

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, March 21 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 Mary O'Brien and Anna Romeo and Helene Connolly

Absent: Trustee Mark Kelty, Assessor Pamela Kende.

Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, MH/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, Patrick Deady and Dick Chappell.

Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular February 21, 2017 meeting, Trustee Connolly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation - None

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- February was a very busy month.
- River Forest was open for the triennial assessment appeals with the Cook County Assessor. and hosted a community outreach meeting with the Cook County Assessor in which approximately ninety people attended.
- Two press releases were sent out to the newspaper, Village e-newsletter and Township website.
- There was coordination with Riverside and Oak Park Townships regarding the appeal process.
- The assessor attended the Cook County Assessors Association meeting.
- Totals: 622 phone calls, 284 e-mails, 105 visitors, 96 senior exemptions and 42 homeowner and other exemptions, 383 appeal packets, Board of Review 25, Other (i.e. name change, notary, lawyers) 17 and 24 tax bills.

There was discussion by the trustees about these totals and to provide these statistics through the website or a press release. Pam pointed out how condo owners can appeal as an association but also separately if they so choose, since they have the right to do so.

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

Avis Rudner

- Carla and Avis attended the third PIAT (Piecing It All Together) NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) Conference on Saturday March 18 at Dominican University. It was a daylong conference consisting of ten workshops, a keynote speaker and networking. PIAT strives to bring parents of children who have a mental health condition together with school and mental health professionals. The keynote speaker was Amanda Moreno who spoke about School as Stressor. Also discussed was mindfulness and related practices to reduce stress and increase compassion in classrooms. Several members of the Mental Health Committee attended as well as representatives of the Township's funded agencies. The Township introduced the panel for the afternoon kickoff and also had a resource table.
- Oak Leyden Development Services has selected Bertha Magana as their new Executive Director. Ms. Magana has recently served as Interim Executive Director.
- John Meister, President and Executive Director of Thrive has been named by the Board of Directors as a permanent replacement for Nina Allen.
- The Mental Health Committee will meet on April 4 to make their funding recommendations to the River Forest Trustees.
- There are two GA clients.
- Way Back Inn has reapplied for a grant after several years.
- Carla commented on the Needs Assessment Survey which has a deadline of April 15. The survey is live. The link has been sent to dozens of organizations. District 90 put it in the Primer newsletter and it has also been sent to special ed parents, AWN for seniors and NAMI for people with mental health issues. Paper surveys are also available. Avis will attend the meeting on March 27 to discuss next steps.
- The LOSS (suicide survivor support) group has been meeting since March 2. There are five participants. It may be moved to a drop-in format in the future like Sibshops.
- There is one Sibshop left on April 22 until the fall. The same model will be kept and we will try to get Oak Park funding for Oak Park kids in July.
- Carla went to the Special Ed parent group at Willard and talked about behavior strategies.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- The Youth Services Committee met March 1 to make grant recommendations. More details will be available at the May meeting.
- IMPACT Coalition met on March 20. There is progress on installing the bathroom stall holders for the HYPE student group newsletter, the Stall Street Journal. The pilot is on the first floor of the high school with the first issue in April. IMPACT is holding a parent education forum on April 6 at the Buzz Cafe to increase interest and attendance. It will be a panel discussion with police, someone

from Rosecrance and Ginger from the high school. What is learned will be applied to the November forum and will help shape the April forum which we will sponsor.

- The Alcohol prevention grant summary is in the board packet and is a very concise and excellent summary of the work group's activity over the past year.
- Two workshops on opioids are coming up: March 21 and April 7 at Riveredge Hospital. This conversation is starting to gain momentum.
- A new member is still being sought for the Committee.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach.

- Cathaleen went over the senior services materials in the monthly packets including Celebrating Seniors Week. Detailed planning for this May's Celebrating Seniors Week continues
- The events since last month's meeting included the Library program Thursday, March 9 Organizing Small Spaces for Seniors with professional organizer Beth Randall and Coffee Monday in Early March with great participation and turnout for Volunteer Day which had four programs represented: Joan Gumbel from Animal Care League, Oak Park Food Pantry which utilizes and welcomes hundreds of volunteers of all ages; Oak Park Township Senior Services-Meals on Wheels and Illinois Volunteer Monday Management.
- The Computer Lab free weekly workshops are back up again after the two week break.
- There was a Celebrating Seniors Week Planning session with the Senior Committee. It was a retreat-like dinner meeting at OPTSS and Chris Hauri facilitated a brainstorm session about what specific projects the Committee members want to focus on in the upcoming year. Using skillful discussion and voting, Chris led the group to consensus. The group will focus on developing a centralized information resource telephone line what is volunteer-staffed and a neighbors' Campaign using the block-to-block structure to increase awareness of and care for neighboring seniors.
- Cathaleen attended the HALE Expo sharing a table with the River Forest Library on March 2 at the Nineteenth Century Club.
- Desiree Scully has retired with a sendoff on March 3 at OPT. Oak Park Township has asked us to participate in the interview process for her successor. Cathaleen and Carla will be tag teaming for this.
- Matt interviewed another centenarian so there are now three interviews for our 100th Anniversary. Harriet Hausman and Marian Brennen will be receiving 60 over 60 awards. Chris Hauri will also be getting one.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan.

- The Statement of Economic Interest is due May 1 and email reminders have been sent.

- Carla attended the Administrators Meeting and discussed their agenda on utilizing existing space; resurfacing the Washington Park tennis courts; the Lake and Park start over; the North Avenue TIF; and the Fresh Thyme August 1 opening.
- Carla continues to work on the website to bring it up to date and has met with Abby to continue in this effort.
- Carla had to redo her speech for the uncontested candidates.
- The June 20 meeting is being moved to June 13.

Approval of Bills

- After discussion, Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills totalling \$41,568.56. It was seconded by Trustee Connolly. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance in the amount of \$659.10. It was seconded by Trustee Connolly. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- No Unfinished Business

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Approval of the River Forest Public Library funding request for computer learning labs of \$1080 was discussed. The decrease in projected cost is attributed to having only one instructor and an August hiatus. The estimated total cost is \$2160 with 50% paid each by the Township and Library. A motion was made by Trustee Romeo and seconded by Trustee O'Brien to fund the request of \$1080. The motion passed unanimously.
- The next grant request brought up was from IMPACT for \$600 to fund their parent education forum in November that has been held in the past at Roosevelt. This is for the middle school population in River Forest in particular but open to everybody. A lengthy discussion concluded with a request from the trustees for a revision of this request..
- Another grant request from IMPACT for Youth Coordinator/Director Services for 2017-2018 Contractual Services was discussed. Trustees were referred to a description of Director Dr. Bakahia Madison's sheet of year 2016 IMPACT accomplishments as well as a detailed proposal sheet. After further discussion. A motion was made by Supervisor Sloan to approve funding for fiscal year 2018 for projects done by the Director of IMPACT for \$5,000. The motion was not seconded. A second motion was then made by Trustee O'Brien to Not approve funding for grant development, IT development and special data collection projects for \$5,000 to IMPACT. Trustee Romeo seconded the motion. Roll call: Ayes: Trustee O'Brien, Trustee Romeo. Nays: Trustee Connolly, Supervisor Sloan. The motion did not pass. This item will be put on again on the April agenda.
- There was a motion made by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Trustee Connolly for approval of the agenda for 2017 Annual Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- There was a motion made by Trustee Romeo and seconded by Trustee O'Brien to approve Ann O'Connell as a new Township Senior Services Committee member. The motion passed unanimously.

The board went into Executive Session at 8:28 pm to discuss an employment issue. The regular meeting resumed at pm. The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 7:00 pm (following the 6:30 pm Annual Town Meeting). Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Connolly seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Abby Schmelling, Clerk