

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Monday, October 19, 2021 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:00 pm. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees: Deana Herrman, Karen Taubman, Keith Strom, Helene Connolly. Also present: Clerk Vanessa Druckman, Dick Chappell, Assessor Pam Kende (via zoom), Attorney Pat Deady, Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly and Mental Health Services Administrator Sarah Schwarting.

Public Participation: Kurt Bohlmann, retired River Forest Police Chief

Supervisor Sloan read a Proclamation of Appreciation (Resolution 2021-04) for retired Village of River Forest Fire Chief Kurt Bohlmann. A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Connolly to pass this proclamation. The proclamation was approved unanimously and presented to Chief Bohlmann.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2021 regular meeting. Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Strom, Herrman, Connolly and Taubman. Nays: none. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

As Assessor Kende was on zoom during the meeting, Clerk Druckman read the assessor report.

- Tax bills were due October 1st. Assessor Kende is helping homeowners and seniors who did not get the correct exemptions on their tax bill. They will receive a Certificate of Error. 2020 Certificates of Error applications will not be processed without proof of Residency/Age.
- The Board of Review is not open. River Forest has not yet been certified by the Cook County Assessor. The Board of Review cannot open until we are certified by the Cook County Assessor.
- Assessor Kende is working with the Village of River Forest to get the permit system up and running.

- Both Kathy and Assessor Kende are taking continuing education classes. Kathy is two classes away from getting her CIAO. (Certified Illinois Assessing Officer).
- Assessor Kende has updated our website.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Sarah Schwarting

- Sarah Schwarting announced that she is collecting Q2 data from agencies and will send out Q2 checks once they are all collected, most likely by the November meeting.
- Sarah continues to update LinkedIn for both the River Forest Township and our partner agencies. She plans to circle back with all agencies on whether it has helped them with hiring. The number of followers of the River Forest Township LinkedIn account is growing.
- Sarah has begun circulating mental health and I/DD agency pamphlets in the River Forest Community. Whole Foods is a great place to place pamphlets.
- Sarah attended the NAMI conference with Supervisor Sloan. They learned that Illinois is sponsoring CRSS training to become a peer mentor. By July 2022, Illinois will have a #988 mental health crisis line.
- The HUB meeting will take place tomorrow. The HUB project manager Lynda Murphy has announced that she is not renewing her contract. Supervisor Sloan shared HUB data overview. Program grew year to year from 187 seekers to 663 seekers. Key search terms are Housing, Health and Food. Trustee Herrman asked to see the data broken out between River Forest and Oak Park.
- Supervisor Sloan also shared data about the FRED website, created with a River Forest Township grant.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that there will be a West Cook County mental health funders meeting.
- D200 Wellness Collaboration Committee met with Supervisor Sloan and Sara in attendance. They are planning to do a Parent University in spring 2022 and have other ideas.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Katie Schwartz from Pathlights of Palos Heights gave a presentation about their Home Sharing program which serves Palos, Lemont, Orland and Worth Townships. Their program matches seekers with providers (house, condo, or apartment) to provide non-emergency housing. One person must be over 62 years old and/or disabled. The program was started in 1983. Discussion ensued.

- Betsy said that the last Mather Circle of Friends meeting took place in September with a nationwide group on zoom. Betsy is working with Barb Bodner of Arbor West Neighbors to launch another Circle of Friends. Betsy will also be focusing on reaching out to local hospitals to begin a new Circle of Friends.
- Betsy announced that the Aging Well/Balance Grace Lutheran event was held virtually on 10/3. 20 people attended online. 6 people attended in person at Grace Lutheran.
- Betsy said that 25 people attended the Celebrating Seniors All Year Long event at the River Forest library and was a success.
- Betsy is planning speakers for the Coffee Monday meetings from January 2022 to March 2022.
- Betsy continues to work on transitioning her Community Connect newsletter to Constant Contact.
- Betsy confirmed that our community will hold the 10th Celebrating Seniors Week in May 2022.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that the Home Repair Program is working so well that they have added a second handyman. She presented program data. River Forest is ¼ to ⅓ of all clients.
- Supervisor Sloan spoke about the Ulyssian Award Dinner, of which we were a sponsor. Discussion ensued.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan announced that Megan Traficano is back from maternity leave.
- PYD is having a Prescription Takeback Day on Saturday, October 23.
- Supervisor Sloan stated that the River Forest Public Library afterschool program is seeing less kids due to the good weather and presumably due to COVID concerns.
- Susan Stearns is retiring from Youth Services committee after years of community participation. We will honor her with a resolution at a future meeting. We are now looking for one more Youth Services Committee member.
- Trustee Herrman attended the latest Youth Services Committee meeting during which they decided to focus on community. Trustee Herrman will reach out to Supervisor Sloan about needs assessment. Oak Park Township is working with Northern Illinois University on its needs assessment and has asked us to participate.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan announced that we will discuss the 2021 levy at our November meeting. She plans to levy a 1.4% CPI increase for the Town Fund.
- The Collaboration Sub-Committee has not met.
- Attorney Deady has moved to a new law firm, Schoenberg Finkel Beederman Bell Glazer LLC, and continues to represent River Forest Township.
- The Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program is getting ready for their holiday drive. Kelly Arquette is working in the River Forest Township office as the new HFGB director.
- The Townships of Illinois Fall Conference will take place from 11/15-11/17 on zoom.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve Operating Fund bills as of October 31, 2021 in the amount of \$65,731.92. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Taubman, Strom, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Vanessa Druckman provided an update of the website redesign. Hutchinson Associates was retained and we held a kick off meeting. Supervisor Sloan, Vanessa Druckman, Trustee Herrman and Trustee Strom filled out a questionnaire outlining our vision for the redesign and the River Forest Township brand. With input from Supervisor Sloan, and Trustees Strom and Herrman, Vanessa Druckman is also creating a questionnaire to be distributed to committee volunteers and other River Forest stakeholders to assess their needs in our new website.
- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Herrman to approve retaining Vanessa Druckman as an independent contractor to manage the River Forest Township redesign for an hourly rate of \$25, retroactive to September 1, 2021. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Taubman, Strom, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Betsy Kelly asked Carolyn Foster, a new River Forest resident, to join the Township Senior Services Committee.
- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the addition of Carolyn Foster to the Senior Services Committee. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Taubman, Strom, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve changing the date of our December meeting from December 7 to December 14. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Taubman, Strom, Connolly 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, November 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to adjourn the meeting at 7:23pm. Roll call was taken. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk