

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, December 6 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 Helene Connolly, Mark Kelty, Mary O'Brien and Anna Romeo.

Absent: none

Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, MH/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, and Senior Coordinator Cathaleen Roach

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the regular November 15, 2016 meeting, Trustee Connolly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation- None

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

Assessor Kende was absent, but provided a written report indicated below:

- Answered phone calls regarding what the first installment tax bill will be. (55% of last year's tax bill.)
- Explained why one needs a Home Owner's waiver when owning two properties and having an exemption on both.
- Fielded questions regarding what the Board of Review reduction means and how it will affect their tax bill and when it takes affect (2nd installment of 2017).
- Processed a Disabled Veteran's exemption (This exemption will give the homeowner a \$0 tax bill).
- Input sales data. Sent out new homeowners letters.

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

Avis Rudner

- The Sibshops will end December 17 for the fall session. There will be an upcoming meeting with Thrive staff to plan for the spring.
- Funding applications for Mental Health are due back on December 14. The 2017 budget will be the focus for the Mental Health Committee for the next couple of months.
- There are two GA clients and the Holiday Food and Gift Basket delivery is scheduled for Saturday, December 10.
- NAMI information was passed out to the trustees about their upcoming education and advocacy series.

- Oak Leyden's Director Bob Atkinson has retired and there is an interim director.
- Carla reported that the Needs Assessment has received three fees as reported by the Oak Park Health Department. A matrix will be developed to evaluate the three. A decision has to be made by December 15. Two were local and one from out of town.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- There will be a Youth Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 7. The Committee is looking for a new member in the new year. Newest member Sara Mayeda will attend.
- The number of Youth Interventionists is down to one. River Forest is coordinating with Bert Patania concerning River Forest family situations that are dire.
- There was a SAMSA grant meeting earlier on December 6 about the formation of a strategic plan. This meeting looked at the top five contributing factors to alcohol usage numbers 8th to 12th graders: retail access, permissive parent norms, permissive social norms, youth norms and access via parties. All are linked. These will be ranked and then goals and strategies set. The State sets the mandates the process.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach.

- We are in discussion with LOSS, the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide Program sponsored by Catholic Charities, although it is non-denominational. We are hoping to collaborate with them by offering them space for a six week program beginning in March or sooner if the logistics can be worked out. There is hope of developing a long term relationship between River Forest Township and LOSS along with NAMI to have a much-needed West Side access.
- News on Life-Long Learning Programs: Saturday's program, co-sponsored with the River Forest Library featured *Christmas in the Holy Land* with Bill Helmuth and was attended by 27 people. It was well received. Monday's December Coffee Monday was well-attended also with eleven seniors and a lively and very well-received talk by our own Matt Baron, on numbers.
- Cathaleen reported on other outreach for December: Previously we have advertised tax preparation *training* for volunteers wanting to work with two local tax preparation programs assisting low-to-moderate income seniors. Now we are switching outreach to look for local seniors *who need the tax prep assistance*.
- Cathaleen reported that Encore Chorale of Oak Park/River Forest's first concert will be December 10 at 4pm at Good Shepard Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph Street in Oak Park. We are a first-year member of the largest and fastest-growing choral organization for older adults, and we are listed as co-sponsors of the ensemble. After Saturday's concert, they are taking new members through January 17 for spring weekly meetings and a Spring Concert is planned.
- In development, there are early plans with local resident Chris Hauri for a four week evening IMPROV group for seniors. Seniors would meet and work with Chris, who is trained in improv, at the Township once a week, likely beginning in March.

- A retreat is planned for the OPRF Senior Committee on Saturday January 14 to chart out what projects they as a Township Advisory Board would like to pursue in depth next.
- Carla Sloan reported that a new condo building request for ICE packets came from the E-News.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan.

- There was discussion of the annual dinner set for after the January meetings for 7:30 pm at Francesca Fiore's.

Approval of Bills

- Supervisor Sloan and the Trustees had a general discussion on the number and consistency of hours for the billing of legal services. It was decided to approve the legal billing for September only. Consequently, \$2,460.90 to Hogan Marren, Ltd. was removed from the Transactions by Account as of December 31, 2016. Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills totaling \$49,040.05. Trustee O'Brien seconded the motion. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Kelty and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance in the amount of \$118.22 It was seconded by Trustee O'Brien. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Kelty and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- The Annual Town Levy for the Town of River Forest for the 2016 Tax Year was approved: The Levy had been reviewed in November with an increase of .7% to \$573,106 for the Town Fund and \$10,000 for the General Assistance Fund for a total of \$583,106. A motion was made by Trustee Romeo and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the Annual Town Levy for the Town of River Forest for the 2016 Tax Year for the grand total of \$573,106 of which \$572,106 is for the Town Fund and \$10,000 is for the General Assistance Fund. . Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Kelty and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- There was discussion of the proposed new Mental Health Committee member Dennis Healy. Avis met with him and he completed the application was approved by the rest of their Committee. A motion was made by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve Dennis Healy to the Mental Health Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- There was discussion to approve the Township meeting dates for 2017. The annual meeting will be set for April 18, the third Tuesday of April. A motion was made by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Trustee Connolly to accept the 2017 calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kelty seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Abby Schmelling, Clerk