

**Public Hearing**  
**Village of South Range**

March 7, 2024

The Public Hearing 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, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, Justin Marier, Kristen Archambeau (Clerk), Craig Burkman (Street Commissioner)

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Mike Balma (South Range Fire Dept.) & T. Stimac

**Annual Budget 2024-25**

Trustee Cody Bonini moved to approve the Annual Budget for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

***\*Motion Carried***

**Cross Connection Survey**

Trustee Therese Parolini moved to approve the \$5.00 credit to water customers for completing the Cross Connections Survey once surveys are completed and turned in.

Trustee Cody Bonini supported the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

***\*Motion Carried***

**Cross Connection Ordinance**

Trustee Cody Bonini moved to approve the Ordinance 2024-1 Cross Connection Ordinance. Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

***\*Motion Carried***

**Elected Official Wage Ordinance**

Trustee Justin Marier moved to increase the monthly pay of the Village President to \$500, and increase the monthly pay of the Council Trustees to \$75.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

***\*Motion Carried***

**Adjourn**

Trustee Justin Marier moved to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:18 p.m.

Trustee Cody Bonini seconded the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

***\*Motion Carried***

**Regular Meeting**  
**Village of South Range**

March 7, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the Village of South Range was called to order at **6:18p.m.** by President George Eakin.

Present: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Paul Saaranen, Tim Korby, Justin Marier, Kristen Archambeau (Clerk), Craig Burkman (Street Commissioner)

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Mike Balma (South Range Fire Dept.), T. Stimac, & D. Normand

**Recognition of Guests:**

**T. Stimac**

- Addressed his concerns for Ordinance Violations.

**Mike Balma (VOSR Fire Dept.)**

- (1) Fire call in February
- Firemen took out all the old flooring in the fire dept., as new flooring is being put in, along with replacing some old ceiling tile, and replacing the entrance door.

**Approval of the February 1, 2024 Minutes**

Trustee Justin Marier moved to approve the Minutes from February 1st, 2024.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

**\*Motion Carried**

**Street Commissioner Report (Presented by Craig Burkman)**

- Public Works plowed (3) days in February
- Put out gravel on road sides
- Changing Meters
- Changed vent on top of the Community Hall
- Have been working on cleaning out the barn next to the shop for inventory
- Water tank is currently working, but still having communication issues
- In need of a new lift station pump for Atlantic Ave. lift station, and need to repair the old one as a spare.

**Village President Report:**

Village President George Eakin updated the Council with the following:

- Village Attorney Pat Greeley helped with a letter concerning a lot in Whealkate Estates. Council will give the parcel owner until the next meeting

for a response.

- President Eakin attended the County Road Commission Meeting last month with Mr. Franchi. The property he would like to purchase will be appraised then put out on bids.
- Resident & Commercial garbage letters were sent out.
- Pat Greeley told us an ordinance amendment for council raises is the route we should take, instead of a resolution. We have to post for 30 days and then have a public hearing. That would bring it to the May meeting.
- Looked over the 2018 Village Survey. Would like Council Trustees thoughts on some changes, Mr. Harkonen emailed a few, & some things can be removed. Would like to try to use committees on a more regular basis, and appreciated the feedback with the evaluations.
- President Eakin recently walked through the Village Garage. The shop itself has been looking good for a while, but what really stood out is Craig's office. It looks fantastic, really neat & organized.
- Looked over the old Village Charter from 1984, and it definitely needs to be updated.
- Heard from EGLE recently concerning the drainage ditch. He talked with Chris Holmes about that this morning.
- It was good news concerning the lead pipe service grant.
- Regularly spends some time in the office during the open hours, it's nice to meet some of the residents.
- Appreciate the Finance Committee's work with the wages and purchasing policy.
- Most Important, congratulations to Kristen as she was nominated for the Keweenaw Community Spark Plug Award for Community service. So well deserved!

### **Clerk's Report**

- The CD that was up last month stayed with Miner's Bank, they matched Superior National Bank, only difference was SNB was 35 months, Miner's is 36 months.
- Adams Twp. Volunteer Fire & First Responder Pancake Breakfast is this Sunday at the South Range Elementary School from 8am-1pm.
- The letters and resolution from the last meeting were sent out for renaming a portion of M-26 in honor of Veteran Wesley Karna.
- There have been no let runs done this winter.
- Residential & commercial garbage rate letters were sent out, other than (1) commercial garbage rate place checking on prices, have not heard from any other commercial properties.
- There will be FREE Pipeline Safety Training for emergency responders, excavators and public officials on March 27th at 5:30pm at MTU.

## **Action Items:**

### **Drainage**

\*No updates.

### **Lift Station Pump**

Trustee Therese Parolini made a motion to purchase a new pump for the lift station on Atlantic Avenue with an approved amount of \$15,000.00. Trustee Justin Marier supported the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

**\*Motion Carried**

### **Employee Wages**

Trustee Paul Saaranen made a motion to approve the wages as follows:

**Council:** Increase of \$25 per month

**President:** Increase of \$75 per month

*\*Council and President pay rate will need to be posted in the newspaper for 30 days prior to rate change.*

**Treasurer:** Increase of \$25 per month

*Treasurer pay rate will be done by resolution.*

**Clerk:** 3.5% increase, with a \$1.50 per hour increase if grant writer class is taken & passed.

**Public Works Full time Employees:** 3.5% increase

**Assistant Director of Public Works Position (New): Internal posting**

Position would shadow Public Works Director, and pay would be between current pay and PW Director pay. No certification requirements.

Trustee Tim Korby supported the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: Greg Harkonen*

**\*Motion Carried**

### **Garbage Pricing**

\*Trustee Justin Marier made a motion to add language to the garbage policy:

- 1. If a residential property remains vacant for (3) months or more, the resident can contact the clerk's office to stop garbage services. Garbage charges will be waived until the clerk's office is notified to start services, or if garbage is picked up from the residence they will be charged the regular monthly fee.*
- 2. The garbage rate of \$15 per apartment unit/cabin*

Trustee Paul Saaranen supported the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

**\*Motion Carried**

## **Purchasing Policy**

Trustee Justin Marier made a motion to approve the 2024 Purchasing Policy with changes as follows:

1. Remove Supervisor, insert President
2. Remove Board, insert Council
3. Add: Bids will be advertised in the newspaper, Village website, posted at the post office, hall, etc.

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

**\*Motion Carried**

## **Whealkate Paving**

\*George will have someone get a bid package put together.

## **Lead Pipe Service Bids**

Trustee Justin Marier made a motion to approve OHM to do the bid process for the lead pipe service requirements. Trustee Cody Bonini seconded the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

**\*Motion Carried**

## **Additions to Agenda**

### **Personal Committee**

*Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, & Tim Korby will put together a job description for posting the Assistant Public Works Director position. The Village Clerk will send them the old job postings to assist with the process.*

## **Short-Term Rental Garbage Rate Correction**

*The Village Clerk will send out correction letters to the short-term rental properties with the correction of the following: original letter stated cost was \$14, the correct amount is \$15. The Village Clerk will also post at the hall and post office per Council.*

## **Adjustment of Garbage Policy**

*\*Garbage Policy needs to have the rates adjusted for seasonal residents.*

*They will need to contact the Village Clerk to have their garbage rate adjusted.*

### **Payment of the Bills**

Trustee Paul Saaranen made a motion to pay the bills **totaling \$39,085.56.**

**With \$30,031.59 in old bills, and \$9,053.97 in new bills.**

Trustee Tim Korby seconded the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

**\*Motion Carried**

### **Poll of Trustees**

#### **Paul Saaranen**

-Stated there was a lot of progress in this meeting, and that President Eakin was organized.

#### **Therese Parolini**

-Requested more money for flowers & more to be donated to the 4th of July Committee.

### **Adjournment**

Trustee Cody Bonini moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:18p.m.

Trustee Paul Saaranen seconded the motion.

*Yeas: George Eakin, Cody Bonini, Greg Harkonen, Therese Parolini, Tim Korby, Paul Saaranen, & Justin Marier*

*Nays: None*

**\*Motion Carried**

*Village of South Range Regular Meeting Minutes Submitted by:  
Kristen Archambeau, Village of South Range Clerk*