

VILLAGE OF SOUTH RANGE  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 02, 2026  
6:00 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Village of South Range Council was held on Thursday April 02 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 Hill, Trustee Korby, Trustee Parolini & Trustee Balma. There were 6 guests in attendance. Others present: Clerk Schwandt, Deputy Clerk Dorsey

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was not a public hearing at the meeting.

M. Lompre brought up concerns associated with local ordinance violations regarding junk on residential properties and asked the council if they will enforce the ordinances to maintain a clean neighborhood.

D. Hayrynen referenced the Open Meetings Act handbook and encouraged the council to become more familiar with the rules and regulations, particularly regarding proper procedures for closed sessions that may not have been followed in prior meetings. D. Hayrynen also discussed the employee handbook's vacation policy, expressing concern that the proposed changes may reduce benefits for long-term employees - particularly those with 15 years of employment who were originally granted more generous time off. Policies from comparable local municipalities were also reviewed and discussed.

J. Ratcliffe from KEDA introduced Jen Tucker and the two discussed economic development plan assistance. J. Tucker spoke with the council and discussed 6 best practices with Keda. Furthermore, she gave her contact information to the council for future collaboration and assistance or questions.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

Approval for February 05, 2026 meeting minutes and March 05, 2026 meeting minutes were put on hold until the May 07, 2026 meeting.

**STREET COMMISSIONER REPORT**

C. Burkman stated that public works has been working on road repairs from winter damage. The lagoons are open for discharge and will continue through next month. Maintenance on equipment has been taking place and winter equipment will soon be in storage. Furthermore, public works will be attending the annual U.P. water conference next week.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Eakin reported that a resident had reached out about speeding cars near the old highway and was curious if the council should consider a stop sign in place of the current yield sign. Another resident had reached out about junk in residential yards and junk ordinances. President Eakin reported that on March 3, 2026 the Community Hall had small flooding in the main door entrance that had to be cleaned. President Eakin also got a new computer for village business. Furthermore, President Eakin would like to know in the near future who will all need to run in the November 2026 election. Trustee Marier, Trustee Parolini, and Trustee Balma are all up for election.

#### CLERK REPORT:

Clerk Schwandt stated that quotes were obtained for replacing the community building doors and were available for the council to review. USDA annual reporting was submitted. Replacement ceiling tile and material were located and secured for the Community Building. The 2026-1 ordinance was finalized and submitted to the Gazette for publication. Required information was submitted for CTVSR annual reporting. Second quarter tax filings are in progress, with some being completed. Lastly, water bills will see a final \$7 rate increase that will take effect at the end of the month.

#### FIRE REPORT:

Chief Balma stated that The South Range Fire Department had no calls for the month of March 2026. Dean Gouge and Cooper Burkman were mentioned as the 2 new candidates for the 2 new positions discussed at the March 2026 meeting. Furthermore, the fire department is preparing fundraising for 4th of July fireworks/events. One specific fundraiser that will take place again this year is the annual wood raffle.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT:

President Eakin inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding the March 2026 bills. Trustee Balma motioned to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Trustee Hill. Bills totaling: \$31,479.73

Roll call: Ayes: Trustee Korby, Trustee Parolini

Nays: None. MOTION CARRIED.

#### BUSINESS-UNFINISHED/NEW:

Trustee Korby made a motion to grant approval of Adam's Township Easement, along with granting President Eakin and Clerk Schwandt as signers for the easement. Trustee Balma seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

The Lease for the Baseball fields with South Range VFW is in progress and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Council reviewed the road easement on 7th street in South Range and discussed the potential sale of portions of the property to adjacent residents. Concerns were raised regarding the drainage, as well as the potential impact on property owners further along the road. Selling portions could limit or eliminate future access if development occurs. The matter will be revisited at a future meeting after further evaluation of potential solutions.

Trustee Balma motioned to purchase 3 new doors with crash-bars and no windows from the Door Depot to replace the current doors at the Community Building. Trustee Korby seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Korby made a motion to grandfather in Craig Burkman with 4 weeks of vacation time after 15 years of employment with The Village of South Range. Employees hired after Craig will follow the new employee handbook policies. Trustee Balma seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Balma made a motion to accept the Highline Right-of-Way Telecommunications permit which allows Aspire Networks 1 LLC to install and maintain fiber-optic broadband infrastructure within the Village public rights-of-way. Trustee Korby seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Korby made a motion to donate \$2,500 to the 4th of July in South Range. Trustee Balma seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Balma made a motion to donate \$2,500 to UPSET. Trustee Korby seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Balma motioned to donate \$2,500 to Adams Township first responders. Trustee Hill seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

With no further business brought before the Council, Trustee Balma motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:16PM with support from Trustee Parolini. VOTE: All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED - Meeting adjourned.