

Regular Meeting
Village of South Range

February 1, 2024

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, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, Justin Marier, Greg Harkonen, Kristen Archambeau (Clerk), Craig Burkman (Street Commissioner)

Absent: Cody Bonini & Therese Parolini

Guests: Chris Holmes (UPEA) & Glenn Anderson

Recognition of Guests:

- **Chris Holmes (UPEA)**
Discussed Rural Development Grant for sewer/lagoon system.
- **Glenn Anderson**
Discussed road dedication to a Local Veteran, he will assist the Village Clerk with a letter to the State Representative and Senator. Also needs a Memorial Resolution with the Village.

Approval of the January 4th, 2024 Minutes

Trustee Justin Marier moved to approve the Minutes from January 4, 2024.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkonen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

**Motion Carried*

Street Commissioner Report (Presented by Craig Burkman)

- Grader was damaged while plowing. Thanked Brandon Skewes for all the extra hours he worked to repair and weld it.
- The 2020 F250 had some transmission issues and was repaired at Copper Country Ford.
- Public Works has their spreadsheets ready for lead pipe request for EGLE.
- Had a few water leaks in January.
- The water tank is having issues communicating again, for now Don Cline, Craig Burkman, & Dave Swetich have it fixed.
- A Hydrant on 7th Street leaking, will be off for winter.
- Public Works has been busy maintaining equipment.
- Plowed for 14 days straight in January.

Village President Report:

Village President George Eakin updated the Council with the following:

- President Eakin has been communicating regularly with Mr. Marc Franchi concerning the future development of the property he purchased, and he's also hoping to purchase another 10-12 acres from the county. Mr. Franchi would like to annex all of the property into the Village, and wants the Village to supply the utilities.
- We've heard a few complaints to do with the snow, but there's also been compliments to the guys on their snow removal procedure.
- President Eakin thanked Justin for creating the new Garbage Rate Policy.
- Went over the Committee assignments for 2024.
- Stated the Finance Committee needs to meet to discuss wages for the March Meeting, Purchasing Policy should follow.
- Met with Mike Markham & one other employee of OHM on Monday morning to sign for the Lead Pipe Replacement Grant.
- Appreciate everyone's efforts with the employee evaluations at the last meeting. They will be a valuable tool going forward.
- Thanked Kristen for the new office schedule, ways to contact her on the front door along the folders for each of us. She tries very hard to keep all of us organized.
- Will start watching emails closer for the various training sessions that are out there for himself and the Council. The Webinars in particular are a great training feature.
- Should replace the front exterior door to our hall and also the double doors upstairs of the community hall.

Clerk's Report

- Looked into what could happen with changing insurance companies. Change in companies could lead to issues with grants, and we also receive dividends back from our current insurance company. In order to receive dividends, you must be with the company a minimum of 3 yrs.
Since we currently are in grant processes, the Clerk requested we not look into other insurance company prices at this time, as there have been absolutely no issues with the current company.
- Will be working on the Annual Submission items for the USDA. It is half completed at this time.
- The new way to do bulk mailings online with USPS (water bills) has started, bills went out today (2/1/2024).
- WUPHD will continue to do testing on lagoons weather pending. They will now do covid, norovirus & RSV. For each weekly test the Village will receive \$55 vs prior years with the amount of \$40. There will be no additional testing that Public Works needs to do other than the usual way they have done it.

Agenda Approval

Trustee Tim Korby made a motion to accept the Agenda with changes, adding part-time police officer & Council training. Trustee Justin Marier seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkkonen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

**Motion Carried*

Action Items:

Drainage

*President Eakin went over grant submission through OHM.& continued alley work.

Garbage Rates

Trustee Greg Harkkonen made a motion to accept the Garbage Rates as proposed.

Trustee Justin Marier seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkkonen, & Tim Korby

Nays: Paul Saaranen

**Motion Carried*

Handbook

Trustee Justin Marier made a motion to approve the handbook per Village Attorney recommendations.

Trustee Greg Harkkonen seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkkonen, & Tim Korby

Nays: Paul Saaranen

**Motion Carried*

Whealkate Lot

Trustee Tim Korby made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Lantz, in regards to his construction plans for his lot.

Trustee Paul Saaranen seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkkonen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

**Motion Carried*

Winter Let Run

Trustee Greg Harkkonen made a motion to approve the 2024 Let Run Policy as presented.

Trustee Justin Marier seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkkonen, & Tim Korby

Nays: Paul Saaranen

**Motion Carried*

Memorial Resolution

Trustee Paul Saaranen made a motion to approve the Memorial Resolution as presented by Glenn Anderson for the renaming a portion of M26 in honor of Veteran Wesley Karna.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkkonen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

**Motion Carried*

Snowmobile Complaint

*The Village Office had a few snowmobile complaints, the Village Clerk contacted the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Saaranen contacted MDOT, they will be working with the Clerk to possibly put up some signs. The Sheriff also reached out to the resident who made the complaints.

CD Maturity/Rate

Trustee Greg Harkkonen made a motion to approve the renewal of the CD with Miner's State Bank, if they are able to match the interest rate from Superior National Bank of 3.94%, with an APY of 4.00% with a term of 35 months (would be 36 with Miners as they do not have a 35 month option), for the CD that matures on 2/13/2024 at Miner's State Bank.

Trustee Justin Marier supported the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkkonen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

**Motion Carried*

Elected Officials Pay

Trustee Greg Harkkonen made a motion to move forward with an Ordinance for elected official's pay in the Village.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

Yeas:

Nays:

Abstain:

**Motion Carried*

Tax Bill Printing (Presented by Village Treasurer Lindsay Balma)

Trustee Greg Harkkonen made a motion to accept the pricing through KCI for tax billing as presented by Village Treasurer Lindsay Balma.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkkonen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

*Paul Saaranen added that it was an emergency purchase.

**Motion Carried*

Budget Amendments

Trustee Justin Marier made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Budget Amendments.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkonnen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

**Motion Carried*

Preliminary Budget

Trustee Justin Marier made a motion to approve the 2024-25 Preliminary Budget.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkonnen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

Additions to the Agenda

Part-time Police Officer

**Tabled.*

Council Trainings

**Discussed training and process on paying for training.*

Payment of the Bills

Trustee Paul Saaranen made a motion to pay the bills totalling **\$22,418.10**

With \$16,243.23 in old bills, and \$6,174.87 in new bills.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkonnen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

**Trustee Tim Korby made a motion to go into closed session at 8:04 pm to discuss wages. Supported by Trustee Justin Marier.*

Council came out of closed session at 8:37pm.

Poll of Trustees

Tim Korby

-complimented the Public Works employees for doing a fantastic job.

Adjournment

Trustee Justin Marier moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:39p.m.

Trustee Greg Harkkonen seconded the motion.

Yeas: George Eakin, Justin Marier, Greg Harkkonen, Tim Korby, & Paul Saaranen

Nays: None

Village of South Range Council Minutes Submitted by:

Kristen Archambeau, Village of South Range Clerk

