

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees, Holly Economos, Karen Taubman 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, River Forest Township Attorney, Pat Deady and Assessor Pam Kende. Trustee Mark Kelty was absent.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Participation-None

Assessor

Pamela Kende

Carla thanked Pam for setting up the meeting with the Cook County Assessor's office staff.

The following was accomplished by the Assessor's office:

- Fielded inquiries regarding the 1st installment tax bill, which is 55% of last year's tax bill.
- Helped tax payers pay their tax bills online.
- Assisted seniors with their exemption forms.
- Met with the Cook County Assessor's valuation team.
- Received the data regarding the triennial reassessment and put a related link on the Township website.
- Fielded calls regarding the Cook County Appeal period. We are currently to open for appeals with the Cook County Assessor until March 19th. We are creating packets for residents; so far we have created and mailed over ninety appeal packets.
- Fielded questions regarding what the Board of Review reduction means, how it will affect tax bills and when it takes effect.
- Added events to the River Forest community calendar.
- Sent out press releases to newspaper, Village e-newsletter and Township website regarding exemptions and Cook County Assessor appeal period.
- Attended Cook County Township Assessor meetings.

There will be a tax reassessment outreach meeting with Cook County Assessor's staff on March 3rd at 6 pm in Room 206 at the Community Center. Discussion followed.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- Avis attended a Townships of Illinois GA training on January 23rd on confidentiality in the workplace.
- On February 12, River Forest hosted the quarterly program meeting of the Townships of Cook County General Assistance, on legal aid.
- The Mental Health Committee (MHC) is completing its liaison visits and in March will make agency funding recommendations to the board.
- In January, Phil Carmody from Opportunity Knocks attended the MHC meeting to talk about OK's programs; in February, Anita Pindiur came from Way Back Inn, speaking in part about gambling addiction services. The Committee is asking representatives from each of the MHC-funded agencies to attend a monthly MHC meeting and discuss agency programs.
- The Developmental Disabilities Consortium sponsored a talk on February 4 at OPRF High School. Alexandra Baig spoke on benefits for young adults with disabilities. She was excellent at simplifying very complex subject matter. There were about fourteen in attendance. The Consortium will next fund an advocacy town hall meeting on March 12.
- Carla attended a half day strategic planning session on the HUB with all of the funders. We are focused on continued rollout, future funding, and developing the job description for a day-to-day HUB project manager. There is a HUB police training on February 21; River Forest is sending two officers.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla attended the Youth Services Committee (YSC) meeting on February 5. All four River Forest members were present and provided strong input. Carla appreciates their time and support. "River Forest only" grants were approved for I-Search and Connections; joint grant proposals were also approved for Snowball, Intramurals, and the Concordia Robotics program. We still need three more RF members on the YSC so Carla asked to send any recommendations to her.
- The Youth Interventionist Program team is now fully in place with the exception of team leader Sara Marx who is on maternity leave. We are working with Youth Services to meet with River Forest funders and secure ongoing funding.
- The Positive Youth Development (PYD) School Committee met today to discuss the upcoming Parent University which we are co-hosting on April 29 with D200, NAMI and the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board. Ginger Colamussi from OPRF High School reported that the high school's HYPE group is conducting freshman wellness

workshops called “Happy Healthy Huskies”; HYPE is also taking on a new focus related to body awareness and acceptance.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Cathaleen is notifying seniors about the Assessor outreach meeting on March 3.
- Cathaleen and Deputy Assessor Kathy Elliott have been regular attendees representing the Township in the Village-wide 2020 Census efforts. The Village has been coordinating the CompleteCount Committee, because River Forest receives important funding and representation based on the Census count. Census promotional materials are focusing on traditionally “undercounted populations” like seniors. Anything that board members might do to help get out the word is greatly encouraged and appreciated.
- Senior outreach has also focused on Celebrating Seniors Week, May 14-21. The annual stakeholder’s kickoff breakfast was held on January 29th. Cathaleen’s focus is two-fold: a)identifying, photographing and interviewing honorees for the 60 Over 60 awards, and b)finalizing programming for the week’s programming in May.
- Cathaleen attended the Village-wide Dementia Friendly meeting on January 27 which talked primarily about successful efforts underway to train and certify local businesses on how to become more user friendly to those with dementia and their caregivers.
- Cathaleen presents at tomorrow’s monthly Memoir Writer’s Workshop for local seniors, which we co-host with Arbor West Neighbors and Concordia’s Center for Gerontology. The class is nearly full at about fifteen attendees.
- Celebrating Seniors All Year Long programming with the River Forest Library has two programs coming up: February 23 about the Chicago Mob and March 1about Harriet Tubman.
- Carla was featured at the February 3rdCoffee Monday talking about HUB and the RF community calendar, rfhappenings.com. Thanks to Christopher Fox from Oak Park Township Senior Services for co-presenting.
- The March 2nd Coffee Monday will feature two representatives from Frank Lloyd Wright’s Unity Temple, discussing how the building became a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Carla, Cathaleen and Avis met with Pam Mahn, Christopher Fox and lead case managers from Township Senior Services to enhance the protocol for handling resident inquiries. RF Township will fund an additional layer of case management for RF residents which started in Oak Park this year.
- Karen will attend tomorrow’s Senior Services Committee meeting.
- Carla attended two of our Sunday afternoon programs held jointly with the library; one with Karen to see the Chicago Arabic Music Ensemble and the second about the 2020 Census.
- Carla discussed Cathaleen’s June 1 resignation as Senior Outreach Coordinator, as well as the requirements for her replacement.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- We are hosting the TOCC Supervisors Division meeting here on Thursday evening
- Our Township Instagram is fully up and running.
- Carla attended the social workers meeting which we hosted here, as well as the RF administrators meeting.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of February 29, 2020 in the amount of \$74,557.97. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of February 29, 2020 totaling \$502.38. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, Taubman, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- The Township's auditor, Sikich, has completed the FY2019 audit and submitted all required reports.

New Business

- The Holiday Food and Gift Basket grant request for \$1500 was discussed. This grant helps cover the cost of the Thanksgiving grocery gift cards provided to RF residents in need. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve a grant of \$1,800 for the Holiday Food and Gift Basket program. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to table the Executive Session until after the Civic Center Authority meeting.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Taubman. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk