

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Participation

Special guest Gary Cuneen, Founder and Executive Director of Seven Generations Ahead, gave a presentation on the PlanItGreen Report Card. PlanItGreen, a collaboration between Seven Generations Ahead and The Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation, is directing the ongoing implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest. The Plan, which was completed in 2011 through a ten month community engagement process, continues to be implemented and a metrics-based Community Sustainability Report Card is regularly produced to evaluate progress, areas of focus, including the alarming climate crisis and goal targets for our two communities. Director Cuneen talked specifically about nine topic area grades and their key factors. A detailed handout is available. He is asking River Forest Township and the River Forest Civic Center Authority and others to sign a non-binding "Letter of Commitment to Join the PlanItGreen Initiative in Pursuing 100% Renewable Energy." Questions and discussion followed.

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Economos to support the Letter of Commitment. The motion passed unanimously.

Assessor

Pamela Kende (read by Clerk Abby Schmelling)

The following was accomplished by the Assessor's office:

- Answered phone calls regarding what the first installment tax bill will be (55% of last year's tax bill.)
- Started a list for residents who want to appeal their triennial reassessment.

- Explained why one needs to fill out a Homeowner's waiver when owning two properties and having an exemption on both.
- Fielded questions regarding what the Board of Review reduction means and how it will affect their tax bill and when it takes effect (2nd installment of 2020).

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- Avis stated that the Mental Health Committee is off in December and will meet again in January. Grant applications have come in from agencies, and budget recommendations made will be made to the Trustees in February.
- Carla mentioned that the parent talk for special needs parents, sponsored by the Developmental Disabilities Consortium and scheduled for December 3, was cancelled due to the speaker being ill. This talk will be rescheduled. The DD Consortium will meet on December 12.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- In regard to the Youth Services Committee, there is no meeting in December but all grant contractors have been asked to attend the January 8 meeting to present their grant opportunities.
- The Village of Oak Park voted to withdraw its support from the Youth Interventionist Program. This is unfortunate but not unexpected. Youth Services will need to obtain alternative funding sources.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Cathaleen and Kathy Elliot from the assessor's office attended the Complete Count Census meeting on Tuesday, December 3. The next one is scheduled for January 16, 2020 at Village Hall.
- CSAYL (Celebrating Seniors All Year Long) programming with the River Forest Library completed its December holiday programming with last weekend's double-header: Holiday Jazz with local musician James Callen, and the sold-out inter-generational event held at Creativita in Forest Park, decorating holiday ornaments.
- On January 12, 2020 we look forward to the third in our three-part memoir writing series, this time with Charlie Thomas who will speak on "Using Genealogy and Historical Research to Write a Wonderful Memoir."
- The Library renovation is complete, so our Gather-Discover-Engage programs will return with one exception: Connect with Tech has been discontinued for the near future due to lack of interest, although librarians are always available to assist patrons with technology needs.

- Upcoming Coffee Mondays will feature Library Foundation; an intro to the HUB; Unity Temple as UNESCO Heritage Site; and perhaps the Sheriff's Department Senior Academy Students Partnership with Arbor West Neighbors.
- Celebrating Seniors Week, which is having its tenth anniversary, is set for Thursday, May 14 - Thursday, May 21, 2020. The IL Secretary of State Rules of the Road session will be held Thursday, May 14.
- Carla added that River Forest was designated as an 'age-friendly community' at the mayor's caucus.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- The Sounds Good! Choir concert will be on Friday December 13.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Economos made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of December 31, 2019 in the amount of \$20,465.57. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Connolly, Kelty and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of December 31, 2019 totaling \$380.48. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Connolly, Kelty and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Carla presented the 2019 Levy, which proposes an increase of 1.9%, pursuant to the CPI increase. The total 2019 Levy for the Town Fund and the GA Fund is \$625,030 for the fiscal year beginning April, 2019 and ending March 31, 2020. A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve the tax levy for the town fund in the amount of \$616,030 and the tax levy for the general assistance fund in the amount of \$9,000 for a total Township tax levy of \$625,030. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Connolly, Kelty and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Carla gave another update of the FY2019 Audit which Sikich is still preparing. File extensions have been made. Carla should have a draft by the end of the week.
- A request was made to Dick to have Complete Count Committee trainings at the Center.

New Business

- There was discussion to approve the proposed River Forest Township Board of Trustees 2020 Meeting Dates. A motion to accept the meeting dates was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Economos, with the determination of the March meeting date TBD by Supervisor Sloan before the January 21 meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Economos. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk