

TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN
Public Safety Committee Meeting
July 26, 2016

Chairman Peter Kachel called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center, 3700 North Mountain Road. Members present were Peter 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, Street/Park Superintendent Scott Turner, SAFER Fire Chief Matt Savage and Deputy Fire Chief Josh Finke. John Beatty from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee was also present.

On July 22, 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 April 18, 2016 – **Motion by Legner/Opall to approve the minutes of the 04/18/2016 Public Safety Committee meeting. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Approval of Modification to Town Municipal Code 10.13 Noxious Weeds – Administrator Rhoden said the requested for a modified ordinance came from a Town Board member. The modification requested is to eliminate the word “residential” in the code, which would then encompass all properties in the Town. The Committee discussed if more wording needs to be added to allow for some rural properties to be exempt. Code Enforcement Officer Hursh said he uses discretion when issuing citations for noxious weeds. **Motion by Legner/Opall to recommend approval of the modification to the Town Municipal Code 10.13 Noxious Weeds to Town Board as presented. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Review of Support Letter for Bicycle Rack Installation for Rib Mountain businesses – Administrator Rhoden said this request has come from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee. The Committee has been discussing bicycle rack placement. Recently a resolution regarding bicycle racks for new businesses was passed, which requires developers consider the appropriateness/placement of racks during the design phase. The proposed letter is for existing businesses encouraging them to install bicycle racks. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee identified approximately a dozen businesses where bicycle racks are lacking. Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee member John Beatty has volunteered to deliver the letter. Supervisor Legner recommended rewording the second to last sentence. **Motion by Legner/Opall to approve sending out the letter to Rib Mountain Businesses with revisions. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Approval of “No Parking” on Lilac Avenue and Fern Lane Ordinance 7.03 – Street/Park Superintendent Turner said that the Town has received several requests to post no parking signs on Lilac Avenue by Kwik Trip. Large semi-trucks occasionally park there when running into Kwik Trip, which can pose a safety hazard. The other area of concern is the intersection of Fern Lane and Violet Lane. Currently no parking signs are posted on Violet, but vehicles are parking near the intersection on Fern. This poses a safety risk for vehicles turning from Fern Lane onto Violet Lane. Staff recommends installing “No parking signs” on Lilac, for both sides of the street from Morning Glory Lane to Tulip Lane. Staff also recommends installing “No Parking Here to Corner” and “No Parking Back to Corner” for 50 feet on the east and west sides of Fern near the intersection of Fern and Violet. Supervisor Legner questioned if it needs to be an ordinance change. Mr. Turner stated that yes and he would bring the revised ordinance to Town Board. **Motion by Opall/Legner to approve the proposed changes to Ordinance 7.03. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

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Discussion of Nuisance Ordinance for Rental Establishments – Administrator Rhoden said the request for modification of the nuisance ordinance came from a Board Supervisor and some residents. A revised ordinance would give guidance to staff when dealing with problematic rental properties whether it be criminal or just nuisance issues (i.e. junk vehicles). Staff said the City of Wausau has an ordinance; however, after discussion with the Town Attorney, the Town would not be able to replicate a similar ordinance. Ms. Rhoden said she also discussed the issue with the County Sheriff’s Department and was told the Town cannot pursue rental properties where criminal activity has taken place. The reason for this is because the information is very difficult to obtain and confidential. Administrator Rhoden said one option is to add language in our current nuisance ordinance that will allow the Town to go after the property owner when there are continued issues. The Committee discussed adding the term “repetitive offences” (meaning more than two times) to the ordinance. The Committee suggested talking to the Town Attorney to find out what rights we have and when we can go to the property owner. Administrator Rhoden said she will run the proposed ordinance changes by the Town Attorney and bring it back to the Public Safety Committee.

Update on Changes to Liquor Establishment Requirements – Administrator Rhoden said this was discussed at the last Public Safety Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft ordinance included in the packets. The Committee decided to change the draft ordinance to read 45 days instead of 12 months. Committee also discussed the time allowed if an extension were to be granted. Committee members thought that six months may not be long enough and recommended the terminology “not to exceed six (6) months” be removed. **Motion by Legner/Opall to recommend the liquor ordinance changes to include language that limits the amount of time a license can be held without use to 45 days and does not include a time limit on the extension the Town Board could grant. The revised ordinance should be forwarded to the Attorney for review. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Contract for Marathon County Sheriff’s Department Discussion – Administrator Rhoden said she has drafted a contract for services from Marathon County’s Sheriff’s Department. Attorney Terry has reviewed the contract and had some minor changes. Ms. Rhoden said she has a couple of concerns that need to be discussed. The first concern is who can call and request services from the County. Ms. Rhoden said that in the draft contract it includes the Administrator and the Code Enforcement Officer as authorized people to call. Committee discussed adding the Town Chairman. Ms. Rhoden reminded the Committee that there is a 10-day lead time. The contract does not address matters that need immediate attention. The Committee decided the current wording is fine. The second question raised is the interpretation of services. The contract specifically states traffic enforcement and special events. Both parties should be clear on what the Sheriff Department’s regular duties are and what duties will be charged as part of this contract. The Town has the opportunity to review the contract over the next twelve months. **Motion by Legner/Opall to recommend the contract for services with Marathon County Sheriff’s department be forwarded to the County for Corporation Council review. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Fireworks Displays Discussion – Administrator Rhoden said this item was requested by the Fire Chief. Chief Savage said that the Fire Department is not comfortable with the current application. The current application lacks information on the types of fireworks, location and safety measures that will be used. Deputy Chief Finke handed out a fireworks application from the City of Wausau. He said SAFER would like to see Rib Mountain revise their current application to have more detail similar to Wausau’s. The Committee discussed the criteria for the application and what kind of insurance is needed. Administrator Rhoden said staff will work on a revised application and bring it back to the Committee.

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Update of Purchase of Emergency Siren – Administrator Rhoden said we borrowed \$50,000 in our last borrowing for a new siren. The new siren is the first of a series of sirens that will be installed in the Town to better cover our area in case of an emergency. The new sirens would also replace the aging siren located at the top of Rib Mountain. The newest siren will be placed on top of SAFER Station 1. The Plan is to issue request for proposals in August with approval in September. Administrator Rhoden requested permission to send out the requests without coming back to Public Safety Committee because of time limitations. The Committee agreed.

Adjourn Meeting – **Motion by Opall/Legner to adjourn the meeting at 1:08 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.