

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:03PM. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees: Deana Herrman, Keith Strom, Karen Taubman and Helen Connolly. Also present: Clerk Vanessa Druckman, Dick Chappell, Mental Health Services Administrator Sarah Schwarting, and Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation: None.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Herrman and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 regular meeting. Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Strom, Connolly, Taubman, and Herrman. Nays: none. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

As Assessor Kende was not present at the meeting, Clerk Druckman read the Assessor report. Assessor Kende reported the following:

- Assessor Kende said that we were open for appeals with the Cook County Assessor. The appeal period ended July 22nd. It was a busy time. Our Constant Contact information helped spread the word and we had many residents inquire about getting an appeal packet. We fielded calls, created packets that were emailed, left at the front desk and snail mailed to residents. We appealed on-line for many seniors that did not have the computer skills to file their own appeal. We had a major problem with Gmail emails bouncing back. We are trying to resolve this issue.
- Assessor Kende answered inquiries regarding the 2nd installment tax bill. 2nd installment tax bills are delayed. We have been told they may come out in the Fall.
- Assessor Kende has helped seniors and home owners with missing exemptions.
- Assessor Kende sent out a press release to the Village e-newsletter and the Township website.
- Assessor Kende and Kathy attended 15 hours of continuing education classes..

- Assessor Kende attended a Zoom meeting about correcting incorrect data for senior exemptions to help clean up the Cook County Assessor's data base.
- Assessor Kende attended the CCTAA meeting.

Mental Health Services

Sarah Schwarting

- Sarah reported that all agency contracts are complete and all quarter one data is compiled.
- Sarah is gathering resources and tools to help start off the Mental Health Committee. Sarah updated the rules and will send to the committee by the end of next week.
- Supervisor Sloan and Sarah continue to meet on the IPLan with Oak Park Health Department, Leading Health Futures and other partners. IPLAN is in the final stages of working group and community data collection. All four workgroups took place last week surrounding environmental health, gun violence, mental health and access to clinical care. Supervisor Sloan and Sarah attended the community safety/environmental health group for which the Oak Park health dept is looking at the Village of River Forest's Comprehensive Plan and is continuing to conduct research on outcome measures and linking resources and connections to the health dept. All Northern University data is in. Initial reports expected Thursday Aug 11th.
- Sarah said the Positive Youth Development was on hiatus for the summer but will begin meeting again next week.
- Sarah reported that The HUB is getting ready for more training sessions to begin in Oct. Supervisor Sloan and Sarah continue to meet regarding the HUB. Supervisor Sloan added that the HUB is working on training strategies and the agreement with Find Help. The training is scheduled for October.
- Sarah reported that River Forest Township is participating in the NAMI family summit to be hosted on October 16th at Oak Park Library
- Sarah said that the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board wants NAMI to open a 'Living Room' crisis center in Oak Park
- Sarah attended the THRIVE new leader meeting. The main focus for Thrive Counseling Center at this time is to continue to build out the diversity of its staff.
- Sarah announced that the next Behavioral Health Consortium is going to occur on the morning of Wednesday September 7th.
- Supervisor Sloan stated that we just received the contract from Rosecrance today for the substance use referral program at OPRF HS. Our contribution to this program is \$1000 of the total \$5000. Supervisor Sloan will send out the contract to the trustees to review and we will vote on it at the next meeting.
- Supervisor Sloan said that the Funders Collaboration met today for the first time since COVID began. Discussion included the new 988 number, upcoming 211 system, how to better serve clients, and how to have a more effective equity lens.
- Supervisor Sloan said that the Oak Park Township Needs Assessment is awaiting the results from the survey done with Oak Park Community Mental Health Board.

General Assistance

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan said that we continue to have one GA client, with GA being successfully administered by April Dugal at Oak Park Township.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy sent out her monthly River Forest email and weekly Community Connect email. She also submitted information to Oak Park Township for the Village of River Forest News and Views.
- Betsy reported that the Super Senior DMV event took place at the River Forest Community Center this July. Turnout was small.
- Betsy attended the IPlan meeting.
- Betsy announced that she will be taking a tour of accessory dwelling units in Evanston on August 27.
- Betsy said that Mah-Jong lessons began this week at the River Forest Community Center and will continue for the next two weeks. Liz Ziehl has committed to teach more Mah-Jong classes this winter.
- During the last Coffee Monday, Rachel Burlinski from the Oak Park River Forest Museum spoke. The next Coffee Monday is about the River Forest Library.
- This Fall, Betsy is planning to talk to Northwest Housing Partnership about holding more speaker events.
- Betsy and Supervisor Sloan met to discuss homesharing with the replacement for Lisa Shriner. The Village wants to make sure that we have a safety checklist with any homesharing arrangement.
- Betsy met with one potential homesharing client. She has heard from three other people interested in homesharing.
- Betsy is finalizing the homesharing agreement form before submitting it to Attorney Pat Deady for review.
- Betsy met with Nora at Dominican University to discuss the homesharing intake form.
- Betsy announced that Senior Services Committee member Micah Hiblah has left the committee.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman

- Trustee Herrman announced that the next Youth Services Committee will take place on 9/14.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that Youth Services has been busy with the Back to School Backpack Event. They collected school supplies for 200 backpacks through August 5. The family event will be held at Oak Park Township on August 12 to distribute backpacks to families in need.

- Supervisor Sloan stated that the Youth Engagement program continues to be present in our parks this summer. 9/36 clients or 25% are from River Forest. Girls on the Rise is supposed to start at Roosevelt this school year.
- Supervisor Sloan stated that the District 90 Special Needs Department would like to hold a 3-day training meeting at the River Forest Community Center.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan attended the Opportunity Knocks Golf Outing and attended the CSS donor appreciation event.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the TOCC Supervisor Division meeting at Palos Township. They discussed the new Local Government and Efficiency Act.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Conolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve River Forest Township Operating Fund bills as of August 31, 2022 in the amount of \$62,699.37.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Taubman, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Vanessa Druckman provided an update of the website redesign. She met with Hutchinson Associates to provide user review feedback on Home Page, Mental Health Page, and Meetings and Financials Page. She met with Hutchinson Associates and Assessor Kende to review the Assessor Section of Website architecture and copy. Updated the site architecture document on Miro with small changes to assessor pages based on discussion. Hutchinson Associates drafted a mock up of Assessor Page. Hutchinson Associates revised the color of icons for each section of the website.
- Trustee Taubman attended the collaboration sub-committee meeting. District 90 is going forward with the block schedule. There is a new exterior plan at Oak Park River Forest High School. The OPRF Director of Special Education has resigned. The next meeting will take place at the end of September.

New Business

- Trustee Strom made a motion to approve the FY2022 audit report. Trustee Connolly seconded the motion.

Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Strom, Herrman, and Taubman. Nays: none. The resolution was approved unanimously.

- Supervisor Sloan announced that she will be working on the Annual Treasurer Report next month.
- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve a contract with Rosecrance with a contribution of \$1,000. Trustee Strom seconded the motion.

Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Strom, Herrman, and Taubman. Nays: none. The resolution was approved unanimously.

- Supervisor Sloan announced that the Local Government and Efficiency Act has been passed into state law and as a result a committee must be formed to conduct an efficiency study by all taxing bodies by June 2023 and the study must be completed by June 2024. Every township, park district, library, and school district will be producing this study to submit to their county. Discussion ensued.
- Supervisor Sloan proposed a meeting date change from 12/6 to 12/14. Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve the meeting date change. Trustee Herrman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6 pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Taubman to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk