

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation --Public Hearing on the 2019-2020 budget.

Supervisor Sloan reviewed the draft of Ordinance No. 2019-1 River Forest Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for 2019-2020 and the Top Line Expense Comparison of the FY20 budget v. the FY19 Actual, with the Board of Trustees with total appropriations of \$737,645; to be voted on at the June meeting.

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- All First Quarter building permits have been completed.
- The Cook County Assessor certified River Forest's assessments.
- The Cook County Treasurer's mail date for 2018 2nd installment tax bills is scheduled to be on time. Tax payers should receive their tax bills by approximately July 1st with a tentative due date 30 days later.
- Letters of notification were sent to all 2017 delinquent tax properties. We located the majority of the owners. We updated and corrected mailing addresses to prevent additional delinquent tax issues. We also helped them pay their delinquent bills online and/or at our office before the tax sale.
- Staff referred several senior residents to Township Senior Services for various needs.
- Since January of 2019, we have filed over 170 exemptions. As of May 13, all exemptions require a Certificate of error.
- Sidwell maps were updated.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- Two members of the Mental Health Committee have resigned, Anna Daly and Joan Greene. We thank both of them for their valuable service to the Township and community. A new member will be recommended for approval in June.
- The annual dinner for the Committee will take place after its June meeting, and the committee will be off for the summer.
- There continues to be one GA recipient.
- The tentative award letters are going out to the agencies with the recommendations that will need to be approved by the Board of Trustees. Avis will then work on putting together the contracts.
- Carla talked about the series of informative ads being placed in the *Wednesday Journal* in May to commemorate Mental Health Awareness Month. The ad series is being sponsored by a group of community partners engaged in mental health and wellness, including the Township.
- National Rx Take Back Day was held on April 27 at Oak Park Township. The event was successful and 150 pounds of pills were brought in for safe disposal.
- The HUB mental health resource and referral system (www.healthconnectionhub.org) held two community trainings this month. To date, fifty organizations have attended at least one basic HUB 101 training, and the feedback is positive. HUB is also being linked to other websites.
- The Opioid Task Force has applied for a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health to pay for a consultant to develop a strategic plan including an action plan to move forward.
- For the first time, we will have summer Sibshops, thanks to funding from the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board. Current Sibshop families have been notified. Supervisor Sloan has transitioned administration of Sibshops over to Thrive, but the Township will continue with Sibshop marketing efforts.
- Strengthening Families just finished their twelve week session here at the building and were pleased with the physical space, which worked well for their staff and families.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Celebrate Seniors Week 2019 ended Thursday, May 9. We hosted and/or assisted six programs in seven days from Thursday May 2 to Thursday May 9 at the RFCC and attended the annual banquet held on Thursday, May 9. Cathaleen thanked the staff of the RFCC for their help. Almost 220 seniors came to the Center, including 75 for the Secretary of State “Super Seniors” event hosted by Township Senior Services. At this event, the Illinois Secretary of State mobile unit conducted Rules of the Road classes, provided some limited eye and other testing as well as

provided license renewals and Illinois state IDs for local seniors. Cathaleen thanked RF Township Clerk Abby Schmelling for her participation in the genealogy program, "Between Generations." Currently, notes are being prepared for next year's programming and welcome any suggestions for topics.

- Celebrating Seniors All Year Long programming with River Forest Library for May and June is spearheading a new three-event series on fitness for running, biking and yoga to be held at the Library. Cathaleen drew special attention to the Kon Mari event (Marie Kondo Magic Joy of Tidying Up, Certified Speaker) scheduled for June 27 and the July 20 Apollo 11 event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first walk on the moon.
- On May 20, Supervisor Sloan, along with Township Senior Services and Oak Park Community Mental Health Board, hosted the second annual mental health wellness and screening event for seniors, in recognition of Older American Mental Health Awareness Day.
- Attendance at the monthly LOSS meetings (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide), conducted through Catholic Charities and held at the Township, has increased to 10-15 attendees each month.
- Cathaleen will represent the Township at the May 28 Dementia Friendly River Forest meeting at Village Hall. She also thanked trustee Karen Taubman who, as liaison, regularly attends the meetings at Senior Services for both the Oak Park and River Forest Senior Committee meetings. Trustee Taubman commented on the large numbers of residents using senior services in both communities.
- Carla thanked Cathaleen for her hard and successful work for Celebrating Seniors Week.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla spoke about the 'Hidden in Plain Sight: Detecting Teen's Risky Behaviors' collaborative parent program on Thursday, April 25 at Oak Park River Forest High School, followed by light dinner and panel discussion about substance prevention. About 50 people attended to view the mobile unit of a teen's bedroom, with its many potential hazards, in addition to an expert panel discussion. Matt videoed the panel and has had 1700 hits so far. This event was sponsored by a large group of community partners involved in youth substance prevention efforts, including the Township.
- Carla talked about the Positive Youth Development (PYD) School Committee, in which the Township participates. The committee is in the planning stages of a town hall on youth use of marijuana, in anticipation of legalization in Illinois.
- SAY, Success of All Youth, is conducting stakeholder focus groups to assess accomplishments and future goals. The Township is participating.

- Carla met with the new Youth Services Director, Megan Traficano to discuss the future direction of Township Youth Services.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Carla went to Springfield for the annual Township Topics Day. In the packet is a page from the Townships of Illinois (TOI) magazine featuring Supervisor Sloan and her advocacy for Township attendance at Township Topics Day.
- Oak Park Township is proceeding slowly with their website development, but has a rough draft. They have hired Go Daddy to develop the new site. We will track their design process and look for synergies with their new design as we move forward with our website re-development.
- The Memorial Day parade is Monday, and Carla thanked those who have volunteered to march with the Township.
- June 12 is the Townships of Cook County (TOCC) Spring Conference. Trustee Taubman will attend with Supervisor Sloan, who serves on the board.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of May 31, 2019 in the amount of \$65,624.60. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Economos, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of May 31, 2019 totaling \$833.55. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Economos, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Carla reviewed the FY2020 funding recommendations from the Youth Services Committee and the Mental Health Committee from last month's meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve Fiscal Year 2020 Funding Recommendations of the River Forest Mental Health Committee in the amount of \$179,700. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Economos, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously. Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve Fiscal Year 2020 Funding Recommendations of Oak Park River Forest Township Youth Services in the

amount of \$89,293. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Economos, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- The Township received new insurance estimates from Schulz-Brundage, Inc. for May 14, 2019 to May 14, 2020. The Premium Summary sheet was discussed. A motion to accept the Commercial General Liability, Commercial Automobile Coverage, Commercial Umbrella Liability and Directors and Officials Liability premiums (1,2,4,5) for River Forest Township was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Economos. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Economos, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into Executive Session to approve minutes and discuss litigation at 6:55 pm. The board came out of Executive Session at 7:08.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Taubman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Economos. The motion was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk