

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Supervisor Sloan to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation -- None

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

(Report read by Clerk Abby Schmelling)

- Tax bills were mailed out on time. We have helped many residents get corrected tax bills and Certificates of Error's due to missing exemptions.
- Board of Review opened for appeals on July 1st. They closed July 30th. We hosted an outreach here at the River Forest Community Center in room 206, on Thursday, July 25th with the Cook County Board of Review staff and the Commissioner. Approximately sixty residents attended. We provided hundreds of appeal packets to residents.
- With two major events happening at the same time, appeals and tax bills being due August 1st, our small office was immersed in assisting residents on a daily basis.
- We continue to deal with realtors and lawyers. There have also been calls regarding vacancy, sales, exemptions and possible purchases and their tax bill implications.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- A job fair will be held here on October 3 arranged by the Oak Park General Assistance Coordinator.

- The River Forest Mental Health Committee has been on vacation for July and August, but come back for a meeting on September 3. The trustees have approved new member Anne Drake and need to approve Susie Narkis, who is a renewing committee member.
- Contracts are out and mostly signed, and the committee is going to begin talking about the next fiscal year and grant applications in the coming months.
- Carla mentioned that bill transactions will show that first quarter payments are going out thanks to Avis' hard work.
- Our HUB trainings continue, including training of more judges as well as police chiefs. Both Avis and Cathaleen attended a training as well. We met with the Community Memorial Foundation to bring them on board as a financial supporter of the HUB, and they have agreed. HUB is looking to expand to Proviso and Lyons Townships and get their support, as well as rolling out the HUB to the general public in strategic ways including linking HUB to our legislators' websites.
- Summer Sibshops wrapped up on August 10th. Dates have been set for the fall Sibshops with marketing and outreach beginning in the next several days.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

(Supervisor Sloan read from Cathaleen's report)

- Cathaleen conducted her *Memoir Writing: Getting Started* seminar for the Concordia University Senior Day Campers on Monday, August 5 to more than twenty local seniors, which was enjoyable and well received.
- As for our regular year-long programming, Celebrating Seniors All Year Long, we fifteen people attended August Coffee Monday for Book Talks with the Librarians. Also, we recently co-hosted two programs at River Forest Library on *Long Term Care Planning* with 25 attending on July 30 and *Medicare ABCD's* with the Oak Park Age Options presenter on Tuesday, August 13.
- Coming up: On Saturday, August 24th at 2pm, in cooperation with the Children's Department at River Forest Library will be a celebration (including costumes) and movie showing of the 80th Anniversary of the Wizard of Oz, an interactive movie. On Sunday, September 8th at 2pm will be Part 1 of a scheduled three-part series on Memoir Writing, which features author Barbara Hoffbeck Scoblic and her memoir, *Lost Without the River: A Memoir*. In November as Part 2 of the series, Cathaleen is featured in *Getting Started: Exercises to Get Going on Your Memoir*. And on Sunday, September 29th at 2pm, WGN's Steve Darnall takes us back with *A Beginner's Guide to the Golden Age of Radio*.
- There is an entirely separate function to access local senior resources by zip code on the HUB website.

- Cathaleen is finalizing plans to welcome Unity Temple and Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy representatives to Coffee Monday, November 4th at 10 am to discuss the path to and the effects of the recent UNESCO designation for Unity Temple.
- Cathaleen is working with River Forest Police and local resident Emlee Hillard of the SEC for an early November evening program on *Recognizing and Preventing Elder Scams*, including local scams in River Forest.
- Steve Smith retired from Senior Services. He oversaw programs such as the Money Manager program and the Caregiver Support program. The Township wishes him well. With his leaving, Senior Services is taking the opportunity to restructure, giving Steve's responsibilities to case managers and hiring new case managers.
- Abby talked about the move this fall of the Senior Citizens' Center of Oak Park and River Forest from the Oak Park Arms to the Dole Library. The Center will still be an independent non-profit, but its programs and staff will be under the Park District of Oak Park.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- The Positive Youth Development (PYD) School Committee parent forum related to 'Marijuana is Legal...Now What?' is now set for the field who are able to present the facts and engage the audience. Wednesday, October 2. They've brought in the League of Women Voters to help them reach out to a wide network of speakers in
- Youth Services held their School Supply drive and successfully filled a large number of backpacks for families in need. They then held a back to school social event to give away the backpacks.
- The Level Up event will be held September 7 at the high school, a new type of fun back to school event for students and families. We will have a table with the Community Mental Health Board to promote the HUB and Support4U.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Carla presented the River Forest Township page from the Park District Fun Guide.
- It has taken a bit of effort to work through the transition from MB to Fifth Third Bank. Susie Goldschmidt and her team have been very helpful. The Township is also starting to transition from Community Bank of Oak Park and River Forest to Byline Bank.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of August 31, 2019 in the amount of \$72,313.70. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of August 31, 2019 totaling \$540.13. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business – The Rotary Food Truck Rally is Saturday, August 24.

New Business

- A motion was made by Supervisor Sloan and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve new Mental Health Committee member, Susie Narkis. The vote was unanimous.
- Carla gave an update of the audit review of the Township, the report which is due to the state at the end of September. The auditors were here for two days at the end of July.
- The Township has been asked to join the Complete Count Committee to help recruit other key stakeholders to join. The committee is run by the Village and is responsible to help ensure every river Forest resident is counted in the census. The Committee brings together various River Forest groups including Rotary, Kiwanis, Housing Forward, District #90 and others to promote census participation among each group's membership.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion was unanimous. The meeting ended at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk