

TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN
Special Town Board Meeting – Strategic Planning

March 24, 2016

Chairman Allen Opall called the March 24, 2016 special strategic planning meeting of the Rib Mountain Town Board to order at 5:05 p.m. at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center, 3700 North Mountain Road, Wausau, WI. Other Supervisors present were Jim Legner, Peter Kachel, Fred Schaefer, and Gerry Klein.

Also present were Administrator Gaylene Rhoden, Community Development Director Steve Kunst, Finance Director/Clerk Jessica Trautman, Street and Park Superintendent Scott Turner, Town Assessor Greg Schmidt, and SAFER Fire Chief Matt Savage.

On March 18, 2016 copies of the meeting notice were made available to the media, Town Board, and posted at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center.

Town Board Review of 2016 Department Goals – Administrator Rhoden went through her memo.

Future Town Assessment Plan - Mr. Schmidt went through a map highlighting all houses selling for 15% over and under their assessed value in 2015. In general, these homes were scattered throughout the Town with a slightly higher concentration along Lake Wausau. In many cases the disparity between assessed value and sales price can be attributed to remodeling or other improvement projects that occurred after the initial assessment. In some instances, these projects occur without a permit. Schmidt noted the sales data coming in is looking very good, and believes the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (WDOR) will probably raise the Town's equalized value. However, this would result in a drop of the Town's assessment ratio to the 90s. Schmidt discussed the benefits of a full reassessment walkthrough and the process it entails. The total cost of a walkthrough is \$150,000, but can be spread over a three (3) to four (4)-year time period. The Town Board requested the Town Assessment Plan be placed on the regular Town Board meeting agenda for the second meeting in April. The Board also requested an agenda item to discuss the assessment concerns of North Lakeshore Drive properties on that agenda.

State Legislative Impact – Administrator Rhoden mentioned the elimination of the personal property tax is going to be pushed at the State-level. Rhoden noted interested parties should contact Representative Kulp and let him know this idea it is bad for municipalities. Rhoden asked Supervisors for ideas to pass along to Senator Petrowski related to legislation that would benefit the Town. Supervisor Schaefer identified a number of areas in which the State could address; including an increase in road aids, allowing municipalities to share in sales tax revenue, additional shared revenues, elimination of levy limits, renewing recycling grant monies, and a redo of the State Formula. Rhoden specifically noted the Board should think about the anticipated Granite Peak project and work with Petrowski to make sure necessary needs are made known during the project review process.

Future Financial Goals – The Town Board discussed the hiring of the Marathon County to do provide contractual Sherriff patrol work within the Town. The Town could have a Memorandum of Understanding with the County outlining costs and expectations. The Board requested an item be placed the next Public Safety Committee agenda related to future contractual patrol services.

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Town Board Review of 2016 Department Goals

Community Development Director Kunst went through his memo. His focus included modernizing records, updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and continuing education with the Plan Commission.

Street and Park Superintendent Turner went through his memo. His strategic planning focused on a potential Stormwater utility study and continuing to experiment with road maintenance treatments to find the most cost efficient and effective way of maintaining Town roads.

Finance Director/Clerk Trautman's goals focused on a paperless office and all departments working together to make sure our future projects and borrowing are affordable for Town citizens.

Other Goals Based on Input – SAFER Chief Savage shared information related to SAFER working on their own strategic plan. Overall, the District is looking at increasing the number of members and working with hospitals to increase inter-facility transfers. In addition, they are looking at increasing the amount of instructing occurring within the District, as the existing program at North Central Technical College is struggling. Chief Savage noted by providing instruction onsite, the District could open the door for an additional revenue source.

Adjourn – **Motion by Legner/Schaefer to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Questioned and carried 5:0.**

Submitted by,
Jessica Trautman
Finance Director/Clerk

Note: These minutes are not to be considered official until acted upon at an upcoming regular meeting, therefore, they are subject to revision.