

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation -- None

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Second installment tax bills will be sent out on time, approximately July 1. We will be helping residents obtain corrected tax bills due to missing exemptions.
- The Cook County Treasurer has figured out a new way to share property sale data. We have updated our system. Currently, there are glitches with the system.
- The Board of Review will be open earlier than normal on July 1. Residents will need to make an appointment before coming to the office.
- Pam is continuing with the daily activities of the office; i.e. returning phone calls, permits, Certificates of error, preparing for the opening of the Board of Review.
- Attended the Cook County Township Assessors Association meeting.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- The Mental Health Committee has submitted its budget recommendations to the Township.
- The annual dinner for the Committee took place after its June meeting. They will be meeting again in September.
- There have been three resignations from the mental health committee due to moves, retirement and outside commitments. Carla thanked Joan Greene, Jim Hartzler and Anna Daly for their

invaluable contributions to the committee and for their commitment to mental health. A membership application has been submitted by resident Ann Drake, who was recommended by committee member Dennis Healy. Two open spots remain on the committee.

- There continues to be one GA recipient.
- Carla stated that we are now part of a mental wellness collaboration with Oak Park Community Mental Health Board and District #200. This effort will include a parent series related to mental health education and issues.
- Carla attended the first annual Disabilities Awareness Night at a Sox game. Eleven agencies came together to sponsor this event, which was well attended. Many special needs adults enjoyed a night out at the ball park.
- The Opioid Task Force 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. Unfortunately, the task force did not receive the grant, and so next steps are to be determined.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla spoke about the new Youth Interventionist Supervisor, Sara Marx. Sara will report to Megan Traficano, the Youth Services Director, and will have her own caseload; the two Youth Interventionists, Amanda and Dominique, will report to Sara. A strong team is now in place to move Youth Services forward.
- Carla met with the Positive Youth Development (PYD) School Committee, which has some new parents from District #90 and needs to recruit parents from District #97. They are working on a forum related to the topic “Marijuana is Legal, Now What?” There was a handout on the “Impact of Marijuana Legislation in Illinois”.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Cathaleen and Carla attended a first rate free grant writing instructional program hosted by Oak Park Community Foundation featuring three Triton College employees with a vast knowledge of current grant writing trends and tips.
- Cathaleen attended the May 24th River Forest Dementia Friendly meeting at Village Hall. River Forest has obtained the status of a Dementia Friendly community. Oak Park is now seeking to do the same. This is a collaborative effort with our Village, Library, Township and other stakeholders. To date, 80 community members have received the “Dementia Live” training. There will also be Dementia Friendly training provided for local businesses to receive a certification.
- Today, June 18, Carla and Cathaleen met with Carol Nelson, a Masters in Gerontology student at Concordia. Carol is starting a “summer camp for seniors”, a pilot program running at

Concordia August 5-9. Cathaleen will be conducting a Memoir Writing seminar for this program. The Township will assist with publicity.

- May's Coffee Monday was a poetry appreciation session, where seniors brought in and read their favorite poems, along with two poets who read their own poetry. Cathaleen mentioned the summer programming for Celebrating Seniors All Year Long: the Kon Mari event (Marie Kondo Magic Joy of Tidying Up, Certified Speaker) scheduled for June 27, the June 21 Dooley Brothers concert, and the July 20 Apollo 11 event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first walk on the moon.
- Cathaleen mentioned the regular Connect with Tech and Social Stitching programs, along with Film Lovers Fridays and the Memory Café.
- Karen will be attending the Senior Services Committee meeting tomorrow night.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan thanked Trustee Taubman for attending the TOCC Spring Conference with her. Tim Heneghan, Supervisor of Schaumburg Township, was elected the new president of TOCC. Carla will continue to work on the legislative committee and serve on the Board.
- Carla passed out an article from the Editorial Board of the Tribune on their support of eliminating Illinois townships. She shared levy data from the Cook County Treasurer's Office website for the City of Evanston and for General Assistance, which indicates that Township consolidation did not result in overall tax savings for residents. In fact, residents are paying more in property taxes overall than they were before Evanston Township was eliminated.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$25,994.88. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Economos, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of June 30, 2019 totaling \$573.39. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Economos, Taubman, Kelty and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business -- None

New Business

- A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve new Mental Health Committee member, Ann Drake. The motion passed unanimously.

• Carla reviewed again the River Forest Township Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for 2019-2020, with only a couple of small changes from May's budget hearing. A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve this budget of \$664,759 from the Town Fund, \$13,386 from the General Assistance Fund and \$62,000 from the Component Unit: RFCCA Capital Fund, for total appropriations of \$740,145. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Connolly, Kelty and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Economos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk