

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 6:30 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was a meeting held electronically by Zoom, per Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-7.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Participation—None

Assessor

Pamela Kende

The following was accomplished by the Assessor's office: Read by Clerk Abby Schmelling:

- We have had a busier than expected June and July. Tax bills came out online two weeks before they were mailed.
- We are currently working to get corrected tax bills. We are also talking to residents about their assessments and appeal decisions from the Cook County Assessor.
- The Cook County Assessor has put a Covid-19 reduction on River Forest Township's assessment. We have been trying to understand and explain these results.
- We continue to respond to realtors and lawyers. We have also been fielding calls regarding vacancy, sales, exemptions and possible purchases and tax implications.
- Building permits have been filed.
- We are assisting residents with understanding their tax bills.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- We just completed the first quarter of our grant funding to agencies for mental health services. Agencies are required to complete a report at the end of the quarter indicating usage by River Forest residents. The numbers are starting to come in and will help to determine how funds will be distributed in the second quarter.
- We now have no general assistance clients.

- Carla reported that a virtual HUB 201 training will be held next week. Work continues by the funding partners to hire someone part-time to manage HUB. The job description is complete and will be approved by the funding partners in the next few days, and the job will be posted multiple places.
- Carla met this afternoon with Lisa DeVivo, NAMI and Riveredge Hospital regarding a virtual children's (pre-high school age) mental health forum, in three one-hour sessions over September, October and November. Topics will include, 'where do you start navigating the mental health system?', and 'race and equity.' Discussions will follow each session. We feel there is a growing need for these discussions as Covid-19 continues on. The virtual platform has a number of advantages for these types of discussions.
- In regard to the high school, we are trying to set up a meeting with D200 staff to start planning the fall 'virtual parent university' in late October or early November. Most of the same speakers and programming will be used which were scheduled for the spring parent university, which was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla is interviewing a person tomorrow for the open spot on the Youth Services Committee. She just found out that a current YSC member is moving out of town, so that creates a second open spot.
- The PYD (Positive Youth Development) substance abuse prevention group met this morning and shared ideas about the virtual parent university in the fall. Also a Talk Cards project is underway. Carla explained how it works to help parents talk to their children.
- The Youth Interventionist Program was approved by all the boards, excluding the two Villages who are no longer supporting the program, and the River Forest Park District, who will vote on funding in August.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy attended with Karen the Senior Services Committee meeting on June 24. They are not meeting in July. At the meeting, Pam Mahn shared that Senior Services is applying for a multi-program grant from the OPRF Community Foundation.
- The Dementia Friendly group met in June to talk about their new website. Betsy, Carla and Pam Mahn met with Doreen, a gerontology graduate student who is developing the website.
- Coffee Monday had its second Zoom meeting. Rachel Watson from Hope Fair Housing Center spoke. Six people attended. All are hoping the Library will be opening soon.
- Betsy has been working on potential programming for the coming months by looking at popular past programs including Celebrating Seniors Week.
- The Township is possibly considering being part of the Senior Citizen Services Coordinating Committee run by Pat Koko.

- Betsy talked about the movie shown in June by Mark Blesoff's group. One hundred people attended. There was a follow up meeting about the importance of music for those with dementia. Betsy is working on a program for providing musically-programmed headphones to seniors with dementia.
- Carla has introduced Betsy to the various local groups which work with seniors.
- Carla added that Betsy is successfully transitioning as the new Senior Outreach Coordinator.
- Carla and Betsy are setting up a meeting with Helen Kwan to determine where the Volunteer Care Corps is headed.
- Carla and Betsy will meet with Village Trustee Res Vasquez on Thursday to see how the Township can partner in the Age-Friendly River Forest effort, including the new Ad hoc age friendly committee.
- Carla and Betsy toured the new Dole Center, where the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP) now runs the many arts programs for adults age 50+ which were formerly run by the Senior Citizens Center. These programs are available to all OP and RF seniors under the new PDOP Active Adult Membership (annual cost \$50).
- Carla and Betsy will meet with the library staff in early August to plan fall senior programming which doesn't require meeting in-person.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- The auditors were here June 30 to do the FY20 audit. They have already submitted the draft audit. Carla thanked Jane Brennan for her help. Carla will review the draft this week and will send to the trustees for the same.
- Carla mentioned the article about our new Senior Outreach Coordinator, Betsy Kelly, that was in the Forest Leaves this week.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve Operating Fund bills as of July 31, 2020 in the amount of \$47,761.25.. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Economos, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve General Assistance bills as of June 31, 2020 totaling \$60.96. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- There is no update on the River Forest Complete Count Committee.
- For the infrastructure update:

Phone system upgrade—temporarily on hold until October due to the extremely busy time for the Assessor’s office.

Computer upgrades—software upgrade work is in progress. The IT people have been to the office twice. They are coming tomorrow to install Carla’s new computer and upgrade the other pc’s.

Website—Carla met with Tom Elliott., a website designer and more. He sent in a proposal which Carla will look over. She will also get a couple of other proposals.

Announcement of 2020 Annual Town Meeting

Carla announced Tuesday, August 18, 2020 for the Annual Town meeting in Room 206 at 6:00 pm.

New Business—None.

Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 immediately following the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk