

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. This was a meeting held electronically by Zoom, per Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-7.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Karen Taubman, Mark Kelty and Helene Connolly. Absent: Trustee Economos. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Assessor Pamela Kende, Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator Avis Rudner, RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell 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 October 20, 2020 regular meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Participation

RF residents Deana Herrman, member of the Mental Health Committee and running for Board of Trustees; Vanessa Druckman, running for Township Clerk; and resident Keith Strom, running for Board of Trustees. Also attending Sue Quinn, retiring River Forest Public Library Director.

A Proclamation of Appreciation, 2020-01, Honoring Oak Park Resident Sue Quinn, former River Forest Public Library Director, was presented and read aloud by River Forest Township Supervisor, Carla Sloan. Sue Quinn made additional remarks thanking the Township for its relationship with the Library.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

The following activities took place at the Assessor's office:

- Helped residents file appeals and resubmit evidence for appeals that were already filed with the Cook County Board of Review. The Cook County Board of Review closed for appeals for the second time in 2020 on November 1st.
- Continued to answer questions regarding the Covid-19 reductions.
- Submitted Village E-Newsletter article and updated our website.
- Continued to work closely with Riverside on assessment issues.
- Submitted all permits before Cook County Assessor's October 31st deadline for the year 2020.
- Explained the process of Consolidation and Division of PINS to a concerned group of residents on Harlem Avenue.
- Processed Certificates of Error.

Discussion followed.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

Supervisor Sloan presented Avis' report:

- We held the November Mental Health Committee meeting. Avis and I will work on getting the funding applications out for next year.
- Both the Behavior Health Consortium and the Developmental Disabilities Consortium met; there was strong attendance and the agencies shared how they are carrying on nobly during the pandemic.
- We are working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Thrive, Oak Park Township and Senior Services for Thrive to extend their QPR suicide prevention program to our local seniors in the coming months.
- Meetings continue with the HUB team to develop our "roadmap" plan for the next several months, now that we have a project manager on board.
- There is no GA report.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy talked about a planned Zoom call on Thanksgiving Day from 11-1 for seniors living alone. There are also other holiday support efforts for seniors and Betsy asked for names of any seniors in need.
- Betsy mentioned the variety of outreach activities she is doing, many brought up in last month's report.
- Betsy has been working with Meghan at the River Forest Public Library to set up the Coffee Monday programs through April 2021.
- Betsy mentioned the pre-programmed headphones she distributed for use by people with dementia.
- Arbor West Neighbors Advocacy Committee: Initiatives are under discussion to address the safety issues of "older adults wandering", with the area police department, villages, townships, etc.
- Betsy is looking into a new opportunity, "Circle of Friends", and is going through Zoom training aimed at reaching out to seniors.
- Carla and Betsy spoke about coordinating communication efforts with Arbor West Neighbors; Carla and Betsy will be looking into communication tools like Constant Contact to achieve this.
- The Senior Services Committee met and there is an item under New Business about the proposed senior home repair program.
- The senior Meaningful Wellness groups with Concordia started up again November 4th by Zoom. This is a wonderful collaboration with Concordia, and we received excellent media coverage, thanks to Matt Baron's efforts. The groups are now full.

- Betsy and Carla completed the Dementia Friendly training which was excellent and worthwhile.
- Pamela Mahn and Carla attended the Zoom award ceremony for the ITASCSC “Program of the Year” which River Forest Township received for the memoir writing/genealogy programming inspired by Cathaleen. Pam also received the Director of the Year award. Matt is doing a release to spread the good word.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla attended the Youth Services Committee meeting on November 4. It was an excellent meeting. An RFP is being prepared so it can be sent to funders by the end of November.
- Meetings continue with OPRF High School staff and the District#200 Wellness Collaboration to plan the fall parent support group, Connecting Through Comedy, taking place tomorrow night on November 18th. Twenty-three people are registered so far.
- The PYD Committee met. Red Ribbon Week was a success with the skeleton scavenger hunt and red ribbons all around town. Prescription Takeback Day at Oak Park Township yielded 85 pounds of medications. The staff has developed professional ‘Conversation Cards’ for families to use in stimulating conversation around substance use and other issues. The cards are done, and the committee is working on creative ways to distribute the cards to families.

Supervisor’s Report

Carla Sloan

- Carla attended the Administrator’s Forum. New police officers and firefighters are coming on board. Police are juggling Covid exposures and quarantines. The Library is now closed and doing curbside pickup only. The Park District gave the green light to a feasibility study for two new paddle courts and hut. Eric Palm said a covid-related conference call was scheduled for today with the governor and mayors.
- The Annual TOI conference is ongoing this week by Zoom.
- Carla attended fundraisers for NAMI and for Housing Forward on Zoom. Organizations are working hard to keep fundraising efforts going creatively.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve Operating Fund bills as of November 30, 2020 in the amount of \$15,364.76. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Carla gave an update on the River Forest Township Phone/Internet Project as of 11/17/20. She had a handout outlining the Current Situation, the Issues, and Recommended Action Steps. After discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve proceeding with Comcast Business in the next several weeks (with Covid safety) for a bundled internet and phone system not to exceed \$6500 per year. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Carla made a recommendation regarding conversion of some Executive Session minutes to Regular Meeting minutes, starting with Carla Sloan's term as Clerk from November 2009 through May of 2017. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to make this conversion as stated. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- A motion was made by Trustee Helene Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve Resolution 2020-01 Setting Compensation of Township Officials for the Four Year Term Beginning May 18, 2021, with the compensation of the Supervisor and Clerk for the four year term beginning May 18, 2021 and ending May 20, 2025 and of the Assessor for the four year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending January 1, 2026. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman. Supervisor Sloan abstained. Nays: None. The motion passed.
- Carla initiated discussion of the Proposed 2020 Levy with a 2.3% CPI Increase for the Town Fund. This will be voted on at the December meeting.
- Carla talked about the Oak Park and River Forest Home Repair pilot program with a handout for the meeting attendees. The proposed partners in the program are both Townships and both Villages in RF and OP. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve \$1,700 for a one year pilot program participation. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Kelty to adjourn the meeting at 7pm. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk