

TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN
Public Safety Committee Meeting
September 11, 2018

Chairman Brad Conklin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center, 3700 North Mountain Road. Members present were Jim Legner and Town Chairman Allen Opall. Chairman Brad Conklin via Telephone conference.

Also present were Town Administrator Gaylene Rhoden, Code Enforcement Officer Paul Hursh, Clerk Michelle Peter, Street/Park Superintendent Scott Turner, Supervisors Gerry Klein and Fred Schaefer.

On September 7, 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.

Approve Minutes of July 17, 2018 – **Motion by Legner/Opall to approve the minutes of the 7/17/2018 Public Safety Committee meeting. Questioned and carried 3:0.**

Presentation from Marathon County Sheriff's Department for dedicated officer– Town Administrator Gaylene Rhoden stated at the Strategic Plan Session it was discussed how the Town should move forward with additional law enforcement representation. Rhoden and Code Enforcement Officer Paul Hursh recently met with Sheriff Department representatives to discuss what option would be available.

Deputy Chief Chad Billeb provided members with a rundown on services. Currently, every day the department provides three deputies that are assigned to the three-area region that encompasses Rib Mountain. The Marathon County Sheriff's Department has a staff of 36 deputies that cover county. Deputy Chief Billeb stated because of limited staff a dedicated officer can not be assigned to the area. He also stated the department unable to enforce the Town's ordinances. Billeb stated the department does not enforce any town's ordinance because each community has distinctive policies or guidelines.

The Sheriff's Department offered a proposal that would provide a dedicated officer assigned to Rib Mountain for 40 hours per week. It would be at their discretion who be assigned the position. The Town would establish their working hours during the week. The Sheriff's Department would like to secure a five-year contract. The Town would also be required to purchase an equipped vehicle for the deputy. He estimated the cost for the vehicle at \$40,000. This cost would be allocated through-out the five years.

The cost associated with a designated officer would cost the Town about \$104,000 per year. The figure also covers built in costs such as insurance, benefits and clothing. He also stated the Town could expect a 2 – 2 ½ percent increase yearly.

Discussion on habitual nuisance properties within Rib Mountain – Administrator Rhoden distributed a memo Town Attorney Dietrich provided late outlined the course of action by both him and Code Enforcement Officer Paul Hursh to proceed with. CEO Hursh stated he has identified the problem properties but noted the challenge has been it turns into a revolving issue. He reported two citations have been issued. Administrator Rhoden referred to a new program CART (Crisis Assessment Response Team). The program is a partnership between the Sheriff's Department, Wausau Police Department and North Central Health Care.

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Resident Mary Mertinke, 3403 Sunbird Ln, expressed her frustration for the lack of lawn maintenance at the property addressed 3403 North Mountain Road. She stated the lawn has not been mowed in over two months and the surrounding fencing needs painting. Commissioners stated the landlord will be notified of the issues. CEO Hursh stated he could enhance the weed notice on details.

Discussion and Recommendation for street light at Chellis Park – Street/Park Superintendent Scott Turner reported this item was originally discussed at the Park Commission because of possible criminal activities. The Park Commission will be acting on this item tonight. No action was taken.

Discussion of hunting within Rib Mountain State Park – Chairman Conklin expressed his concern of deer rifles being used in the quarry. He asked if the Town had means to pressure the State Park on guns restrictions. Administrator Rhoden suggested now might be an appropriate time to address the concern because the State will be reviewing the Park's Master Plan. The Town could draft a resolution to the Park Service limiting the type of rifles/guns in certain areas. In addition to eliminating rifles, it was suggested to eliminate the usage of muzzleloaders too. It was the recommendation to draft a resolution and provide the Park Service with mapping reflecting the areas of concern.

Adjourn Meeting – **Motion by Opall/Legner to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. Questioned and carried 4:0.**

Submitted by:
Michelle Peter
Clerk

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