. Lagoons were mowed, along with properties for the Village of South Range.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Eakin stated that the 4th of July in South Range went smoothly. President Eakin spoke with U.P. Engineering and Architecture and discussed drainage throughout the Village and obtained pictures for future issues. It was discussed that public worker Cooper Burkman was in the process to get his CDL. President Eakin also stated that the new apartments by Tina's Katalina were looking very good and have not had any issues with the project.

CLERK REPORT:

Clerk Dorsey stated that he had a meeting with the Village insurance agent and discussed village issues and fixes that need to be addressed. It was stated that the baseball fields in South Range need a new lease or a purchase. Clerk Dorsey also met with the Auditor to perform an annual audit for the Village of South Range.

FIRE REPORT:

Chief Balma stated that the 4th of July events went very smoothly. Kids races and flag raising were performed, along with the fire department igniting the annual 4th of July fireworks for the community. The fire department discussed future fire hall ideas, along with possibly obtaining a new fire truck in the future. Furthermore, two current firefighters are working on their license for the fire department. Chief Balma also met with the insurance company to address current and future matters. Lastly, Chief Balma stated that the fire department would be meeting with Houghton's fire department to initiate training in case of a large fire.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

President Eakin inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding the July 2025 bills. Trustee Balma motioned to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Trustee Korby. Bills totaling: \$41,596.68 in new bills.

Roll call: Ayes: Trustee Marier, Trustee Hill, Trustee Harkonen

Nays: None. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS-UNFINISHED/NEW:

The baseball fields in South Range were discussed. It was stated that the Village's current lease of the property is expired and that a future lease will need to be established. The council

discussed future leasing options along with the possibility of purchasing the land. It was determined that the Village of South Range would speak with the VFW about possible options.

Whealkate lots were discussed at the meeting. Specific lots were purchased several years ago and housing was supposed to take effect within a specific time frame. No current projects or building has been done. Trustee Korby asked to send a letter to the owner of the lands and ask for an update.

The Village of South Range auditor recently retired. The council addressed the issue and asked for recommendations for a new auditor. The council, along with President Eakin and Clerk Dorsey, will look for recommendations and local auditors.

The Village chambers bathroom is currently under construction. The time frame regarding the project is uncertain but builders stated that it is currently being addressed.

With no further business brought before the Council, Trustee Marier moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:02PM with support from Trustee Harkonen. VOTE: All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED - Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Steven Dorsey, Village of South Range Clerk