

TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN

Town Board Meeting

February 20, 2018

Chairman Allen Opall called the February 20, 2018 regular meeting of the Rib Mountain Town Board to order at 6:04 p.m. at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center, 3700 North Mountain Road, Wausau, WI. Supervisors present included Jim Legner, Gerry Klein, and Fred Schaefer. Supervisor Pete Kachel was excused.

Also present were Administrator Gaylene Rhoden, Community Development Director, Steve Kunst, Town Attorney Dean Dietrich, SAFER Deputy Fire Chief Josh Finke, and Street/Park Superintendent Scott Turner.

On February 16 2018, 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.

Comments from the Public Related to Town Board Agenda Items – Kay Meyer noted she is with the United We Amend group and is seeking Board action on whether the Town Board would consider a resolution or placing a referendum on the ballot to amend the United States Constitution to identify individuals, not corporations, unions or other entities, are allowed to influence elections outcomes. Mary Jarvis, spoke on the same topic saying that unlimited amounts of money given to Super PACs influences elections and we should all have an equal voice in our elections. Ruth Wysinski, also advocated for finance reform and noted she was concerned that businesses could donate double what citizens could for PACs, and Super PACs allow for unlimited amounts of money to help candidates. Bev Kordus also advocated for campaign finance reform and talked about the future of governmental influence and advocated for a level playing field.

Chairman Opall announced the order of the agenda would be amended to discuss the United We Amend proposal prior to the Plan Commission items.

Discussion and Recommendation for United We Amend Request – The Board discussed an option of voting on a resolution or discussing it at the Annual Meeting, but felt more residents should have their voices heard. Supervisor Fred Schaefer suggested the Board take action to have a nonbinding referendum on the November election ballot with a potential debate / educational forum in October at the Municipal Center. Other Supervisors agreed this method would allow for greater reach of the populous. **Motion by Klein/Legner to have staff develop a referendum language for an advisory referendum on the November ballot. Questioned and carried 4:0**

Approve Minutes of the 02/06/18 Regular Town Board Meeting – **Motion by Legner/Klein to approve the 02-06-18 regular Town Board minutes. Questioned and carried 4:0**

Plan Commission Minutes from the 02/14/18 Meeting for Review – Community Development Director Kunst noted in addition to the items to be discussed by the Board later in the meeting, the Plan Commission also began discussion of short-term rentals.

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REI Engineering, agent, requests Precise Implementation Plan approval for a new distribution and retail building at the property addressed 908 Cloverland Lane. Parcel #34.112807.010.020.00.00. Docket #2018-05. Kunst introduced the item noting the proposal is consistent with the General Development Plan approved by the Board in December of 2017. Kunst identified the applicant seeks the opportunity for potentially two, smaller tenant spaces in addition to the Gustave Larson facility. The Board questioned the potential end users for the proposed tenant spaces. Kunst noted any new tenant is required to go through the Precise Implementation process again.

Supervisor Gerry Klein questioned the lighting plan to ensure those who live near the proposed development won't have increased light disturbing them. Kunst stated the photometric plan included in the submittal does not appear to negatively impact surrounding neighbors. Kunst identified the findings of fact and conditions the Plan Commission included as part of their recommendation to approve the project; including signage needing to follow existing regulations and the Town receiving a signed copy of an ingress/egress easement on the north side of the project boundary to allow access to Red Tail Lane prior to building permits being issued.

Motion by Schaefer/Klein to approve the Precise Implementation Plan for the property addressed 908 Cloverland Lane, conditioned on receiving a signed easement agreement for access to Red Tail Lane prior to issuance of building permits and staff approval of signage in conformance with the current sign ordinance and a maximum of 160 square feet of signage. Questioned and carried 4:0

Wausau Youth Baseball, applicant, requests conditional use approval to install sponsorship banners within the baseball diamond at Doepke Park, 2200 South Mountain Road. Parcel # 34.152807.012.003.00.00. Docket #2018-06. – The Board discussed whether to allow sponsors or advertising in Town parks, questioned sign materials, and long-term maintenance. Kunst indicated the signs are proposed to be a green mesh with three lines of white text identifying the sponsor and potential contact information (website or phone number) and Wausau Youth Baseball would be responsible for maintenance, installation, and removal every year. Supervisor Klein presented pictures from the trail behind the ball diamond and noted his concern that the signs would block the view. Supervisor Legner noted he is concerned the signs would fade between April – August. **Klein/Legner motioned to deny the conditional use request for sponsorship banners at the ball diamond in Doepke Park. Questioned and Carried 4:0**

Approval of Right-Of-Way Signage for State Park – Supervisor Legner noted the Public Safety reviewed the request earlier and recommended approval for signs at the end of Begonia, Chickadee and Mountain Lane. **Motion by Schaefer/Legner to approve. Questioned and Carried 4:0**

Approval of SAFER Fundraiser – This item was discussed and recommended for approval at the Finance & Personnel Committee. **Motioned by Schaefer/Legner for approval. Questioned and Carried 4:0**

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Approval of New Hire – Office Assistant – Administrator Rhoden stated she had a second interview with one of the original applicants and recommends hiring Polly Lentz for the position of Office Assistant. **Motion by Klein/Legner to approve the hiring of Polly Lentz as Office Assistant at the rate of \$14.45/hour. Questioned and carried 4:0.**

Reports/Minutes

Town Board – None

Other Agencies – SAFER Deputy Fire Chief Finke noted the District’s Annual Report is near completion and will be submitted to the Board shortly. Finke also mentioned an increase in call volume from prior years.

Town Attorney – None

Town Administrator – Rhoden noted the Town received a grant from Wal-Mart for the Dog Park and she applied for a grant through the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin.

Community Development Director – Kunst indicated the Plan Commission recently discussed the topic of short-term rentals and recommended continued prohibition. Supervisor Schaefer noted the sharing economy is here to stay and if businesses are willing to pay local taxes, the best thing we can do is to regulate it and help tourism. The Board directed staff to update the Plan Commission on the discussion and move forward with regulating short-term rentals.

Street-Parks Superintendent – Turner noted he received a phone call from Advanced Disposal saying they were very happy with how the roads were plowed earlier that day.

Code Enforcement Officer – Written report included in the packet.

Park Commission – Turner noted the Park Commission is finalizing the Easter Egg Hunt. The Commission is working on the donors list, flyers and the location of eggs at various parks.

Finance & Personnel – Administrator Rhoden noted the Town is narrowing down the candidates for the Finance Director position.

Public Safety Committee – Supervisor Legner noted the Committee met earlier in the evening and discussed golf carts usage, safety concerns at Robin Lane/Rib Mountain Drive and emergency snow removal ordinances.

Public Works Committee – None

Bicycle/Ped Committee – None

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General Comments – Bev Kordus mentioned a concern with aggressive dogs and asked whether the Town regulated based on breed. Code Enforcement Officer Paul Hursh noted Town licensing regulations do not distinguish between breeds.

Adjourn - **Motion by Legner/Schaefer to adjourn at 7:02p.m. Questioned and carried 4:0.**

Submitted by
Nathan Treadwell
Town Intern

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