

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Monday, November 16, 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, Keith Strom. Also present: Clerk Vanessa Druckman, Dick Chappell, Assessor Pam Kende, Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly and Mental Health Services Administrator Sarah Schwarting. Excused absent: Karen Taubman, Helene Connolly.

Public Participation: Susan Stearns, Lisa DeVivo, Abby Schmelling, Wendy Senger, Oak Park Township Communications, April Dugal, Oak Park Township General Assistance.

Supervisor Sloan read a Proclamation of Appreciation (Resolution 2021-06) honoring retired Township Youth Services TIME program manager Susan Stearns.

Supervisor Sloan read a Proclamation of Appreciation (Resolution 2021-05) honoring Oak Park Community Mental Health Board Executive Director Lisa DeVivo for her service of 13 years.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Herrman to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 regular meeting. Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Strom, and Herrman. Nays: none. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Assessor Kende said her office processed Certificates of Errors for senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled Veterans and Homeowners.
- Assessor Kende continues to work with the Village on correcting problems with building permits.
- Assessor Kende helped many residents understand the difference between the due date of the 2nd installment tax bill and when penalties start accruing, which was October 1st.
- Assessor Kende updated the Assessor webpage on the River Forest Township website.
- The Riverside Township Assessor came to view the River Forest Township Assessor office equipment updates to use as a starting point for updating their office.
- Assessor Kende attended the Cook County Township Assessor's meeting.
- The River Forest Township has not yet been certified with the Cook County Assessor. We do not have any idea when the Board of Review will open.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Sarah Schwarting

- Sarah announced that D90 and NAMI are working with the River Forest Township to host a parent university in 2022.
- HUB has lost Lynda Murphy as the project manager, and appears to be in flux, as they discuss hosting focus groups with agencies to improve service delivery from the HUB.
- The River Forest Township is part of the core group of people working on the community health needs assessment (IPLAN), with expected completion by June 2022. Supervisor Sloan met with Dr. Theresa Chapple from OP Dept of Public Health and other stakeholders to kick off the IPlan process.
- The River Forest library is open to hosting meetings and informational workshops for people interested in our agency's services. The first one is in conjunction with the Progress Center for Independent Living and will be Tues Dec 7th from 7-8pm (open to public).
- Sarah will be sending agencies FY2023 funding applications by Dec 3rd, 2021 with a requested return date by Jan 7th, 2022.
- Using social media, the River Forest Township will be helping to spread the word about agency holiday drives.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the retirement party for UCP/Seguin's former CEO, John Voit.
- Dennis Healy resigned from the Mental Health Committee. Jonathan Howard, MD has expressed interest in joining the Mental Health Committee to fill the vacancy. The Mental Health Committee still needs one more new member.
- D200 is partnering with Rosecrance for substance use assessments and making referrals for treatment for students with in-school infractions and repeat offenses. **River Forest Township is collaborating** with Oak Park Community Mental Health Board and D200 to fund Rosecrance in this effort. Rosecrance will make referrals for treatment to other programs in addition to Rosecrance; Rosecrance will actually be a very small piece of the referrals.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that many agencies are focusing on teens. Way Back Inn has a new teen program and NAMI is adding a teen drop-in Living Room in Brookfield.
- Our previous General Assistance client ended in October. We have a new General Assistance client starting in December.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy is attending her regular meetings and sending monthly Community Connect emails.
- Betsy stated that attendance at Coffee Mondays and Sunday afternoon senior programs has been lower than pre-pandemic times. In-person program attendance is slow to bounce back.
- Betsy attended a Dementia Friendly business meeting at the Sheridan Retirement Facility.

