

TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN
Special Town Board Meeting – SAFER Charter

April 21, 2016

Chairman Allen Opall called the April 21, 2016 special Town Board meeting of the Rib Mountain Town Board to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center, 3700 North Mountain Road, Wausau, WI. Supervisors present were Jim Legner, Peter Kachel, Fred Schaefer, and Gerry Klein.

Also present were Administrator Gaylene Rhoden, Finance Director/Clerk Jessica Trautman, Attorney Kevin Terry, and SAFER Deputy Fire Chief Josh Finke.

Attorney Terry led the discussion by outlining the four main issues from the April 5 Town Board meeting. They were District Board composition, buy-in language, withdrawal and dissolution.

Board Composition - Supervisor Schaefer said he did not think it was right to give the Town of Weston a permanent seat on the District Board. They are a very small community and shouldn't be guaranteed representation. The Town Board discussed adding language so if SAFER has more municipal members than available spots on the District Board, the small municipal members would rotate annually in occupying those seats. The Town Board agreed there can be non-voting seats for those who are not on the actual SAFER District Board for the year.

Buy In – Supervisor Schaefer said the issue in this section was the language where it had the buy-in amount as determined by the Fire Chief only. The suggestion was to add language that would allow the buy-in amount to be determined by the Fire Chief with the consent of member municipalities. This would allow the Board to give guidance and advice in the process.

Supervisors further discussed the proposed Town of Weston's buy-in amount. Deputy Fire Chief Finke said at the time of negotiations with the Town of Weston, the Town of Marathon was also looking at joining. If both towns would have joined, the buy-in amount negotiated with Weston would be closer to the amount determined through the calculation. When it did not work out for the Town of Marathon, the Weston's buy-in should have gone up. It was recommended that the buy-in language be changed to increase it to \$5,000 increments the next three years. Exhibit A would now read \$30,000 in 2016, \$35,000 in 2017 and \$40,000 in 2018.

Withdrawal – The Town Board discussed whether they felt comfortable with a 50% penalty upon withdrawal from the SAFER District. The current charter allows a municipality to withdrawal without any penalty. Supervisors discussed the original value that was brought into the District when formed. The Finance Director/Clerk calculated an estimated amount of \$1,380,742 contributed from the Town of Rib Mountain and \$973,867 contributed from the Village of Weston. After some discussion, it was recommended that the 50% be changed to 75%.

Dissolution – The Town Board did not agree that there should be a unanimous vote for dissolution. They suggested a 2/3 vote, which allows for more workability if one member of the group is in disagreement.

Attorney Terry asked if two Town Board members would meet with him, Shane Vader Wall, Loren White, Matt Savage and Josh Finke to finalize the charter on Monday April 25. The Town Board decided that Supervisor Schaefer and Supervisor Klein would meet at Ruder Ware to finalize the charter.

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Adjourn – Motion by Schaefer / Schaefer to adjourn at 6:47 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.