

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, May 17, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll called:**

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Anna Romeo, Mary O'Brien, and Mark Kelty

Absent: Helene Connolly

Also present: Clerk Karen Taubman, Assessor Pamela Kende, Dick Chappell, MH/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, and Senior Coordinator Cathaleen Roach

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular April 12, 2016 meeting, Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Participation**

- Supervisor Sloan presented trustees with a draft of the budget to be voted on during the June meeting. FY16 expenses were below budget primarily due to lower than expected spending for legal and mental health "fee for service" grants, as well as delays in communications and website projects. As a result, the Township fund balance increased in FY16 but will return to F15 levels in FY17. In FY17, administrative costs will be kept relatively flat. Program expenses are planned to increase in the areas of suicide prevention, SibShops, senior services (including the Senior Outreach Coordinator hours), substance use prevention, and increased rates in "fee for service" mental health grants. The total Town Fund budget for 2016-2017 is \$633,000.00 and the budget for General Assistance is \$9,800.00. Trustees discussed minor changes to the budget.

**Assessor**

**Pamela Kende**

- The office continues to assist seniors with their senior exemptions, which must be filed every year. The Township works proactively with seniors to help ensure they file their senior exemptions; otherwise seniors receive incorrect tax bills which need to be adjusted. The deadline has been extended.
- The Board of Review opens in August.
- 2017 is a reassessment year. Assessor Kende is already working with other local assessors to have better communication with Cook County, so we know when we will open for appeals and outreaches can be scheduled for both the assessor and BOR. A mapping meeting will be scheduled as well.

**Mental Health Committee (MHC)/General Assistance (GA)**

**Carla Sloan**

- The Youth & Family Consortium met at the RFCCA on May 5th. Attending mental health agencies updated the group as to what the current service provisions and programs are.
- The MHC committee met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> starting with a presentation from Phil Carmody of Opportunity Knocks (OK). He reviewed the current/future plans for OK including the distribution and sales of their Knockout pickles.
- The Township currently has one GA client. We expect this client to receive SS disability soon.
- Former D90 Superintendent Dr. Tyra Manning spoke at the River Forest Library on her new memoir, which relates her personal journey with mental illness. The event, co-sponsored by the Township and Library, was very well received and attended.

- Supervisor Sloan & Clerk Taubman attended the Thrive Benefit, where Manning was the guest speaker to a sold-out crowd.

### **Senior Services**

**Cathleen Roach**

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrating Seniors week began May 12<sup>th</sup> and continues until Thursday. Over 50 free programs were offered, 8 of which were held at the RFCCA.
- The ICE packets have officially launched, distribution will be ongoing to seniors in River Forest.
- Sloan & Roach represented the Township at the Chicagoland American Society on Aging meeting at Rush Hospital.
- The Oak Park & River Forest Townships are now offering a free legal clinic for low income seniors.
- Author Jane Hamilton will speak at the River Forest Library on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, with stories from her childhood and readings from some of her works.
- RF Township will participate in the Memorial Day Parade, including the Township Senior Services bus.
- Forest Park offers many senior activities at an affordable price to out of district seniors.

### **Youth Services Committee (YSC)**

**Carla Sloan**

- 4 of the 5 River Forest taxing bodies have approved renewal of the Youth Interventionist Program (YIP) IGA; the village has not yet signed IGA
- IMP.A.C.T. has been working with OPRFHS students to determine what messages/media types are the most useful for teens in preventing marijuana use.
- IMP.A.C.T. hosted a panel discussions at RMS with Mary Egan from Rosecrans. The information on heroin and opioids was particularly informative.
- The RF Library has experienced vandalism after school. Sloan has worked with library to bring in the OPRF Youth Interventionists to be more present at the library after school.

### **Supervisor's Comments**

**Carla Sloan**

- Senate Bill 388 still sits in the House Rules Committee. The bill appears to be dead; however, consolidation discussions may continue in Springfield. Sloan had a conference call with Senator Lightfoot, who seemed aware of the River Forest Township's activities.
- At the Administrator's meeting:
  - A pharmaceutical recycling program is now offered at Village Hall, at the suggestion of local Fire Chief Jim Eggert. The recycling program is the first in Cook County. The program is open to residents of Cook County.
  - The village is hiring a PR firm
  - The library has a new website.
- The TOCC dinner is on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sloan, Taubman, and Roach will attend the dinner.

### **Approval of Bills**

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for May 2016 in the amount of \$61,712.38 See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called
  - Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, and Kelty
  - Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance in the amount of \$388.64. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.
  - Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, and Kelty
  - Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business****Carla Sloan**

- None

**New Business****Carla Sloan**

- Illinois Township Day is September 21st. Trustees signed a resolution. Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the resolution that September 21st would be designated Illinois Township Day. Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to a Capitalization Policy as discussed and suggested by our auditor. Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Intergovernmental Agreement for Township Senior Services for FY17 and FY18 was distributed to trustees Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Senior Services. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustee O'Brien, Trustee Kelty, Trustee Romeo Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Supervisor Sloan discussed with trustees the need to increase Cathaleen Roach's hours from 10 hours a week to 15 hours. There are numerous projects which demand attention, and her skills. Trustees discussed and felt Roach's hours could be expanded to meet the needs of the community.

No executive session was held, minutes will be held for a future meeting.

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Trustee Kelty seconded, the motion was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned immediately.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, June 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Taubman, Clerk