

Regular Meeting
Village of South Range

May 4th, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the Village of South Range was called to order at **6:30 p.m.** by President George Eakin.

Present: George Eakin, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Cody Bonini, Tim Korby, Meredith Carney, Kristen Archambeau (Clerk)

Absent: Greg Harkonen, Craig Burkman S.C.

Guests: Dave Swetich (PW), Kody Maki (PW), Kerry Jutila, Janet Kokko, John Donnelly, Trent Kangas, Bruce Heltunen, Ryan Riipi (Case Equipment)

Recognition of Guests:

Bruce Heltunen

-Stated that Whealkate residents would like to not have the speed bumps reinstalled on either street

-Requested the gate be locked to the road at the bottom of bluff. Per DNR the Village can not legally lock the gate.

-Requested stop signs on John Pastore Drive

Trent Kangas

-Discussed the need of a culvert on John Pastore Drive

Janet Kokko

-Inquired about the paving of Whealkate Estates & stated the storm drain near her is covered in rocks.

Kerry Jutila

-Discussed her concerns from residents about statements made at the April 2023 Regular Meeting, and stated the importance of the Village Employees.

-Mrs. Jutila thanked all employees for all they do for the Village.

John Donnelly

-Suggested to the Council that the Village could stagger speed bumps as that is what the City of Houghton does.

-Discussed the UPSET program and the donation process.

Ryan Riipi

-Discussed the loader that was priced out for Public Works

Approval of the April 6th, 2023 Minutes

Trustee Meredith Carney moved to approve the Minutes from April 6, 2023.

Trustee Paul Saaranen seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Meredith Carney

Nays: None

Abstain: Cody Bonini & Tim Korby

Approval of the April 27th, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes

Trustee Cody Bonini moved to approve the Public Hearing Minutes from April 27, 2023. Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Paul Saaranen & Meredith Carney

Approval of the April 27th, 2023 Special Hearing Minutes

Trustee Cody Bonini moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2023. Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Paul Saaranen & Meredith Carney

Street Commissioner Report (Presented by Dave Swetich & Kody Maki)

- The following are the 3 chosen blacktop areas: Whealkate from 1st-2nd, 2nd st. by the snowmobile trail, and Stanton Ave. erosion area
- Hamlin Development is having water/sewer connection starting tomorrow
- Water leak at the Community Hall
- Received the trade in values from all 3 dealers we got quotes from a new loader
- Cold Patch for potholes: Houghton County Road Commission is currently low and will not be able to get any until the end of May due to the supplier not making it available till then. Therefore, we are unsure when the cold patch will be available. We did substitute with the same option we used last year, recycled blacktop.
- Flooding from snow melt
- Spring Discharge Lagoons cell #3
- Water Conference & Sewer Conferences
- Materials for yard repair on Painesdale St.
- Have been doing maintenance on Snow Equipment to get ready to put away (hopefully)

Village President Report:

Village President George Eakin updated the Council with the following:

- Village President text messaged Rich Rossway from Congressman Bergman's office and have not heard anything more from him. Chris Holmes will contact EGLE soon.
- Complaints on the flooding of the 4th , 5th ,6th street alleys (Contacted OHM) Meeting with Craig, Mike (OHM) & John Pekkala (Drain Commissioner) Friday at 1pm. Hopeful we can do the needed work ourselves as Kody owns an excavator, we could rent it from him.
- We need to look into ordinance enforcement as we've had recent complaints. Therese Parolini stated there is a 3 hour Ordinance Class online, she will get the information.
- We also had a complaint concerning issues at the 7th Street park last summer.
- Mr Harkonen sent the Village President an email with some thoughts as he is out of town until 5/12.
- President Eakin will bring in an electric floor scrubber to give the community hall floor a thorough cleaning (No charge). He would also like you to approve a carpet cleaning for the council chambers & and offices \$150.00
- The Village Clerk and Public Works are going to organize the storage rooms off of the fire hall, moving cabinets and throwing away things not needed.
- President Eakin would also like to see the jail cell back together.

Clerk's Report

- Windows need to be replaced at least in the main Ballroom Upstairs for safety reasons. Someone almost lost a thumb when a window came down unexpectedly, could have been much MUCH worse.
- Garbage fees are going up at the transfer station

Additions to Agenda

***Certificate of Compliance**

Tom Hicks

Action Items:

Employee Wages

Trustee Meredith Carney made a motion to do a 3% for full time Village Employees retroactive to January 1st, 2023, with the contingency that a system is put in place based on evaluations for wages.

Trustee Cody Bonini seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

*Therese Parolini asked Clerk Archambeau if she receives pay during medical (first responder) calls while working, as she thought Clerk Archambeau did not. Clerk Archambeau stated that if she is able to go she does, and it was approved through the Village Council. Clerk Archambeau will look back in the Meeting Minutes and present at the next Regular Meeting.

Equipment Review

*Special Meeting to be held on May 18, 2023 at 6pm to look over the financing options for a new loader.

Paving

Advertising for bids for 2” paving will be posted at the hall, post office, on the Village website and on facebook.

Drainage

President Eakin, along with Craig Burkman S.C., will be meeting with OHM on drainage issues on 4th, 5th, and 6th streets.

UPSET Donation

Trustee Meredith Carney made a motion to do a 3 year pledge to UPSET in the amount of \$2,500 per year.

Trustee Therese Parolini seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Hall Repairs

Special Meeting Specs for this will be discussed at the May 18, 2023 meeting.

Millage Rate Discussion

*Will be discussed in June per Treasurer Balma.

Additions to the Agenda

Meeting Time Change

Trustee Meredith Carney made a motion to move the Village of South Range Council Meetings to 6pm from 6:30pm.

Trustee Cody Bonini seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Certificate of Compliance

Trustee Meredith Carney made a motion to Approve the Certificate of Compliance submitted by Tom Hicks.

Trustee Therese Parolini seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Payment of the Bills

Trustee Cody Bonini made a motion to pay the bills totalling **\$24,232.14**

With \$14,073.84 in old bills, and \$9,528.30 in new bills.

Trustee Meredith Carney seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Poll of Trustees

Therese Parolini: Will contact Adams Township Superintendent about flowers for the South Range Elementary School.

Cody Bonini: Discussed the recent fire in the Village, new air packs that were donated to the department, and about a grant that is being applied for.

Trustee Parolini questioned FEMA grants, however Trustee Bonini stated that South Range would need to have First Responders on the Fire Department, Adams Township First Responders do the medical calls within the Village.

Adjournment

Trustee Cody Bonini moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Trustee Meredith Carney seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None