

# **RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP**

## **Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom, per Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-7.

**Roll called:** Supervisor Sloan, Trustees, Karen Taubman, Mark Kelty and Helene Connolly. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator, Avis Rudner, RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell, Township Attorney Pat Deady and Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

### **Public Participation**

Deana Herrman, a River Forest resident and member of the mental health committee was introduced to the Trustees.

### **Assessor**

**Pamela Kende**

The following was accomplished by the Assessor's office (report read by Clerk Abby Schmelling):

- Processed Senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled Veterans and Homeowners Certificates of Error. The processing of these have been severely hampered by difficulties at the Cook County Assessor's office.
- The Board of Review was open for appeals. Filed or helped file well over 300 residents with either an appeal packet or filing for them on line. Board of Review closed for appeals Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Submitted additional evidence for residents after the Board of Review closed. The additional evidence deadline was September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Fielded questions regarding what and when, if an assessment reduction were issued.
- Spoke with residents who filed with a lawyer and discuss how the lawyers charge and what the possible fees would be.
- Worked on building permits. Helped many residents understand the difference between the due date of the 2nd installment tax bill and when penalties start accruing, which is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Mental Health Services/General Assistance**

**Avis Rudner**

- The Mental Health Committee (MHC) met two weeks ago by Zoom. We talked about how the funding application process will be different this year due to Covid-19. We will move from a paper format to an electronic one. There was discussion about other ways to present recommendations to the Trustees. Avis will be working on this.
- There is no GA report, with no GA clients presently. The GA website is being revised to make it more user friendly.
- Because of Covid, instead of the usual fee-for-service funding, agencies received a quarter of their allotted funds for the first quarter of the funding year that began on April 1. This will be done again for the second quarter as well. The Oak Park Community Mental Health Board is doing the same.
- We are in the second round of interviews for the HUB product manager position. We have five or six excellent candidates scheduled for Zoom interviews.
- Sibshops start September 19, this Saturday. I sent everyone the excellent press release done by Matt, complete with photos and quotes from a Sibshop family, Mike Carmody from Opportunity Knocks and from Thrive.

## **Youth Services**

**Carla Sloan**

- Kyle Coltri resigned from the Youth Services Committee (YSC) due to work conflicts, so we are once again looking for someone to fill her spot. We thank Kyle for her several months of services on the committee. Other than that one vacancy, the River Forest side of the Youth Services Committee is full.
- Carla attended the Youth Services Committee on September 9. It was an excellent kickoff meeting for the new school year. There were breakout sessions to help YSC members get acquainted and to generate new ideas. A new member orientation was held by Megan Traficano a week prior to the meeting. Megan is working with each of the programs funded by Youth Services to see how services can be best delivered in this second half of the fiscal year, given Covid restrictions.
- Meetings continue with OPRF High School staff to plan the fall virtual Parent University and also to plan parent support groups. Staff is seeing a need for parents to be supported at this time.
- I emailed Linda Conway from I-Search which is funded by the Township, to determine whether I-Search was going to run this year, given that District #90 is on full remote learning. Linda said that District #90 has asked I-Search to remain as part of the curriculum. She is determining how that will work as the school year progresses.

## **Senior Outreach Coordinator**

**Betsy Kelly**

- Both Coffee Monday and Celebrating Seniors all year Long (CSAYL) are planned through December: There was a CSAYL event this past Saturday; fourteen people attended via Zoom. Leslie Goddard did a great presentation on Votes for Women (in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment). Virtual Coffee Monday was on September 14 due to Labor Day, with Megan Ulczak from the Police Department of Oak Park and Peggy Kell from the League of Women Voters. Eleven people attended.
- Betsy attended the Dementia Friendly River Forest meeting at the end of August. There was discussion about people with dementia who have wandered away from nursing homes and homes. There is more collaboration around “Silver Search” where some students are working on art videos that will be available on the Dementia Friendly website, which hopefully will be live soon.
- Betsy will attend the Senior Citizens Services Coordinating Council meeting as the River Forest Township Representative.
- Betsy has been attending Zoom calls, meetings and conferences around Isolation and Older Adults, with brainstorming the best way to reach out to people. She will be doing a survey to see what people would like to see for ongoing groups, conferences, webinars, etc.
- Betsy mentioned the programming for seniors through the Park District of Oak Park (this includes the Senior Citizens’ Center which is now part of the Park District).
- Through a grant Betsy received through Arbor West Neighbors, she received thirty headsets that she is programming with music for people with memory loss. She dropped off six at Belmont Village and has given out four to community members so far. The River Forest Library will include a flyer about headphones in their memory kits.
- Betsy is updating the Senior Services part of our website to show that programming is still going on, although virtually.
- Betsy spoke to the STAR group at Oak Park Temple on Thursday.
- Betsy sent out the September monthly email and is sending out Community Connect Mail weekly. She is still delivering meals but now two times a month.
- The Senior Services Committee will meet tomorrow night and Betsy will attend.

## **Supervisor’s Report**

**Carla Sloan**

- Carla let everyone know that Abby has decided not to run for reelection in April 2021. So we are in the process of looking for a new Clerk, who is willing to run in April and be Clerk for the next four years. The new Clerk could start in May if they win the April election, or he/she could start sooner. So far we have posted the Clerk position in the Village eNews, on our Facebook page and on our website. We have one candidate so far; if you know of anyone who would be a good candidate, please let Carla know.

## **Approval of Bills**

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelyto approve Operating Fund bills as of September 30, 2020 in the amount of \$17,341.11. Roll was

called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve General Assistance bills as of September 30, 2020 in the amount of \$30.47. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

- The Complete Count Committee is close to the end with its work to promote the 2020 census. Social media advertising in River Forest to exhaust remaining advertising funds, updates to banners around town, and targeting to underrepresented target populations is the remaining work being done. About 87% have been counted as of now. Erika Bachner, Village of River Forest trustee, who has been the force on the committee, will be recognized by the Township.
- Infrastructure update: 99% of all the computer upgrades have been completed. Everyone can now access their documents remotely through Microsoft One Drive. Carla thanked her husband, Ed who has helped make this happen and interface with the IT people.
- Nothing to report on the new website.

### **New Business**

- Carla reviewed with the trustees the FY 2020 Annual Treasurer's Report for the Township and GA. A motion to adopt the annual Treasurer's Reports was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of new Senior Services Committee member, Lydia Manning. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve Lydia Manning to the Senior Services Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Trustee Helene Connolly and seconded by Mark Kelty to go into Executive Session at 6:34 pm to discuss litigation. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to return to the regular meeting was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Mark Kelty at 6:57 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk