

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2019 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously. A second motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting was made by Trustee Kelty and seconded by Trustee Economos. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Participation--None

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Completed and verified permits sent to Cook County.
- Fielded questions regarding a new sale price its relationship to a tax bill.
- Helped residents with re-review questions for Board of Review appeals.
- Processed Certificates of Error.
- Fielded questions regarding when Board of Review will announce their results.
- Completed continuing education course work for the year
- Attended Cook County Township Assessor Association meeting.
- Kathy Elliot attended two 2020 Census Complete Count Committee meetings at Village Hall.
- Kathy attended a training session for Assessor Information Management software program which is our main software program in the office.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- Avis stated that the River Forest Mental Health Committee (MHC) is heading towards the next fiscal year. Applications have been prepared and are about to be sent out to the agencies. They should be back in by early December with recommendations to the Trustees in February.
- The District #200 Mental Wellness Collaboration will be hosting a Parent University night on November 13. Parents can attend a series of three classes on relevant topics such as Screens and Teenagers, Helping your Teen to Attain Balance, Vaping, and more.
- The Developmentally Disabled Consortium is hosting a series of talks for special needs parents and families at Oak Park and River Forest High School, to be held in December, February, March and April on assorted topics such as benefits, work incentives and savings and investment programs for the disabled.
- Interest in the HUB continues to grow. We are scheduling more trainings. November 1 is a health fair at Riveredge Hospital which is typically very well attended. The HUB will have a large presence there.
- The Suicide Prevention Task Force met. Thrive has done a lot of the leg work in suicide prevention at the high school. They have presented a program called QRP reaching over 400 kids through their health classes. They are half way finished. The Task Force is working on a strategic document to lay out the objectives and strategies which will focus on awareness, training and data.
- A Job Fair was held at the Center by Oak Park Township General Assistance. Carla thanked Avis and Cathaleen for helping to make it run smoothly.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- We have two applicants for the Youth Services Committee, following our notice in the September eNews. Both candidates look excellent. Carla will interview them and the Trustees can vote at the November meeting.
- The Youth Services Committee will meet tomorrow, but Carla is unable to attend.
- Positive Youth Development (PYD) held the Marijuana Town Hall meeting on October 2. It was decently attended and had a good panel of experts which represented the relevant stakeholders.
- National Prescription Take Back Day is on October 26 and is hosted by PYD at Oak Park Township.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Most recently, Cathaleen represented the Township at Saturday's River Forest Fire Department Open House, held from 10 am – 2pm on October 12 at the Fire Station. This is the second year in a row that we have attended.

- On Wednesday, October 9, Cathaleen represented the Township and LOSS, at the invitation of Thrive at the Oak Park Public Library for their report on local efforts on suicide prevention.
- Cathaleen also attended with Cathy from the Assessor's office, the Complete Count meeting on September 24 at Village Hall. It was reported that in the last Census in 2010, River Forest had an 83% participation rate, so we want to match and exceed that this time. The completenesscount.gov website is an excellent resource. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 29 from 9-11:30 am.
- Cathaleen attended this month's Dementia Friendly meeting at Village Hall on Monday, September 29. River Forest has achieved its official DF status from the parent organization and Oak Park is working hard to get its certification. A DF Certification lets residents know that local businesses have been trained in and welcome customers who have dementia and their family members.
- Cathaleen has planned a panel discussion with Ben Ransome at the River Forest Police Department and local resident Senior Legal Counsel at the SEC, Securities and Exchange Commission Enforcement Division, Emlee Hillard-Smith. They will both be speaking at our Seniors evening presentation on "Safeguard Yourself from Fraud Scams," at 6:30 pm on November 13 at Village Hall.
- As the fall programming continues, the Memoir Writing series also continues with the second prong of our three prong series. On Sunday, November 10, Cathaleen will be doing a "Getting Started on Memoir Writing" program. This will be followed up in January with a special presentation on using genealogical research in memoir writing. There will be a hands-on demonstration, following a real memory and accessing six to seven relevant databases to flesh out that same memory, such as census data, residential real estate plats, local business information and newspaper and military archives.
- There is also a lot of music coming up that we are co-sponsoring: Sunday, October 27 at 2pm, Sunflower Chamber Orchestra (local youth), Friday, November 1 at 7pm; The Music and Potlucks organization sponsors folk music and a dessert potluck and food drive at River Forest Public Library; and Sunday, November 17 at 2pm, The Boogie Woogie Kid performs music from 20's, 30's and 40's also at the Library.
- Senior pickleball has started up again, now on Wednesdays.
- Carla attended the groundbreaking for the new assisted living facility at Chicago and Harlem Avenues in River Forest.
- **We** held a Falls Prevention Coffee Monday with the River Forest Fire Department which was well received. They also want to do the packets for the homeless again this, so we will continue our collaboration.
- Meaningful Living groups for seniors started up on September 29 at Concordia Counseling Center. The groups are full so registration has stopped. Carla will touch base with them to how it's going.
- The Senior Citizens' Center has moved to Dole Library from the Arms. The Center is

now under the Oak Park Park District, but it still serves River Forest. There will be an effort to promote the new Center to River Forest residents and encourage their use. The ribbon cutting was Friday night.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Carla will be attending the TOI Conference November 11 and 12. Township Senior Services has won a huge award which will be presented on the morning of the 12th.
- Carla attended the TOCC Board meeting.
- Chris Welch hosted a community shred day at the Community Center. Carla thanked Dick for his support and he commented.

Approval of Bills

• Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of October 31, 2019 in the amount of \$58,313.00. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Kelty, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

• Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of October 31, 2019 totaling \$561.28. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Connolly, Kelty, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

• Carla gave an update of the FY2019 Audit which Sikich is still preparing. It is significantly delayed. The firm says a draft will be ready this Friday. Carla will forward it to the Board when she receives it.

New Business

• The 2019 Levy needs to be filed in November. The CPI official increase will be 1.9%.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Kelty to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation, at 6:22 pm.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Economos. The motion was unanimous. The meeting ended at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk