

TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN
Town Board Meeting
February 4, 2020

Acting Chairman Legner called the February 4, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Rib Mountain Town Board to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center, 227800 Snowbird Avenue, Wausau Wisconsin.

Other Supervisors present included Gerry Klein, Brad Conklin and, Fred Schaefer via telephone conference.

Excused: Al Opall

Also present were Community Development Director Jared Wehner, Clerk Joanne Ruechel, Finance Director Nicole Dunbar, and Street and Park Superintendent Scott Turner

On January 31, 2020, copies of the meeting notice were made available to the media, Town Board, Town Attorney, and posted at the Rib Mountain Municipal Center, SAFER Fire Department, Rib Mountain Sanitary District office and the Town website.

Comments from the Public Related to Town Board Agenda Items- None

Approve Minutes of the January 21, 2020 Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes. **Motion by Schaefer/Conklin to approve the January 21, 2020, Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes. Questioned and carried 4:0.**

Plan Commission

a. Minutes from the January 22, 2020 meeting for Review-Supervisor Conklin questioned why the Planning Commission questioned that a trail connection was a “pie in the sky”. He stated that the Town Board never discussed connecting 9-mile to the Mountain Bay Trail. Community Development Director Wehner explained that the Planning Commission is in favor of other municipalities connecting up with our trails. The Plan Commission would like to see it added to the Master Plan that is presented to the DNR and hopefully get the discussion started at the regional levels.

Supervisor Klein wanted to clarify the single-family home discussion and make it include single-family homes, duplex, and condos only. Community Development Director Wehner would like to take out the name “single-family” and substitute the words “rural neighborhood” or “traditional residential”. The Town Board discussed that any language referring to multi-unit apartments is to be removed. Supervisor Klein would also like Community Development Director Wehner to work with the Plan Commission regarding the uses for the properties on County Road “R”, “N” and “NN”.

Approval of Correspondence-Department of Natural Resources Master Plan- Clerk Ruechel stated that Administrator Rhoden wrote up a letter to submit to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding what the Town Board spoke about at the last meeting. Supervisor Conklin

would like the statement on hunting in the State Park to be clear. He would like the letter to include not allowing muzzleloader and rifle hunting in the Park. He would also like the letter to say that the whole mountain is restricted to archery and/or crossbow hunting only.

The other issue that Supervisor Conklin brought forward was to have camping in the State Park again. He felt that it did not come across strong enough. He would like to the words "Since the elimination of camping from the previous Master Plan, we have heard from several residents that they were disappointed" deleted from the letter.

Supervisor Klein would like the trails paragraph to begin with "The Town envisions a trail around the base of the mountain that has multiple access points to the neighborhoods".

Supervisor Conklin also mentioned that in the letter, CWOCC is missing a "C" at the end of the abbreviation in two spots.

Motion by Klein/Conklin to approve the correspondence to the Department of Natural Resources with the changes to say 1) All hunting zones be restricted to archery or crossbow hunting only including small game. 2) Removing the first sentence from the camping paragraph and state that "Tourism plays an important role in our local and regional economy. The Town encourages the Department of Natural Resources to bring back camping to Rib Mountain State Park." 3) Begin the paragraph on trails as "The Town envisions a trail around the base of the mountain that has multiple access points to the neighborhoods". Questioned and carried 4:0.

Appointment of Plan Commissioner-Mary Kate Riordan- **Motion by Schaefer/Klein to approve the appointment of Mary Kate Riordan to fill the vacant Plan Commission seat to April 2024. Questioned and carried 4:0.**

Approval of New Hire-Deputy Treasurer- This item has been removed from the agenda.

Approval of Operator's License- Clerk Ruechel stated that Attorney Dietrich did not see any issues with the people who applied for an operator's license. **Motion by Conklin/Schaefer to approve the operator's licenses for Ann Brice, Katherine Neumueller and Sarah Bright. Questioned and carried 4:0.**

Reports/Minutes

Town Board – Supervisor Conklin stated that a resident reported that a snowmobiler was at Doepeke Park and the snowmobiler has been using the boardwalk and path from the neighborhood south of Hummingbird. The Town Board was in agreement to add more enforcement to try to catch the snowmobiler as the boardwalk is expensive and a snowmobile will destroy it. Supervisor Conklin also questioned Superintendent Turner about the hiking trail off of Park Road. It was reported that it is quite icy and people are using the Road to walk down and the drivers are getting mad at them. Superintendent Turner stated that this trail is State property and that the State is aware of the issue.

Supervisor Legner asked Superintendent Turner if the entrance off of Lavender has been dug out. Superintendent Turner reported that it has been done.

SAFER – No report.

Other Agencies – No report.

Town Attorney – No report

Town Administrator – A written report was provided.

Community Development Director – A written report was provided.

Street-Parks Superintendent – A written report was provided. Superintendent Turner reported that the State approved the plans for Trillium Trail. He would like to see the bid opening for the trail take place in March.

Finance Director – A written report was included in the packet. The December financials were handed out to the Town Board members. The Town has finished the tax collection season. Finance Director Dunbar is working on getting the Deputy Treasurer position filled.

Town Clerk – A written report was provided. Clerk Ruechel stated that she has completed a training for the Chief Election Inspectors.

Code Enforcement Officer –No report.

Park Commission – There will be a meeting on February 11, 2020.

Finance & Personnel –They have not met recently.

Public Works Committee – They have not met recently.

Public Safety Committee –Supervisor Conklin stated that they need to meet to discuss the parking issue on Buttercup Road.

Bicycle/Ped Committee –They have not met recently.

General Comments –No comments.

Adjourn - **Motion by Conklin/Klein to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. Questioned and carried 4:0.**

Submitted by
Joanne Ruechel, Town Clerk

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