

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 7:31PM. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom.

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

Absent: RFCC executive director Dick Chappell (excused).

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation: None.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 regular meeting.

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

Assessor

Kathy Elliott

- Assessor Kende helped taxpayers pay their tax bills online using their checkbook.
- Assessor Kende filed permits.
- Assessor Kende reported that the Cook County Assessor has again delayed the roll out of all property exemption application forms. Postcards and letters regarding exemption status from the Cook County Assessor will possibly be mailed on April 10th. The automatic renewal for the Senior Freeze and the Veterans Exemption has ended.
- Assessor Kende said that if the oldest member of any River Forest household turns 66 years of age in 2023, they may be eligible for the Senior Exemption. Residents can apply online at www.cookcountyassessor.com.
- Assessor Kende fielded calls regarding Cook County reassessment appeal period. We have not yet been opened. Our opening date has yet to be determined. We are fielding calls and creating a list of residents who are requesting an appeal packet.

- Assessor Kende sent out press releases to newspapers, Village e-newsletter, and the Township website regarding exemptions.

Mental Health Services

Sarah Schwarting

- Sarah reported that Q4 data is being gathered from the agencies and processed.
- Sarah said that about 150 people signed up for Parent University, during which River Forest Township is partnering and sharing a table with Oak Park Township and Positive Youth Development. She added that Parent University is also getting recognized in print in *Forest Leaves* and online on Patch.com because of a press release written by Matt Baron. He and Supervisor Sloan also hope to have at least an online article in the *Wednesday Journal*.
- Sarah reported that the Hub will be going through the ‘sunset’ process
- Sarah stated that the safe2helpil.com resource was shared with the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board. Both she and OP CMHB have reviewed the CRSS curriculum.
- Sarah said that the LOSS support group is meeting here every third Monday of the month and is growing in membership.
- Sarah reported that Positive Youth Development is going to have after school and summer programming this year.
- Sarah announced that the Behavioral Health Consortium met this morning with some great resource sharing and networking. 911 and 988 are shared resources amongst the Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park communities and a task force is meeting to try and make this resource as consistent and trauma informed as possible.
- Sarah said that the Intellectual and Developmental Disability Consortium will meet at the end of this month.
- Supervisor Sloan added that Sarah is continuing to work on the mental health resource guide. Printing cost estimates so far are too high, so we are seeking alternate quotes.

General Assistance

Carla Sloan

- Supervisory Sloan reported that the River Forest Township currently has one GA client.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy reported that she is finalizing Celebrating Seniors Week event planning.
- Betsy said that she distributed Coffee Monday and Celebrating Seniors flyers. At the recent Coffee Monday, Ros Burns spoke about end-of-life options. Weekly mahjong is still going strong here at the RFCC.
- Betsy said she is excited about the launch of the new website and the subsequent planning of her mailing.

Youth and Family Services (YFS)

Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman

- Trustee Herrman said that the Oak Park Community Recreation Center (CRC) will be opening on April 21.
- Trustee Herrman reported that the YFS Committee met to approve the Oak Park only grants. Contracts have not been sent out yet.
- Trustee Herrman said that the Oak Park Public Library has opened a hygiene closet.
- Trustee Herrman said that the 5th annual YFS school supply drive will begin on May 15; they are planning to give out 250 supply-filled backpacks on August 11.
- Trustee Herrman said that Oak Park Township is beginning to plan for the efficiency study. Supervisor Sloan added that school districts have been released from the obligation.
- Supervisor Sloan added that the Girls on the Rise program began at Willard Elementary today.
- Supervisor Sloan said that the Youth Engagement Program (YEP) received a Helen Brock grant for the 4th consecutive year in a row. She added that YEP staff will train the RF Park District staff again this year for summer camps.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan announced that planning continues for the June 22 TOCC spring conference. She added that the supervisors are working on educational breakout sessions which will be held before the meeting; they are trying to get a solid keynote speaker as well. She asked everyone to please save the date.

- Supervisor Sloan said that Cheryl Potts, director of the OP CMHB, is also co-chair of the OP task force on crisis response. That task force is working to improve the response to mental health crisis calls in OP and to work within the new 988 system. Cheryl and Supervisor Sloan met with RF Police Chief O'Shea to update him on the task force.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve River Forest Township operating fund bills as of March 31, 2023 in the amount of \$83,251.57.

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

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve River Forest Township operating fund bills as of April 30, 2023 in the amount of \$13,551.61.

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

Unfinished Business

- Vanessa Druckman provided an update of the website redesign. She received access to edit the website from Hutchinson Associates. She also received valuable feedback from trustees and other stakeholders. She is beginning the final website edits. She owes Hutchinson Associates a picture for Youth Services pages to be completed.
- Trustee Taubman said that there was no March meeting of the Collaboration Sub-Committee, and that membership will soon be changing due to newly elected members of organizations.
- Supervisor Sloan stated that a discussion of front-end services budget will be tabled to the May meeting due to Dick Chappell's absence.

New Business

- Supervisor Sloan announced that she placed a request in the RF Village eNews for two volunteers to serve on the Decennial Committee; so far, there is no response. Two residents from River Forest are required to serve on this committee and to help complete the Efficiency Study.
- Supervisor Sloan gave an overview of the FY2024 funding recommendations and explained the FY2023 revenue shortfall due to the delays in tax bills.

- A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the FY2024 service and funding inter-governmental agreement (IGA) for Township Senior Services with Oak Park Township for \$133,198.

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

- Supervisor Sloan provided an overview of the Youth and Family Services budget and recommended that the I-Search program be funded for \$6,000, which is 100% of their grant application, instead of the 50% the YFS Committee recommended. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve the FY2024 service and funding IGA for Township YFS with Oak Park Township for \$101,675.

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

- A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Herrman to approve the FY2024 funding recommendation for Township Mental Health Services for \$191,260.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Strom, Connolly, Taubman, Herrman, 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, April 16, 2023 at 6PM.

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Strom to adjourn the meeting at 8:36PM. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk