

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. This was a meeting held electronically by Zoom, per Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-7.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Karen Taubman, Mark Kelty, Holly Economos, and Helene Connolly. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Assessor Pamela Kende, Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator Avis Rudner, RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell and Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly and River Forest Township Attorney, Pat Dedy.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 regular meeting. Roll was called: Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

RF residents Deana Herrman, member of the Mental Health Committee and running for Board of Trustees; Vanessa Druckman, running for Township Clerk; and resident Keith Strom, running for Board of Trustees. Also attending via Zoom, Village of River Forest Trustee Erika Bachner and Village of River Forest Assistant to the Village Administrator, Jon Pape.

A Proclamation of Appreciation, 2020-02, Honoring Erika Bachner, Village of River Forest Trustee and a Proclamation of Appreciation 2020-03 honoring Jon Pape, Village of River Forest Assistant to the Village Administrator, were presented and read aloud by River Forest Township Supervisor, Carla Sloan, for their work on the 2020 Census and Complete Count Committee.

Discussion followed.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

The following activities took place at the Assessor's office:

- Answered concerns regarding Covid-19 adjustments.
- Informed residents of teardown procedures and tax implications.
- Processed Certificates of Error.
- Informed residents of delay in Cook County Board of Review appeal decisions.
- The Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced the extension of time to pay property taxes without penalty from March 2nd to May 2nd. The July bill may also be extended.
- Happy Holidays!

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

Supervisor Sloan presented Avis' report:

- There is no Mental Health Committee meeting this month. Avis and I are working on getting the funding applications out for the next year.
- The Connecting Through Comedy event was held at the high school. This was an effort by the D200 Wellness Collaboration to support high school parents.
- Meetings continue with the HUB team to plan our 'roadmap' for the next several months, now that we have a project manager on board.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- The Dementia Friendly website is almost up and running.
- The Arbor West Neighbors Advocacy Committee organized a meeting with neighboring communities to work across communities to prepare and collaborate with each other. River Forest Township and the Village were included. Carla attended the first meeting and Betsy will attend the next meeting in February.
- The Make Room at the Table Group had a list that was posted for people who are alone during the holidays or want to help these people. Betsy included this in her Community Connect email the week before Thanksgiving and it was forwarded to Mary Schmich at the Chicago Tribune.
- Betsy is trying to put together an ongoing meetup for those that may be interested based on the Circle of Friends model, i.e. getting together a small group of people with similar concerns and meet on an ongoing basis for twelve weeks. Circle of Friends started in Finland and there is an exercise component. We may work together with Arbor West Neighbors.
- Betsy is looking into using Constant Contact for the office.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla spoke about youth interventionist Dominique Hickman, who is running "Girls on the Rise", a support group for girls of color at Brooks and Julian Middle Schools in Oak Park. Dominique wants to bring this successful program to Roosevelt as well. Carla is supporting this and will discuss with D90.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Carla had no supervisor's report since only two weeks have elapsed since the last meeting.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve Operating Fund bills as of December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$12,375.11. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Carla presented the proposed 2020 Levy for approval, with a 2.3% CPI increase for the Town Fund and a -19.2% decrease for the General Assistance Fund, resulting in an overall increase of 1.5%. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve \$632,600 for the Town Fund. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously. A second motion to approve \$9,000 for the General Assistance Fund was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Approval of the 2021 Meeting Dates: a motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the 2021 meeting dates. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was suspended at 6:37 pm to convene the RF Civic Center Authority meeting. A motion to do so was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly to return to the Township Board of Trustees meeting at 6:55 pm. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

For those leaving the Township meeting at this point, mention was made of the departure of Mark Kelty from the Board of Trustees after 17 ½ years. Dick Chappell made some comments of his appreciation. Mark will be available, however, to offer building support when needed.

A motion was made to leave the regular session and move to an executive session was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly at 6:58 pm. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly at 7:17 pm. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

The Resignation of Trustee Mark Kelty

Carla gave the background of Mark Kelty as Trustee of River Forest Township and thanked him for his 17 1/2 years of service. A motion was made by Trustee Economos to accept Trustee Kelty's letter of resignation and was seconded by Trustee Connolly. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 pm. A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk