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## RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

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### **RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 6:00 pm

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place at 6:10 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting was tabled to the April 9, 2019 meeting, since a quorum of those present on February 19 was not present.

#### **Public Participation – none**

#### **Reports**

##### **Assessor**

**Pamela Kende**

- With 1<sup>st</sup> installment tax bills due, senior freeze and senior exemptions due and the Cook County Assessor assessment appeal period open, February was an extremely busy month.
- River Forest Township was open for assessment appeals with the Cook County Assessor from February 6<sup>th</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup>. We had many residents wanting to appeal based on incorrect property information. These were mostly square footage issues.
- We had a significant increase in appointments: 54 residents just in the month of February came into our office needing assistance with tax bills, exemption issues and/or for Cook County Assessor assessment appeal concerns.
- We sent out press releases to newspaper/Village e-newsletter and Township website.
- Assessor attended CCTAA meeting.

## **Mental Health Services/General Assistance**

**Avis Rudner**

- The Mental Health Committee has completed its liaison visits and will be considering its recommendations to the Trustees for next year's mental health budget.
- There are two more training sessions to be held for the HUB, tomorrow and next week. Trainings are continuing to go deeper into organizations to reach more users.
- The Developmental Disabilities Consortium meeting will be held on Thursday. Carla will attend. The Opioid Task Force meeting is also on Thursday.
- Strengthening Families is meeting here and are very happy with the location and facilities. Strengthening Families is a 12-week program which takes a more holistic approach to supporting families and their needs.

## **Youth Services**

**Carla Sloan**

- We have hired a new Youth Services Director, Megan Traficano. She will be starting this week or next. With Megan on board, we hope to enhance use of metrics to analyze program effectiveness, improve relations with the high school and grow the presence of Youth Services among the youth-related stakeholders in the community.
- The Youth Services Committee met to continue to discuss and approve programs. Final funding recommendations will be made at the April 9 meeting.
- Positive Youth Development (PYD) and IMPACT continue to jointly plan the parent forum on April 25 which will address binge drinking. The forum will also feature the "hidden in plain sight" model bedroom.

## **Senior Outreach Coordinator**

**Cathaleen Roach**

We have completed planning for both aspects of Celebrating Seniors Week, May 2-9, 2019: programs and the "60 Over 60" awards. We now begin our publicity and other outreach efforts for the May events; the handout was provided. Cathaleen has spent the last few weeks finishing the interviewing and photographing of our River Forest honorees for the 60 over 60 group.

Celebrating Seniors All Year Long – This month we co-hosted the Irish Heritage Singers concert with the River Forest Public Library and had 87 guests. Coming up at the end of the month are talks on "A History of the El" and "TV Memories from the 60's".

Gather, Discover, Engage – This month we co-hosted March Coffee Monday with the River Forest Public Library. Topic was "Making the Big Move", discussing local and other resources for those who want to downsize. 19 attended. Friday Film Lovers returned on the third Friday of every month because the Library renovations have been postponed.

- Cathaleen would like to add a focus in our senior programming which includes fitness and exercise, much like our existing senior pickleball program.
- Cathaleen has had quite a few constituent calls to connect seniors to a variety of service providers, for example the Veteran's Hospital and Medicare coverage of durable medical equipment, etc.
- River Forest is now officially designated a "Dementia Friendly River Forest: (DFRF) as part of Dementia Friendly Illinois. Oak Park is finishing up their efforts to also receive this designation. Cathaleen attended the DFRF meeting on February 25. Experiential training for first responders will follow up on March 25; Carla is attending the same training on Monday.
- There is a Senior Services Committee meeting tomorrow night and Karen is attending for us.

### **Supervisor's Report**

**Carla Sloan**

- Carla attended the Administrators meeting. Discussion included first responder experiential dementia training; River Forest Public Library development of memory kits as part of DFRF; and a possible summer lunch program to be offered by the OPRF Food Pantry in River Forest. Carla gave an update about the construction project at the Library.
- Carla met with Howard Brundage to set up renewal of this fiscal year's insurance plans.
- Carla attended the New Moms ribbon cutting at their new building on Chicago Avenue, between Ridgeland and Austin. Housing units are included. Sarah's Inn and Infant Welfare are also purchasing new buildings, having been in rental space for a long time which they have outgrown.
- Carla had lunch with the Townships of Cook County (TOCC) President and the Townships of Illinois (TOI) legislative specialist. She discussed the legislative efforts that continue in Springfield toward Township consolidation. Carla will attend Township Topics Day in Springfield on April 3, where Senator Kimberly Lightford will be the keynote speaker.
- Carla attended The Big Idea through the Community Foundation. The student environmental initiative won the \$50,000. She mentioned another promising idea of a local scholarship web-based clearinghouse.

### **Approval of Bills**

Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of March 31, 2019 totaling \$45,702.26. It was seconded by Trustee Taubman. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of March 31, 2019 totaling \$565.12. It was seconded by Trustee Taubman. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**– none

**New Business**

Trustee Connolly made a motion seconded by Trustee Taubman for approval of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting Agenda for April 9, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the Dementia Friendly River Forest Resolution2019-01. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 following the 6:00 pm Annual Town Meeting.

Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Taubman. The motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk