

VILLAGE OF SOUTH RANGE
REGULAR MEETING
June 04, 2026
6:00 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Village of South Range Council was held on Thursday June 04, 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 Parolini, Trustee Harkonen & Trustee Balma. There were 10 guests in attendance. Others present: Deputy Clerk Dorsey, Street Commissioner Burkman

PUBLIC COMMENT:

M. Franchi stated that the DNR reached out to the state of Michigan and it was advised that the future snowmobile trail leading from Back Country Village should not travel along the highway. He is looking into alternative routes and is open to suggestions. K. Aho said there was no trail there before so she would like to hear a plan for future developments. She would like to see a speed limit sign for the new trail. The council suggested a 15 mph speed limit sign.

M. Harma commented on the ordinance regarding junk and wants to see all of the council involved to help President Eakin. She stated that the flowers in South Range look good and would like to see a stop sign in place of the "yield" sign by the Elementary School.

C. Hamlin asked if there were any issues with him closing part of Trimountain Avenue for periodic car shows during the summer. Trustee Harkonen stated that law enforcement asked if The Village of South Range has things signed to do so. President Eakin stated that he will ask the Sheriff for an answer on closing local roads. Furthermore, C. Hamlin stated that his new business on Trimountain Avenue will be a hair/nail salon. The building will have metal siding up before the 4th of July to make it look better. Apartments above the business will be ready in 1-2 months. The car club will be at the 1902 once a month.

K. Juttilla inquired if cars in allies violate the junk ordinance and asked if we will be doing something towards that. She also inquired about the status of getting the Village handbook ESTA compliant..

T. Payment commented on the progress regarding his apartment building project. He is hoping to have updates on the building by fall. He stated that he has been working for several years to get the project moving forward. The council requested regular updates.

MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION made by Trustee Marier, with support from Trustee Balma to approve the May 07 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

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

STREET COMMISSIONER REPORT

Street Commissioner Craig Burkman reported that lagoon discharging was complete and that the grounds at the lagoons were maintained and cut. Spring clean-up was completed by public works. The lines on the streets were freshly painted. Equipment was maintained and serviced. Cooper B. is in the process of acquiring his CDL and Dave S. passed his water test and is now certified. Finally, American Flags and Veteran flags were put throughout South Range.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Eakin was able to initiate the process for addressing ordinance violations and went throughout South Range obtaining details/pictures of violators. These violations were sent out in the mail to everyone that was in violation. President Eakin spent time prepping the Community Hall floor for waxing. Furthermore, President Eakin visited the courthouse to obtain information on the year the Village of South Range was incorporated. Lastly, President Eakin did an interview with the Keweenaw Report about things going on in South Range.

CLERK REPORT:

Deputy Clerk Dorsey reported that the Consumer Confidence Report was officially finished and put in the Daily Mining Gazette for the public to view. Copies were sent to EGLE and the Health Department. The Community Hall floor was completely redone and 2 rentals took place. Ordinance violation letters were sent out to residents. A new flag was ordered for the 4th of July. Dates were established in July for the South Range audit. Nine new traffic signs were ordered to be installed in the Village. Finally, a 4th of July parade permit was applied for and is waiting approval.

FIRE REPORT:

Chief Balma reported a fire call in May involving a car wreck in South Range, MI. The Fire Department got all of their wood for the wood raffle that takes place on the 4th of July. The 4th of July fireworks were delivered to the Fire Hall. Future grants for turnout gear are in the talks. Two new garage door panels were ordered. Finally, the annual firemen's tournament will be hosted by Calumet this year and will be held in Laurium at the Gip Ice Rink.

BUSINESS-UNFINISHED/NEW:

It was discovered that the swing sets and see-saws on the 7th street park are on the Funeral Home's Property. It is undetermined if The Village of South Range can purchase the property or what South Range will do.

Trustee Balma made a motion to add the 7th street park property to the June 2026 Agenda, seconded by trustee Parolini.

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

The village of South Range will explore all avenues regarding the 7th street park for rebuilding or relocating proper equipment and keeping everything available for the public in respect to the adjoining property owner.

The Sewer Project was submitted and there should be an update for funding September 2026. Construction sounds like it will be pushed to 2028. The Village of South Range will know more in the fall of 2026 or spring 2027.

President Eakin stated that he had spoken with an attorney regarding the undeveloped road on seventh street. The attorney advised not to sell any of it. Trustee Parolini asked if South Range can correct the drainage issues for the residents along that property. President Eakin suggested contacting an engineer for evaluation. Trustee Marier would like to put money into the drainage issue. President Eakin stated that South Range can establish a committee for that.

A Millage date was discussed at the meeting. The village of South Range will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.7542 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2026. The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the South Range Community Hall at 45 Trimountain Avenue, South Range, MI 49963. If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 5.49 % over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will decrease by 2.64% over the preceding year's operating revenue. Motion made by Trustee Marier, seconded by trustee Balma.

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

South Range firefighters will receive \$599.00 stipend with the chief receiving \$740.00 for 2026. Retired firefighters will receive \$100.00 for 2026.

Motion made by Trustee Harkonen, seconded by Trustee Parolini.

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

The council discussed a junk clean up day for residents to participate in and bring junk to a specific location in South Range. A date and more details will be available soon.

Trustee Parolini motioned to accept an application for, and certificate of, zoning compliance with the condition that the setback for the structure is in compliance with the 6-foot set back instead of the proposed 5-foot setback. Trustee Hill seconded the motion.

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

The treasure's wages were discussed at the meeting. A pay increase is in discussion but not yet determined. More details will be discussed and voted on at the July 2026 meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

President Eakin inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding the May 2026 bills. Trustee Harkonen motioned to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Trustee Balma. Bills totaling: \$83,054.39

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

Nays: None. MOTION CARRIED.

With no further business brought before the Council, Trustee Balma motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:00PM with support from Trustee Harkonen.

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

MOTION CARRIED - Meeting adjourned.