

VILLAGE OF SOUTH RANGE
REGULAR MEETING
September 03, 2026
6:00 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Village of South Range Council was held on Thursday, September 03, 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, and Trustee Korby. There were 9 guests in attendance. Others present: Clerk Schwandt and Deputy Clerk Dorsey.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

D. Hayrynen stated that employees and citizens should be treated respectfully by elected officials and questioned whether the Council condones aggressive verbal conduct toward employees. Hayrynen also criticized the handling of the recent special meeting concerning Steven Dorsey, stating that he felt it was unfair, publicly humiliating, and included accusations that were not adequately supported. He stated that he believed the matter should have been handled differently and that the Council owed Dorsey a public apology.

L. Williams stated that personnel concerns should be addressed and documented promptly rather than months after an alleged incident. Drawing on her management experience, she emphasized the importance of clear communication and focusing on employees' ability to perform their jobs despite personality differences. Williams also commented that she has noticed a change in the atmosphere within the Village and expressed hope that relationships and communication improve.

D. Torstenson of Efficient Home Solution provided an update on improvements to 19 Trimountain Avenue. He stated that the building is currently being gutted and substantially remodeled, with most interior components being replaced while retaining the main structure. The completed building will include two apartments downstairs and two apartments upstairs. Torstenson estimated that the first unit may be completed within approximately three months, with the remaining units to follow shortly thereafter.

M. Harma stated that she believed the recent personnel matter involving Steven Dorsey was handled improperly and should have been addressed through the Personnel Committee. Harma also discussed stop sign placement within the Village, particularly near the school and Main Street area. She stated that she believed a stop sign had historically been located there and questioned the reasoning for its removal or relocation. She expressed concern that the current traffic pattern may create confusion over right-of-way and stated that the stop sign issue should be reviewed.

K. Aho expressed appreciation for the Council's efforts and stated that she felt heard and valued as a resident. She also thanked the Council for addressing concerns near the school and stated that the recently installed speed bumps have made a noticeable improvement in slowing traffic.

J. Ciucci stated that she is pleased with the speed bumps on Stanton Avenue and feels they have helped slow traffic. She also expressed appreciation for the Village providing a designated location for residents to dispose of weeds and yard debris.

Trustee Korby motioned to add Zoning to the September, 2026 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Marier. Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Hill, Trustee Parolini, Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION made by Trustee Marier, with support from Trustee Korby to approve the August 06, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION made by Trustee Marier, with support from Trustee Korby to approve the August 24, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes.

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

NOTE: The Personnel Committee meeting minutes from September 1, 2026, were presented for review; no vote was required. Trustee Marier requested two additions: that the Committee discussed moving Steven Dorsey to the sole full-time Public Works position and holding a meeting with Mr. Dorsey and the Director of Public Works to review the allegations presented to Mr. Dorsey at the August 24, 2026, special meeting.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Street Commissioner was not present. President Eakin read the report provided by Public Works. Work completed included lagoon maintenance, pothole patching, speed bumps and signs, door replacement, mowing and maintenance at the baseball field, park and hall, hydrant replacement, Case loader repairs, garbage collection, and the final water sampling of the year. Jordan Fontaine and Steven Dorsey were signed up for water/sewer certification testing. Chris Holmes continues work on the Capital Improvement Plan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Eakin reported that he continues efforts to contact the DNR and other parties regarding the snowmobile trail routing issue and possible solutions. He also reported that Bruce Heltunen was appointed as Dangerous Building Ordinance Enforcement Officer, certified notices were sent, and condemnation notices were posted at the former Pop Shop and a residence on Fourth Street. A hearing regarding the properties is scheduled for September 8 at the

Community Hall. Eakin also reported that he spoke with the Sheriff's Office regarding possible shared police coverage; however, a definite cost had not yet been provided.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Clerk Schwandt reported that Steven Dorsey and Jordan Fountaine have been signed up for water/sewer certification testing. She continues working with the Village's accountant to correct financial balances and has provided the accountant access to the Village's accounting system. Schwandt also reported that annual EGLE reports are complete and that a one-month extension was obtained for the required MDOT financial report. She also completed updated zoning and waterline maps for the Village.

