

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday October 18, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, October 18, 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. Trustee Mary O'Brien arrived at 7:10.

Absent: none

Also present: Clerk 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 September 20, 2016 meeting, Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

- Deb Kadin of the *Wednesday Journal* was present.

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- There has been an increase in home sales and sales prices as well as increased questions from attorneys and realtors. Completed permits and verification had been sent back from Cook County.
- Assessor and Deputy Assessor created signage for the "Ask the Assessor" booth at Township Day and attended the event.
- Residents have had many questions regarding new home sale prices and their relationship to their tax bill. Reassessment will be next year in January or February.
- Processed Certificates of Error.
- Attended Cook County Township Assessor Association meeting.
- A mapping meeting for the 2017 tri-annual reassessment has been determined. The meeting will be held in Riverside.

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

Avis Rudner

- Sibshops are underway. There was a kickoff in September, two have met in October and two will meet in November and December. The program continues to be successful, with 14 participants, half new and half returning. We have established that this is an ongoing program, with 14 as an ideal number.
- Supervisor Sloan elaborated on the Community Needs Assessment, being done with the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park. Small grants from Rotary and Oak Park Township have been added, as well as the Health Department of the Village of Oak Park as a third large partner, for a total of \$30,000. The RFP will be sent to approximately five research organizations in early November. The project is scheduled to launch in January, with a targeted completion date of July 1, 2017.

- IMPACT will host a Parent Cafe at Roosevelt School in early November, sponsored by River Forest Township. The topic will be the impact on the teenage brain from alcohol and marijuana use.
- We have one GA recipient and are reviewing another possible recipient. OPRF Food Pantry will be providing home delivered food to the current GA recipient as part of its new program.
- Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program is well underway. Avis referred 4-5 people through the Township. Forms were passed out to sponsor a family and make a donation.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- The Youth Committee met on October 5 with guest speaker Dr. Victor G. of Concordia University to talk about his robotics program, which has doubled its numbers. The Townships and Concordia split the cost.
- IMPACT had its quarterly meeting at the end of September. Ginger Colamussi runs a new student group at OPRF High School called HYPE (Healthy Youth Peer Educators) whose mission is a substance free environment through education. IMPACT is also working on their new website.
- IMPACT is launching a new “Riskiness of Marijuana“ campaign at OPRF. IMPACT’s School Committee selected three posters with input from student focus groups. This will be introduced in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week at the high school.
- Supervisor Sloan also stated that the Illinois Youth Survey data is out. A topline summary of D200 data previously presented to the District 200 Board was shared with the River Forest Township trustees. Sloan will share data for Districts 90 and 97 at a subsequent meeting.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach

- Cathaleen reported on Township Day held on September 21. With a wide range of ages attending, there was strong support and representation from Oak Park Township and Oak Park Township Senior Services. River Forest Township Trustees Anna Romeo and Helene Connelly were there throughout the day. The RFCC staff were very helpful. In addition, River Forest paramedics volunteered to scoop ice cream from Brown Cow. Pam and Deb from the Assessor’s office and Avis with Mental Health had resource tables. Many ICE Packets were passed out.
- There has been an increase in constituent calls due to more effective outreach by the Township.
- Collaboration continues with the River Forest paramedics. Trustee Anna Romeo and Senior Committee member Carol Cox passed out ICE Packets at the Fire Station Open House on Saturday, October 8 where approximately 200 attended.
- The Township Senior Services Committee meets on October 19. RF Township continues our Well-being Initiative by distributing ICE Packets, e.g. to block parties, as well as our Life Long Learning/CSAYL Initiatives. These include a full roster of CSAYL presentations, speakers at Coffee Monday and weekly Computer Labs, all in partnership with the RF Library.
- A new partnership with two local entities that provide free tax preparation to low and moderate income seniors was announced. One is with AARP serving in Forest Park/Franklin Park, and the other is TCE at Triton. We are helping to publicize their free training for local volunteers to help staff the tax preparation offices.

Supervisor’s Comments

Carla Sloan

- The Township has been seeking more involvement with D90 special education parents. Supervisor Sloan was invited and spoke with this group to talk about respite, along with Community Support Services. There was a large turnout. Sloan also talked about Sibshops. There is already one new family on respite.
- Welcome to Clerk Abby Schmelling and thanks to former Clerk Karen Taubman for training assistance.
- The Administrators meeting was held on October 18. Sloan apprised the Board of meeting highlights.
- There will be a Madison Street TIF public hearing will be on Monday, October 24.
- Supervisor Sloan and Clerk Schmelling attended a training on the April election in Hanover Township and will also attend the TOI Conference in Springfield in November.
- Sloan submitted the Annual Treasurer's Report to the Cook County Clerk and the Illinois Comptroller.
- The Township continues to work with River Forest families in financial need and connect them to services including the Food and Gift Basket program.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for October 2016 in the amount of \$22,936.89. Trustee O'Brien seconded the motion. Roll was called: Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Kely and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance in the amount of \$ 388.66, seconded by Trustee O'Brien. Roll was called: Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Kely and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

Carla Sloan

The setting of salaries for the elected officials for the next four years will be voted upon at the next meeting. The formal recommendations have not yet been made by Supervisor Sloan, but the recommendations will be ready at the November meeting to review and be voted upon.

Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee O'Brien seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on November 15 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Schmelling, Clerk

