

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called:

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

Absent: none

Also present: Clerk Karen Taubman, Abby Schmelling, Attorney Pat Deady, Assessor Pamela Kende, MH/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, and Senior Coordinator Cathaleen Roach

Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular August 16, 2016 meeting, Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

- None

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach

- Wellness Initiatives:
 - Sloan & Roach distributed ICE Packets at a block party on the 400 block of Ashland.
 - We are identifying "block captains" at RF condo and apartment buildings with a high percentage of seniors
- Life Long Learning Initiatives:
 - On August 22nd, 80+ people attended a Downsizing and Decluttering session at the library.
 - The September Coffee Monday was well attended, with a presentation on Senior day trips.
 - Al Popowits did a presentation at the library on "Historical Buildings of River Forest" on August 18th.
 - On September 28th, Charles Troy will present: The Creation of My Fair Lady.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- The Board of Review opened August 1st and closed on August 30th; two outreaches were held in River Forest to assist residents in filing an appeal.
- All permits from the village are up to date. Kende provided statistics to trustees detailing the increase the number and value of the permits. The highest number of permits was in the neighborhood south of Lake Street.
- We continue to receive calls from Attorney and Real Estate agents requesting information.
- Joan Rock, the River Forest Village Finance Director, continues to contact this office looking for "new properties" in order to increase the Village of River Forest tax levy. Kende referred Rock to the Cook County Assessor legal department.
- We are preparing for Township Day.
- We continue to attend the Cook County Township Assessors Meetings.

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

Avis Rudner

- The September 6th MHC meeting was cancelled due to the building power loss.
- Sloan & Rudner continue to meet with Lisa DeVivo in regards to a planned community needs assessment for Oak Park & River Forest.
- Sibshops will resume on September 24th from 11:30-1:30 on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Thrive assisted in updating the flyer. We have done extensive program outreach, with a good number of returning families.
- The last meeting of the developmental disabilities (DD) consortium was on September 18th. The Township is funding their outreach & awareness initiatives.
- The youth & family consortium met on September 7th. Topics and programs discussed include a new young people AA, a resource fair, and a screening at the Lake Theatre called the “Secret World of Recovery”.
- We have one current GA client, and one potential applicant.
- Sloan & Rudner met with the OP Food Pantry about a possible food delivery service.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- The Youth Interventionists are active and present at the RF Library during the after school hours.
- The IMP.A.C.T. School Committee is working on selecting a poster design for the Riskiness of Marijuana Campaign at OPRFHS. The high school is adopting a parent pledge.

Supervisor’s Comments

Carla Sloan

- Sloan expressed an increase in individuals looking for affordable after school child care. Trustees mentioned the OP Day Nursery might be an option, as historically they had a sliding fee.
- Sloan distributed ICE Packets to each of the trustees and assessor, asking them distribute to their neighbors.
- On October 8th, the RF Fire Department is having an open house; they requested the Township be there to distribute ICE packets.
- The JRB met and voted to support the Madison Street TIF.
- Administrators Meeting Highlights:
 - There is now a 3rd social worker at RMS
 - At D90, there is an increased equity emphasis. They have selected a firm to lead them.
 - The RFPD is proceeding with plans for two additional paddle courts.
 - The RFPL has a new drive up book drop, new parking, and a sidewalk to Jackson
 - D200 has a search for a new superintendent, received a federal grant to improve access for AP/honors classes for minority students.
- Romeo represented the Township at a focus group on the search for a new OPRHFS superintendent.
- Sloan distributed fact sheets on the OPRF Pool Project and funding.
- Sloan is attending a TOCC workshop on the election.
- Sloan informed trustees of the deadline to adjust the salaries of the paid elected officials (Supervisor, Assessor, Clerk). The deadline is 180 days prior to the new term of office, November 16th. Sloan requested to discuss during the September meeting, and possibly October; voting in October.
 - Assessor Kende distributed a proposal for a salary increase
 - Supervisor Sloan distributed a proposal for a salary increase for her position based on an increase in hours worked, and for the clerk based on an increase in hours for website updating.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for September 2016 in the amount of \$19,224.15 See enclosure. Trustee Connolly seconded. Roll called.
 - Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, O'Brien, and Romeo
 - Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve September General Assistance in the amount of \$176.90. See enclosure. Trustee Connolly seconded. Roll called.
 - Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, O'Brien, and Romeo
 - Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Carla Sloan

- The Rotary Club has agreed to fund the planned mental health community needs assessment for Oak Park & River Forest, with particular interest in domestic abuse questions. The Village of Oak Park Health Department may contribute as well.
- Illinois Township Day is tomorrow. We have numerous activities planned to include: free ice cream from Brown Cow "scooped" by RF paramedics, musical entertainment by the Desi Vasquez Trio, information tables and a Township Address (inspired by and adapted from the Gettysburg Address) from an Abraham Lincoln re-enactor.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Clerk Taubman provided a written resignation of her position as clerk, due to an increase in her outside work responsibilities to a full-time position, making it difficult to continue to fulfill the office hours, duties, and deadlines required by the clerk.
- Sloan accepted Taubman's resignation and declared the clerk position vacant
- Sloan recommended the appointment of Abby Schmelling as the new clerk. Sloan said there were four very good candidates, but Schmelling stood out with her vast community service record. Supervisor Sloan made a motion to approve Abby Schmelling to fill the vacant River Forest Township Clerk position. Trustee O'Brien. Roll called:
 - Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, O'Brien, and Romeo
 - Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn at 8: 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 October 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Taubman, Clerk