- Betsy met with Trustee Herrman to update our mission statement.
- Betsy is planning to have a meeting on Home Sharing in January.
- Betsy announced that shifting her newsletter to Constant Contact is on hold until after the holidays.
- Betsy met with Joy Arenson of Age Options.
- There is local interest in starting another Circle of Friends. Three River Forest newcomers have reached out to the Township about it. Looking for 2-3 more to begin the group.
- Betsy spoke with Laurie Strong of Oak Park Township about the transportation options available to seniors to better understand our offerings.
- The River Forest Public Library delivered their list of senior events through April 2022.
- Betsy is planning a spring event with Arbor West Neighbors on the “missing middle”, related to affordable housing for seniors.
- The Social Stitching group that began at the River Forest Public Library has branched off and is now meeting on their own, which is a positive result.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that the building on 930 North Blvd which had to be evacuated had many senior residents. Township Senior Services reached out to help with relocation and provided emergency funds. They continue to reach out with case management services. Residents mostly re-located on their own, moved in with family, or were offered space at 922 North Blvd. None that we know of were relocated to River Forest.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman

- Supervisor Sloan announced that we are still looking for one more committee member.
- Trustee Herrman announced that Megan Traficano is back from maternity leave.
- Trustee Herrman said that a new youth interventionist named Jonathan Brown is starting this month.
- Trustee Herrman stated that Girls on the Rise is adding another staff member. D90 has not yet responded to the offer of adding Girls on the Rise as a program at Roosevelt Middle School.
- The Youth Services Committee wants to get youth input on programming. They are crafting an ambassador program to formally involve youths in their meetings.
- The Youth Services Committee needs 6 new Oak Park committee members and 1 River Forest committee member.
- Trustee Herrman announced that the Youth Services Committee will begin voting on grant requests from agencies in February 2022.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan announced that Oak Park Township is doing a community needs assessment and has invited River Forest Township to participate. The kickoff meeting was today. The consultant is Northern Illinois University. The assessment will consist of focus groups with residents and key stakeholders, as well as a community survey. It will look at what people understand about Townships and what we do, what the gaps in service are, and what the needs are in the community.
- The Townships of Cook County Supervisor Division meeting was held here on October 21 with excellent turnout. Our guest speaker was Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, who did an excellent job talking about Townships vis a vis the Cook County Board. Many thanks to Commissioner Silvestri for speaking and for his wonderful support of Townships.
- The Townships of Cook County has a new website which is just getting off the ground and will be useful and informative as we move forward.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the Community Foundation CommunityWorks Advisory board meeting. The Community Foundation is also undertaking a community needs assessment. They are expanding their mission and service area to include areas outside of Oak Park and River Forest, with an enhanced focus on diversity and equity.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the virtual TOI conference yesterday and today.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Herrman and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve River Forest Township Operating Fund bills as of November 30, 2021 in the amount of \$46,269.30. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, and Supervisor Sloan. Absent: Trustees Connolly and Taubman. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Trustee Herrman and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve River Forest Township General Assistance bills as of November 30, 2021 in the amount of \$1,750.00. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, and Supervisor Sloan. Absent: Trustees Connolly and Taubman. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Vanessa Druckman provided an update of the website redesign. Using Miro, Hutchinson Associates created a visual representation of the current website as well as a draft of the proposed new pages on the new website. Supervisor Sloan, Trustee Strom, and Vanessa Druckman provided feedback via Miro, adding new pages as needed. Vanessa Druckman met with Assessor Kende to review the current Assessor section of the website and discuss desires for the future. Vanessa Druckman requested site usage data from Jeffrey Belmonte for the last 24 months to determine the most popular sections. Hutchinson

Associates provided two home page wireframe designs and 4 interior page wireframe designs.

New Business

- Supervisor Sloan announced that the approval of the appointment of Jonathan Howard to the Mental Health Board committee will happen at our December meeting.
- A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Herrman to approve the terms of the lease agreement between River Forest Township and the River Forest Civic Center Authority effective January 1, 2022. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, and Supervisor Sloan. Absent: Trustees Connolly and Taubman. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Supervisor Sloan gave an overview of the proposed 2021 levy with a CPI of 1.4%. A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Herrman to accept the 2021 levy estimate. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, and Supervisor Sloan. Absent: Trustees Connolly and Taubman. 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, December 14, 2021 at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Herrman to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm. Roll call was taken. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk