

**Resolution #12-R-19**  
**Warning Siren Operation & Maintenance**

Date: September 4, 2019

Submitted by: Kyle Lobner, Alderperson District 13

Referred to: Safety & Licensing Committee

**Whereas** in early 2018 Outagamie County approached municipalities in the county to discuss transferring maintenance, ownership and replacement of outdoor warning systems as of January 1, 2020; and

**Whereas** Outagamie County has adopted County Board Resolution 21-2018-2019 outlining the position of turning over these essential emergency management functions to local municipalities and the county has asked each municipality to identify the future of each local outdoor warning system; and

**Whereas** while there is no single medium of communication that can reach all residents at all times, outdoor warning sirens have historically been a cost effective warning system and could easily be coupled with other means of communication to create a more robust and effective system; and

**Whereas** emerging technologies and weather radios are great supplemental tools, but the sirens remain a vital component for some of our city's most vulnerable residents; and

**Whereas** communities throughout the Midwest continue to rely on and invest in sirens as one tool enabling public agencies to notify large segments of the public during times of inclement weather, including larger metro areas like Dane County, Wisconsin and Nashville, Tennessee; and

**Whereas** the costs to operate, maintain and acquire sirens, when averaged over the life cycle of a siren, is less than \$2000 per warning siren annually; and

**Whereas** the decision to have 21 municipalities in Outagamie County individually determine if they should utilize a countywide system is an ineffective and inefficient policy that could have severe ramifications for all county residents and visitors to our communities,

**Therefore be it resolved** that the City of Appleton requests Outagamie County utilize a portion of the County's new one-half percent sales tax to fund, operate and maintain the Outdoor Warning System for the safety of our residents and visitors.