

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Public Participation-None

Assessor

Pamela Kende

The following was accomplished by the Assessor's office:

- We have been given an approximate date from the Cook County Assessor as to when they expect to open River Forest Township for Triennial reassessment, which is early February to mid-March. We will be open for at least 30 days.
- We are hosting a community outreach for the Triennial reassessment with the Cook County Assessor on March 3rd at 6pm in room 206 at the River Forest Community Center.
- We are helping seniors file their Senior and Senior Freeze exemption forms. The Cook County Assessor sent a form to all seniors who qualified for the Senior/Senior Freeze Exemption. A new law now makes it possible for seniors to not have to apply for their senior exemption every year once they have successfully applied.
- We have been attending monthly meetings of the Cook County Township Assessor's organization.
- All new residents were mailed a welcome letter.
- All permits were complete for the deadline.
- The 2020-2021 budget has been submitted.
- Press releases have been updated on the Assessor's Township web pages.
- Information was given for first installment tax bills coming out within the next week or so. You can pay your taxes online; taxes are due March 3rd.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- Avis stated that the River Forest Mental Health Committee (MHC) met two weeks ago. Phil Carmody, the Director of Opportunity Knocks was invited to speak about their programs.
- Grant applications have been received and are being processed; the MHC will have recommendations for the Trustees in March.
- Carla mentioned that the Developmental Disabilities Consortium met on December 12. The group is really doing an excellent job of providing value-added programming for parents.
- The Opioid Prevention Task Force met on January 16. They had two excellent guest speakers, one from Illinois Department of Human Services who talked about Illinois' overall approach in regard to naloxone distribution and the high degree of collaboration across different government entities in Illinois at the forefront of overdose prevention work. The second speaker was from Chicago Recovery Alliance, a non-profit which works on the streets and with agencies and police to distribute naloxone and to screen drugs for fentanyl. The focus is on naloxone to prevent overdose and keeping fentanyl out of people's hands.
- Carla attended the behavioral health consortium breakfast on the 17th, an info sharing/networking event.
- Support 4 U usage numbers are improving as efforts increase to improve student awareness. Two qualitative experiences relay that Support 4U helped prevent a suicide and an armed crime.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- CSAYL (Celebrating Seniors All Year Long) programming with the River Forest Library: Sunday, January 12 was the 3rd in our 3-part series, with Charlie Thomas', "Using Genealogy and Historical Research to Write a Wonderful Memoir". Fifty-two attended and it was well received.
- Packets include upcoming programming with our partner River Forest Library, including: Arab Music Ensemble; Everything You need to Know about the 2020 Census; and Edu-tainer on Chicago's Most Wanted, including mobsters.
- Carla will be featured at the February 3rd Coffee Monday, talking about HUB and the Community Calendar, rfhappenings.com.
- We are partnering with Concordia University School of Gerontology and Arbor West Neighbors to host a monthly Memoir Writing Workshop, through May. Cathaleen will lead the program in February.
- The Kickoff breakfast for the 10th annual Celebrating Seniors Week (CSW) will be January 29; Cathaleen will attend. CSW will be from Thursday, May 14 through Thursday, May 21. Cathaleen asked for nominations for 60 over 60.

- Cathaleen and Kathy Elliot, our deputy assessor, continue to work with the Village of River Forest on the “Complete Count” census project. They attended the January 16th meeting.
- Cathaleen has been busy this month with constituent calls.
- Karen and Carla attended the Senior Services holiday dinner and monthly meeting on January 15. It was well attended. Some committee members have once again expressed a desire to do more.
- Carla met with Village and a representative from AARP to discuss the next steps for Age Friendly designation. The next two years will focus on data gathering and formulation of a strategic plan, with implementation of the plan to follow in years 3-5.
- There has been an uptick in constituent calls. There will be a meeting with senior services case managers at the end of the month to establish a more streamlined protocol for managing those calls.

- **Supervisor’s Report**

Carla Sloan

- Carla attended the TOCC Board meeting on December 11. She has been asked to represent The Townships of Illinois in Washington, DC on May 12 and 13 at the National Townships Conference, and she has accepted.
- Our Township Instagram is up and running. Carla asked for township-related photos to post to Instagram.
- Carla attended the senior executives breakfast on December 12. It was a morning of networking and sharing the work of government, not for profits and foundation leaders from Oak Park and River Forest. At the breakfast, Carla met with Jan Arnold, Director of the Park District of Oak Park, and Mike Sletten, Director of the River Forest Park District, to coordinate the offering of the new Dole Center memberships to River Forest residents aged 55+.
- Carla attended the administrators meeting which had not met in a couple of months.
- Township Topics Day is April 1. Carla will be attending.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Economos made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of January 31, 2020 in the amount of \$17,110.13. It was seconded by Trustee Connolly. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Economos made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of January 31, 2020 totaling \$745.91. It was seconded by Trustee Connolly. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- The 2019 Levy was filed before the December deadline.
- The Township's auditor, Sikich, has completed the draft of the FY2019 audit. The draft was given to Trustees for their review. Question and comments were requested by January 24. Sikich will complete the final audit shortly after that date.
- The approved list of 2020 Meetings Dates was distributed.

New Business--None

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Economos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Connolly. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk