

VILLAGE OF SOUTH RANGE
REGULAR MEETING
March 05, 2026
6:00 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Village of South Range Council was held on Thursday March 05, 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 Harkonen, Trustee Parolini & Trustee Balma. There were 5 guests in attendance. Others present: Clerk Schwandt, Deputy Clerk Dorsey

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The 2026-2027 budget was due for approval and the public was asked if they had any questions. Trustee Korby motioned to approve the 2026-2027 budget, seconded by Trustee Harkonen.

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

M. Franchi talked about Backcountry Village and recapped the recent snowmobile event that took place. M. Franchi reported an excellent and safe turnout that brought a lot of business to the local communities/economy.

D. Harynen expressed his frustration with the council's decisions and the way that they have been choosing to treat the employees of South Range.

R. Petrelius supported Mr. Harynen's statements and spoke on several ordinances that the council has been choosing to ignore and not enforcing. R. Petrelius wants to see the council take these ordinances more seriously and put more effort into their duties. R. Petrelius went on to further discuss the alleyway property located behind 33 seventh street and asked if he could obtain ownership of a small parcel. The council asked if he could have a proposal in writing for the next meeting.

J. Ratcliffe from KEDA detailed the brownfield project from the previous meeting and offered tools for the council to use to be better prepared for community development. J. Ratcliffe asked the council to look into these tools and handbooks to gain information for future development.

MEETING MINUTES:

Approval for February 05, 2026 meeting minutes were put on hold until the April 2026 meeting.

STREET COMMISSIONER REPORT

C. Burkman stated that public works has been working strenuously at removing and cleaning up snow from the recent snow storms that occurred during the month of February. Furthermore, water leaks were fixed, fire hydrants were cleared out and shoveled, residents' snow push-backs were completed, and water meter readings were finished.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Eakin reported that the "Welcome to South Range" sign was damaged and lying on the ground. The Village of South Range will work on fixing the sign for spring. Snow has been a main topic of discussion. President Eakin suggested changing the snow-moving policy for next year. Larium's policy was used as an example that they offer an annual fee for those who want extra help. President Eakin spoke with M. Franchi a bit concerning the Hill Climb exit road. Positive reports were reported regarding the safety and cleanliness of the event. One truck was towed for the month that was blocking the road during snow removal. The parking policy for the season will end on April 01, 2026.

CLERK REPORT:

Clerk Schwandt stated that everything was completed for the budget approval. The final sewer increase will take place next month for an additional \$7 to help support the additional lagoon pond that will be made for wastewater. Community hall upgrades were discussed and future rental charge changes were suggested. Hall upgrades will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

FIRE REPORT:

The Fire Department assisted Chassell for a call during the month of February. Chief Balma stated that they will be getting 14 upgraded radios by utilizing a DNR grant. Further discussed was the idea of adding two new positions to the fire department. Chief Balma requested new uniforms, noting that the current uniforms are from the 1990s. Trustee Korby stated that it is not in the budget and does not want to get the Fire Department new uniforms this year. Trustee Marier suggested that Chief Balma get quotes for new uniforms in October and look at where the budget stands in November.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

President Eakin inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding the February 2026 bills. Trustee Korby motioned to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Trustee Balma. Bills totaling: \$62,608.64

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

Nays: None. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS-UNFINISHED/NEW:

Trustee Korby made a motion to approve the updated handbook with approval from the attorney, seconded by Trustee Balma.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Korby motioned to remove Justin Marier as a bank signer for Miner's State Bank and add Sydney Schwandt, seconded by Trustee Hill. Signers will include Sydney Schwandt, Steven Dorsey, Lindsay Balma, George Eakin.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Parolini, Trustee Marier, Trustee Balma, Trustee Harkonen

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Balma motioned to remove Justin Marier as a bank signer for Superior National Bank and add Sydney Schwandt, seconded by Trustee Korby. Signers will include Sydney Schwandt, Steven Dorsey, Lindsay Balma, George Eakin.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting went into a closed session at 8:25 P.M.

With no further business brought before the Council, Trustee Balma motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:18PM with support from Trustee Harkonen. VOTE: All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED - Meeting adjourned.