

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January, 2019, 6:00 pm

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, trustees Karen Taubman, Mark Kelty, Helene Connolly, and Holly Economos. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell, Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator, Avis Rudner, and Senior Outreach Coordinator, Cathaleen Roach.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation – none

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Answered phone calls regarding what the first installment tax bill will be (55% of last year's tax bill).
- Fielded questions regarding what the Board of Review reduction means, how it will affect residents' tax bills, and when it takes effect (2nd installment 2019).
- Completed village permits for the year.
- Attended meetings with the Cook County Township Assessor's Association.
- Mailed welcome letters to new residents.
- Talked about outreach efforts by the Assessor's office.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- All of the agencies have submitted their funding applications. The budget for agency mental health services is \$167,000 with requests totaling \$185,000. There are no new agencies, nor have agencies requested funding for new programs. However, Carla noted that we are providing new mental health funding in addition to the agencies, such as Positive Youth Development, training through the DD Consortium, the HUB software, etc.

- The first training session for the HUB software was held yesterday, expanding from the pilot to the rest of our agencies. Carla did not attend since she is attending the alternative session at the end of the month. Reports are that the session went well.
- The Developmental Disabilities Consortium met on December 13 and was a wonderful sharing of ideas among our DD agencies. Caregiver support education was an outcome of the Community Health Needs Assessment. In response, there will be individual education events such as the talk to be given on January 30 by Attorney at Law, Robert Farley, on ‘How to be successful in obtaining funding for a Developmentally Delayed Person.’
- The Strengthening Families Program is a holistic approach to parenting. They are offering a 12- week program for the entire family on parenting skills, healthy communication, resolving conflicts, stress management skills and setting limits. They are meeting at the RFCCA building on Tuesdays beginning February 12 and are clinician-led through AMITA.
- Sibshops are starting up again this week and there has been a strong response for this session.
- Carla also spoke about the new handout on “Community-Based Outpatient Services and Hospital and Intensive Outpatient Services”, produced by the Oak Park Township Community Mental Health Board and for use by River Forest Township.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla reported that John Williams has resigned after twenty-four years with Township Youth Services. John will move on to training of police officers and other community personnel, something that he has been involved in previously. He will also do consulting and continue his work with cargo circles. A job description has been posted to fill the Youth Services Director position. Carla gave some examples of how Youth Services might become more engaged in the community.
- Positive Youth Development (PYD), which addresses underage substance use prevention in the community, continues to meet. PYD is addressing sustainability, since PYD is in the last year of a five year grant. The School Committee, of which Carla is a member, is now composed of both IMPACT and PYD members. The committee is focusing on meaningful activities at the middle schools and the high school and is planning a parent forum this spring to address binge drinking and/or marijuana/vaping/dabbing. Vaping continues to be on the rise in a major way. The parent forum will to utilize the “hidden in plain sight” mobile unit bedroom model.
- HYPE (Healthy Youth Peer Educators) continues to be very active at the high school. The group has led 23 workshops on marijuana (called the “blunt truth”), as well as “de-stress” workshops at lunch. HYPE continues to publish and post the Stall Street Journal.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Cathaleen thanked Carla and Avis for their support while she was away.
- We are gearing up for the 9th Celebrating Seniors Week from May 2-9, 2019, the tri-suburb effort with Oak Park and Forest Park sponsoring free programming and other events celebrating seniors. Typically we work on two parts: programming and “60 Over 60 award” nominations for special seniors. For programming we usually host four to five panel presentations here at the RFCC. We are also looking for River Forest seniors to nominate for our allocated percentage of “60 over 60” awardees. Nominees get their photo and brief bio in the CSW resource guide and a recognition dinner at Concordia University in May.
- Cathaleen referred the trustees to their folders with announcements related to January senior programming, including the **Memory Café**, which will launch on Tuesday, January 22. The Memory Café hosts individuals living with memory changes and their friends and families. The Café will continue monthly on the third Tuesday beginning in February. The Memory Café offers winter-themed foods, music and other activities. **Arbor West Neighbors** has a meeting on Saturday, January 19 from 1-3 pm on Shared Housing, to be held at the Oak Park Library. **Meaningful Living wellness groups** at Concordia University have been renewed at CU’s Community Counseling Center. Groups are free and meet Tuesdays January 29-March 19, either for an afternoon or evening session.
- Carla added that the Memory Café is a strong anchor piece of the Dementia Friendly River Forest project, which is supported by all the community partners. She also attended the Great Neighbors kickoff orientation with the case managers on December 10. Hopefully they will be a good source of both Friendly Neighbor volunteers and those who need a Friendly Neighbor. A small group from Arbor West neighbors and the Senior Services Committee are trying to get this program off the ground.

Supervisor’s Report

Carla Sloan

- Carla talked about the new RF community website at rfhappenings.com, which is up and running. There are links to the RF taxing body websites, as well as a community calendar for all six taxing bodies. We have a dedicated Google calendar for the Township whose updates are automatically linked to this community-wide calendar. Pam also has access to this calendar so she can do her updates.
- Carla attended the Encore concert at which the Township received a nice shout-out as usual.
- Carla stated that our auditing firm, Knutte and Associates, was bought by a larger firm, Sikich. Sikich audits Oak Park Township and other public entities. RF Township will convert its auditing contract with Knutte over to Sikich.

- Carla talked about the RFCCA Building collaborative discussion on the potential future expansion/renovation of the building. Five taxing bodies plus the RF Community Center and Opportunity Knocks each did a presentation about their respective needs for indoor space. The meeting was led by a pro bono consultant whom Opportunity Knocks brought to the table to initiate discussions on the cost and feasibility of expanding/renovating/relocating this building. Carla handed out copies of her presentation. Dick did a presentation as well, showing very strong RFCC program participation by River Forest residents. Carla talked about next steps.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of January 31, 2019 totalling \$14,962.43. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Connolly, Kelty, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of January 31, 2019 totalling \$20.00. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Connolly, Kelty, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business – none.

New Business – none.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Economos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk