

VILLAGE OF SOUTH RANGE
REGULAR MEETING
May 07, 2026
6:00 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Village of South Range Council was held on Thursday May 07, 2026 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 Korby, Trustee Parolini & Trustee Balma. There were 13 guests in attendance. Others present: Clerk Schwandt, Clerk Dorsey, Treasurer Balma, Street Commissioner Burkman

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trustee Hill made a motion to keep public comments to a 5 minute limit for all future meetings. Trustee Balma seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Parolini, Trustee Marier, Trustee Korby
Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

R. Petrilius asked the council if they had made a decision on abandoning the alley way on 7th Street. President Eakin said he did not talk to the attorney any further about it but he would prefer not to sell the alley to private buyers. Trustee Parolini suggested that if they did decide to sell the land, it would have to be open to all of the public for purchase. Trustee Marier stated that he would like to talk to the attorney and also a real estate agent about the possibility of selling the alley.

M. Harma thanked public works for all of the hard work that they do and suggested that everyone on public works should get a pay raise. Furthermore, M. Harma expressed her frustrations with the elected council officials for not doing better at their job. M. Harma stated that South Range has a specific ordinance regarding junk in yards and that the council has not been enforcing this ordinance for many years. She is tired of the council never getting anything done. M. Harma noted that South Range has higher taxes compared to surrounding towns and she would like to see the council represent the town better and make it a nicer place to live.

M. Hannula with Hannala Insurance informed the council that The Village of South Range does not have the South Range firefighters covered for worker's compensation in the current policy. This needs to be added immediately . Furthermore, M. Hannula stated that the 4th of July committee needs to insure future festivities that will take place for the 4th of July event. MOTION made by Trustee Marier, with support from Trustee Balma to include all South Range firefighters in the insurance policy for workers compensation.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Korby, Trustee Marier, Trustee Balma

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

G. Stevens asked what the amount of time is that home purchasers have to complete work on condemned homes. President Eakin said he was not sure.

K. Aho wants to know future plans for a building that caught fire near her home. K. Aho asked for an update on the temporary snowmobile trail that passes her house. President Eakin stated that he has not asked for an update and will keep the topic continuous on future agendas. Lastly, K. Aho inquired about a water hookup to her garage. Street commissioner Bukman said that public works can do it.

R. Patterson asked if the sidewalk in front of her home can be fixed. The council said yes and that the resident pays the concrete and South Range public works will do the work.

C. Holmes gave an update on the waste water lagoon project. Initial funding for the project is not available through the state, alternative funding/grants are being reviewed.

K. Gagnon brought up concerns with South Range public works plowing snow into the alley way near his home. It was stated that when the snow starts to melt, it causes very bad flooding in his basement. It is uncertain if future plow areas will be changing. Furthermore, K. Gagnon was upset about his yard fence that got broken during the winter. Public works does not plow snow up to the fence but offered to assist once the snow completely melts. K. Gagnon was upset that they did not help out sooner.

L. Balma asked for the council to review her current wages as the South Range Treasurer and asked for a wage increase. The council asked for current average hours/month to be presented at the June Meeting for further discussion.

Trustee Marier motioned to add treasurer wages to May 2026 meeting agenda. Trustee Parolini seconded the motion.

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

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

MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION made by Trustee Korby, with support from Trustee Balma to approve the February 05 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

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

MOTION made by Trustee Korby, with support from Trustee Balma to approve the March 05 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Hill, Trustee Marier, Trustee Parolini

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

STREET COMMISSIONER REPORT

Street Commissioner Craig Burkman reported that 3 public works employees took the water test within the last month. Cooper Burkman is in the process of getting his CDL for public works. The wastewater lagoons are in the process of discharging. Benches and garbage cans were repaired and repainted. Spring clean up is currently in progress. Fire hydrant repair kits were ordered. The new doors for the firehall arrived and public works will install the new doors when it gets nicer out. Winter equipment was maintained and will be going into storage. Wood for the firemen's 4th of July raffle was picked up by public works and delivered to a site in South Range. Lastly, public works fixed the "Welcome to South Range" sign that was damaged during the winter from a snowmobile accident.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Eakin discussed Calumet's blite task force that is currently active. The job of the task force is to enforce the junk ordinance that is in effect for Calumet, Michigan. President Eakin would like to get more information on how it works to start one in South Range.

CLERK REPORT:

Clerk Schwandt reported that the 2026 Consumer Confidence Report was completed. Copies of the report will be available in the South Range Clerks office. Shut off notices were created and delivered to residents with an outstanding water bill balance. Also, a waste water lagoon permit was submitted and accepted for approval.

FIRE REPORT:

No fire report was reported for the month of May.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

President Eakin inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding the April 2026 bills. Trustee Balma motioned to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Trustee Hill. Bills totaling: \$46,023.83

Roll call: Ayes: Trustee Marier, Trustee Parolini, Trustee Korby

Nays: None. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS-UNFINISHED/NEW:

South Range community hall rental rates and policies were discussed at the meeting.

Trustee Korby made a motion to change the current community hall rental rates and policies starting January 1, 2026, seconded by trustee Balma.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Hill, Trustee Marier, Trustee Parolini

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Future business operations for The Village of South Range were discussed.

Trustee Marier made a motion to keep K. Archaumbau hired as a contractor to assist with any help as needed for 2026, seconded by trustee Balma.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Employee wages were discussed at the meeting.

Trustee Korby made a motion to increase wages for S. Schwandt to \$25/hr, seconded by trustee Balma.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Hill, Trustee Marier, Trustee Parolini

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Parolini made a motion to increase wages for S. Dorsey to \$22/hr wage, seconded by trustee Hill.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Korby, Trustee Marier, Trustee Balma

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

A 2026 summertime flower budget was discussed for The Village of South Range.

Trustee Balma made a motion to spend \$2,000.00 towards flowers for The Village of South Range, seconded by trustee Marier.

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

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

With no further business brought before the Council, Trustee Balma motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:46PM with support from Trustee Parolini.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Korby, Trustee Marier, Trustee Hill

MOTION CARRIED - Meeting adjourned.