

# TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN

## *Public Safety Committee Meeting*

*April 18, 2016*

Chairman Pete Kachel called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center, 3700 North Mountain Road. Members present were Pete Kachel, Allen Opall and Jim Legner, a quorum.

Also present were Town Administrator Gaylene Rhoden, Community Development Director Steve Kunst, Code Enforcement Officer Paul Hursh, Finance Director/Clerk Jessica Trautman, Deputy Clerk Michelle Peter, and Street and Park Superintendent Scott Turner.

On April 15, 2016 copies of the meeting notice were made available to the media, Town Board, Town Attorney and posted at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center and Town website.

**Approve Minutes of November 12, 2015 – Motion by Legner/ Opall to approve the minutes of the 11/12/2015 Public Safety Committee meeting. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Discussion on Firearms and Bow Discharge Map – Community Development Director Steve Kunst said last November the Town Board amended the firearms discharge map and there was question as to whether the Town should be regulating the discharge of weapons. Kunst noted the Town cannot regulate hunting, only the discharge of weapons. Currently Town staff does not enforce the ordinance and the County Sheriff's Department enforcement has been inconsistent. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of changing the ordinance and felt it appropriate to maintain an ordinance regulating the discharge of firearms and bow and arrows. No action was taken.

Discussion of Use of Reserve Deputies from Marathon County Sheriff's Department – Administrator Rhoden said in a past Town Board meeting Supervisor Klein informed Supervisors about a casual conversation he had with a member of the Marathon County Sheriff's Department. The thought is the Town could contract with the County and utilize reserve deputies for specific requests. The Town Intern did research and the average cost is \$45.00/ hour for communities with a similar arrangement. Gaylene noted a lot of discussion is necessary on this idea before anything can be finalized. Staff is looking to the Committee to determine if the Town should pursue the use of reserve deputies. Chairman Opall and Supervisor Legner both supported it, but suggested starting in 2017 so it could be properly budgeted for. Committee Chairman Kachel said that Administrator Rhoden and Code Enforcement Officer Hursh should begin conversations with the County and bring back information to Public Safety Committee.

Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Changes for Liquor Licensing – Finance Director/Clerk Trautman said that in a past Town Board meeting Supervisor Schaefer questioned if the Town could take back liquor licenses from business that aren't using them. Staff contacted the Department of Revenue and was told municipalities do have that right. The Department of Revenue provided an example of such an ordinance. The Committee discussed the fairness of such an ordinance, as well as the cost of the reserve liquor licenses and how it is determined who has to pay \$10,000 and those who \$750. Staff reminded the Committee the cost of the licenses is determined by the State. The Town only has four liquor licenses in reserve. The goal of the ordinance is to make sure that the Town can maximize the use of the remaining licenses. The Committee did not like the sample ordinance and thought more time should be provided to license holders prior to revocation and directed staff should to see what surrounding municipalities do. The Committee directed staff to work with the Attorney and create an ordinance allowing the Town to not renew a liquor license if it had not been used in the last 12 months.

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Exemption Request for South Mountain School for Mowing of Soccer Fields – Code Enforcement Officer Paul Hursh said he received a letter from the Wausau School District requesting a waiver from the Town’s Grass and Weed Ordinance 10.13. Larry Cihlar, the Director of Buildings and Grounds for the Wausau School District, was at the meeting. He said the soccer fields are no longer used and it could save the District money if they did not have to mow them. Last year the District hired out the mowing around the school and Cihlar noted if the District were allowed not to mow, they could reallocate the workforce and not contract mowing to an outside company and save money. Cihlar noted they still intend to mow the property 1-3 times a year. The District wants to keep the property so it could be a soccer field if needed again in the future. The Committee discussed the advantage and disadvantages of allowing the exemption. **Motion by Opall / Legner to allow the Wausau School District a 1-year trial basis exemption from Grass and Weed Ordinance 10.13 for the South Mountain Elementary School Soccer Fields. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Support for Bike Parking for New Development – Administrator Rhoden informed the Committee that at the last Bike & Pedestrian Safety Committee meeting members talked about the location of bike racks at businesses and how many do not even offer bike racks. The Bike & Pedestrian Safety Committee would like to see consideration of bike rack placement occur during site plan reviews for new development projects. **Motion by Legner/Opall to recommend the resolution regarding Placement of Bicycle Racks for New and Re-Development of Commercial Property be forwarded to the Town Board. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Discussion and Update on Emergency Siren Planning – Administrator Rhoden noted she and Kunst met with Bert Nitzke, of the SAFER District, to discuss the warning siren. Currently some areas of the Town are not covered by the sole existing siren on top of Rib Mountain. The proposal drafted by Nitzke is to put up new sirens at Town-owned properties (Public Safety Building, Yard Waste Site, & Municipal Center) while keeping the existing siren until it is no longer needed. The estimated cost of a new siren is roughly \$50,000. At this time, the amount proposed for borrowing is \$25,000. Staff recommends the Town Board approve \$50,000 in future borrowing to cover the cost of the new siren(s). No action was taken.

Adjourn Meeting – **Motion by Opall/Legner to adjourn the meeting at 12:57 p.m. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Respectively 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.