FIRE REPORT:

Chief Balma was absent and a fire report was not available.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Trustee Marier summarized a meeting held with Steven Dorsey and Street Commissioner Craig Burkman regarding the allegations discussed at the August 24 Special Meeting. Marier then presented the Personnel Committee's recommendations to move Dorsey to a full-time Public Works position with no loss of pay, and adjust Public Works wages as appropriate. Trustee Marier reviewed proposed Employee Handbook revisions addressing work hours and reporting, timekeeping and timesheets, sick and vacation leave procedures, chain of command, and Village vehicle use. Additional language regarding employee corrective action will be developed after consultation with legal counsel. The proposed revisions will be cleaned up and brought back for further review before adoption.

BUSINESS-UNFINISHED/NEW:

Council discussed future options for the Old Highway area, including possible changes to the traffic pattern and relocation or addition of street signs. Council also discussed the condition of Globe Avenue in front of the school and noted that the roadway would need significant repair before directing additional traffic onto it.

Trustee Korby made a motion to accept Dave Swetich's resignation from the position of Assistant Director of Public Works, with the corresponding wage increase for that position to be removed. The motion was seconded by Trustee Parolini.

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

Trustee Korby made a motion to post an opening for a seasonal independent contractor position with the Village, with a CDL preferred and a starting rate of \$22.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by Trustee Marier.

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

Trustee Marier made a motion to transfer Steven Dorsey to Public Works fulltime with no loss of pay beginning Tuesday, September 8, 2026. The motion was seconded by Trustee Korby.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Marier made a motion to increase Public Works employee Jordan Fountaine's wage to \$24.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by Trustee Parolini.

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

Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Korby made a motion to require Steven Dorsey to obtain a Class B CDL within one year and to authorize the Village to pay for one attempt at the one-week Class B CDL course, including Dorsey's regular wages for the time spent attending the course. Any additional attempts would be at Dorsey's own expense and on his own time. The motion was seconded by Trustee Marier. Roll Call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Hill, Trustee Parolini. Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Marier made a motion to accept the bid from Portage Lake Construction for repaving two sections within the Village of South Range at a total cost of \$24,576.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hill. Roll Call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Korby, Trustee Parolini. Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Korby made a motion to accept the proposal from BS&A Software to add the payroll module to the Village's current software package at an initial first-year cost of \$14,890.00 and an annual cost of \$2,015.00 thereafter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Marier. Roll Call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Hill, Trustee Parolini. Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Marier made a motion to defer the 2026 financial audit. The motion was seconded by Trustee Korby. Roll Call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Hill, Trustee Parolini. Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Korby made a motion to approve the use of MuniFleet telematics systems in Village trucks. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hill. Roll Call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Marier, Trustee Parolini. Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Korby made a motion to approve the purchase and use of the uPunch MK5000 employee time clock system for employee attendance monitoring. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hill. Roll Call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Marier, Trustee Parolini. Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Korby made a motion to amend the previously approved address assignment for Parcel ID 045-067-003-65 from 98 S. Whealkate to either 103 N. Whealkate or 7 Pastore Drive, depending on confirmation of whether Pastore Drive is an officially recognized street. The final

address will be determined after verification with the appropriate agencies. The motion was seconded by Trustee Parolini. Roll Call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Marier, Trustee Hill. Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Marier made a motion to enter closed session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from disclosure by statute, specifically a written opinion of the Village of South Range legal counsel that is not subject to disclosure under Section 13(1)(g) of FOIA. The motion was seconded by Trustee Korby. Roll Call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Hill, Trustee Parolini. Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Council entered closed session at 8:29 PM.

Trustee Marier made a motion to return to open session at 8:52 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Korby. Roll Call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Hill, Trustee Parolini. Nays: None. Abstain: None. MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

President Eakin inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding the August 2026 bills. Trustee Korby motioned to approve payment of the bills, totaling: \$30,687.45, seconded by Trustee Marier.

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

With no further business brought before the Council, Trustee Marier motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:59 PM. with support from Trustee Hill.

Roll call: Ayes: President Eakin, Trustee Parolini, Trustee Korby
MOTION CARRIED - Meeting adjourned.