

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees, Holly Economos, Karen Taubman, Mark Kelty 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.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Participation

Three students from Fenwick High School came for a civics project they are working on. Ross Lissuzzo, an Oak Park River Forest parent, attended in order to read a statement in favor of a simple survey/referendum question on the proposed OPRF Freshman curriculum changes being on the November ballot.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

The following was accomplished by the Assessor's office:

- February was a busy month with exemptions, the first installment tax bill and appeals. Over 80 residents have had an appointment in our office.
- This is River Forest Township's Triennial reassessment. This creates a busier than normal appeal period. We have created hundreds of appeal packets. This year the Cook County Assessor has changed the appeal process considerably. Many residents do not have the capability to do the appeal at home. We have assisted many residents in our office using our computers and scanner which take additional time as they have changed the appeal system.
- River Forest was open for assessment appeals with the Cook County Assessor from February 7th to March 19th.
- In addition, the Assessor's office:
 - Held a Community outreach on March 3rd at 6pm. There were well over 100 in attendance. Over half in attendance requested an appeal packet.
 - Sent out press releases to the newspaper/Village e-newsletter and Township website.

- Attended Cook County Township Assessor Association meeting.
- Hired Kathy Elliot to join the Assessor's staff as Deputy Assessor, starting April 1st.
- Went downtown to work on some more complicated River Forest cases.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- The Mental Health Committee met last week and approved their FY20201 funding recommendations to the Trustees.
- The Developmental Disabilities Consortium will host an advocacy town hall meeting on March 12 at Riveredge Hospital. This meeting will feature a panel of experts in the disability field including participants with disabilities.
- There was a police training for the HUB online resource website on February 21st. River Forest sent two officers. We continue to go deeper into organizations for training users.
- Carla attended a funders' consortium meeting of those who fund mental health services. The group plans to develop a "common app" for all grant applicants to use, and well as a community "drop box" for grantees to send common reporting information.
- There is one GA client.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla will not attend the Youth Services Committee meeting this month because the committee is voting on funding recommendations for Oak Park only.
- The Youth Interventionist Program is focusing on meeting with our funders to gather their support to continue funding the program. We met with the River Forest Library and District #90, and there is a meeting set up with River Forest Park District.
- The Positive Youth Development (PYD) School Committee is organizing a number of activities in April related to underage substance prevention. As part of this effort, RF Township is co-hosting the upcoming Parent University on April 29 with D200, NAMI and the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board.
- OPRF High School is hosting a movie in April called "Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age". This is a sequel to the first Screenagers movie, which is being shown at Roosevelt Middle School earlier in April.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Complete Count Committee—Cathaleen and Kathy Elliot at the Assessor's office have been regular attendees representing the Township for the Village-wide Census efforts. Cathaleen will attend tomorrow's Kick-Off at Village Hall, as we should be receiving our Census Codes from the federal government this week in the mail, and all local efforts to get out the Census Vote are underway. Cathaleen is happy to get any Board member a Census yard sign or other giveaways.

- Cathaleen thanked Dick Chappell and his RFCC staff for setting up the large Census sign at the entry.
- Celebrating Seniors Week efforts continue with wrapping up the last of the interviews and photos for 60 over 60 honorees and getting the programming finalized for May 14-21.
- In other outreach efforts, we continue with well-attended Memoir Writing Series Workshops in partnership with Arbor West Neighbors and Concordia's Center for Gerontology. Our third of five workshops is Wednesday, March 18.
- Our UNESCO/Unity Temple Coffee Monday had higher than usual attendance on Monday, March 3. The representatives, Heidi Ruehle-May and Barbara Gordon, were well received.
- Cathaleen will attend this month's Dementia Friendly meeting on Monday, March 30th at Village Hall.
- The Village announced it is seeking applications for its new Age-Friendly Advisory Ad Hoc Committee, to further efforts in our Village toward more age-friendly policies.
- Celebrating Seniors All Year Long programming with the River Forest Library has two programs coming up: Sunday, March 15 - Irish Heritage Singers, and Sunday, March 29 - Author Linda Gartz shares her personal story, *Redlined: A Memoir of Race, Change, and Fractured Community in 1960's Chicago*.
- Karen Taubman attended the Senior Services Committee meeting and gave a short report.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- We hosted the TOCC Supervisors Division meeting here and hope to keep moving that division forward.
- Carla attended the administrators meeting this morning. Everyone is staying up to date on COVID-19. Air conditioning is being put in at Roosevelt School this summer. The Park District sent out a survey and is asking residents to respond.
- Carla attended Opportunity Knocks' tenth anniversary celebration on February 21 in the RFCC gym.
- Carla is scheduled to go to Springfield on April 1 for Township Topics Day, but that may not happen with the coronavirus pandemic.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of March 31, 2020 in the amount of \$22,254.29. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of March 31, 2020 totaling \$471.89. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees

Economos, Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business--None

New Business

- Carla explained to the public participants about the Township's Annual Town Meeting, which is set for the second Tuesday in April. She discussed the process by which an advisory referendum question may be put on the November ballot, through petition and the Annual Town Meeting process. Carla read the submitted referendum question and motion under item #26 on the proposed Annual Town Meeting agenda: "Motion requested by River Forest resident Steve Lefko to place the following question on the November 2020 ballot as an advisory referendum: *Shall Oak Park and River Forest High School eliminate separate, standalone freshman honors courses in English, history and science?*" Discussion followed. Carla made an amendment to the agenda to include the words "Public Discussion" as item #27. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve the amended agenda for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- Carla talked about Township Senior Services and changes in RF usage between FY2020 and FY2019. She pointed out the 19% increase in the use of the bus, for example. She also mentioned the Congregate Meals number increase of 49% over last year. Information and Assistance numbers are down slightly. The proposed FY2021 Township Senior Services Budget was then presented. The proposed budget reflects the addition of senior behavioral health care which is a new, additional layer of case management.

- Carla then presented the Township Senior Services' Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for FY2021-2022. Carla explained the IGA to guest participants. A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the above agreement. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- The Trustees reviewed FY2021 funding recommendations for Township Youth Services and the Youth Services Committee. Carla explained changes in funding and expenses vs. last year.

- The River Forest Mental Health Committee Funding Requests FY2021 were presented. Carla noted some of the changes in the proposed budget, including a new website for FRED Parent Support Group and increased support for the HUB online resource website. Hephzibah and New Moms did not apply for funding this year, as their services do not focus on River Forest. However, if a RF resident needs services from these agencies, RF Township will help support that on a case-by-case basis.

- Carla reviewed the funding proposal from RF Public Library for our joint senior programming for FY2021. A motion to approve this funding for Gather-Discover-Engage for \$350 and

Celebrating Seniors All Year Long for \$3200 was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- Emergency Assistance and Public Comment Rules were tabled.

Executive Session—Tabled until May

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 immediately following the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. Trustee Economos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Connolly. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk