

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, May 16. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan.

Swearing In

Newly elected River Forest Township officials were sworn in. Cathaleen Roach swore in Supervisor Carla Sloan and then Supervisor Sloan swore in Township Clerk Abby Schmelling and Trustees Mark Kelty, Helene Connolly, Karen Taubman and Holly Economos.

Roll Call

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Mark Kelty, Helene Connolly, Karen Taubman and Holly Economos..

Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, RFCC Facilities Administrator Dick Chappell and guests Desiree Scully-Simpkins and Pamela Mahn of Oak Park Senior Services.

Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the regular April 18, 2017 meeting, Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously by the three officials who attended the April meeting: Supervisor Sloan and Trustees Connolly and Kelty.

Public Participation

Supervisor Sloan introduced the outgoing Director of Township Senior Services Desiree Scully-Simpkins and Pamela Mahn, her replacement as Director of Township Senior Services. Desiree and Pam made comments about their new positions. Supervisor Sloan then read the River Forest Township Proclamation, Resolution 2017-03 Commending Desiree Scully-Simpkins which was then signed by the six River Forest Township officials.

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- All 2016 Exemptions are now closed. All 2016 exemptions will need a Certificate of Error. These Certificates of Error Applications will not be processed without proper ID.
- The Illinois Department of Revenue has issued the final 2016 equalization factor for Cook County. It is 2.8032. The community tax rate for River Forest is expected to be announced in June.
- Tax bills are due out on time this year. They should be mailed by July 1st with a due date of approximately August 1.
- The Assessor attended the Cook County Township Assessor Association meeting as well as updated the Sidewell maps.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach.

- Since last month, River Forest Township, as part of its ongoing partnership with Celebrating Seniors All Year Long (CSAYL), co-sponsored two Sunday programs and one monthly Coffee Monday, at the RF Library: 1. *Architectural Interior Design Workshop* with Designer Maura Braun, Sunday April 23; and 2. EduTainer Dr. Lesilie Goddard's hugely successful "*Hamilton's Women*" with 50 attendees, held Sunday May 7. 3. May Coffee Monday. Twelve people attended this month's Coffee, which featured a "Summer Reads" preview with two librarians. There is a steady increase in Coffee Monday attendance.
- Carla and Cathaleen attended the great kick off dinner for Celebrating Seniors Week last week, held at the 19th Century Club honoring our nominees for the "Sixty over 60" program. Cathaleen gave trustees the listing of the River Forest events, and a reprint of the excellent publicity received in the Wednesday Journal featuring the Township's new addition "Movement, Memory and Joyful Aging."
- Carla and Cathaleen attended a meeting at the River Forest Library, and later participated in a scheduled focus group held at the library following the Hamilton Women presentation on May 7th. The Township participated in the focus group with the Library and requested community input on restructuring and improving the "Wednesday Computer Labs," which we are being rebranded as "Connect with Tech" for our seniors. We had a small turnout for the focus group, but gleaned extremely insightful and helpful information. There is a second focus group scheduled this month to continue our community input for the re-branding/restructuring efforts.
- Cathaleen represented River Forest Township in the very well run and very successful four hour *Volunteers Meet and Greet*. This was held at the Oak Park Library last month, April 26, from 4 - 8 p.m., hosted by the Oak Park Community Foundation.
- The Township Senior Committee sub-committees are beginning their new work, following the focus retreat led by Chris Hauri. The Subcommittee on "Good Deeds" is meeting here next week for a working luncheon.
- We continue with our important liaison work with the Encore Chorale, who are performing as part of Celebrating Seniors Week and are soliciting for their Fall chorale sign-up. Also, Senior Outreach will participate in the Memorial Day parade in River Forest and has begun plans for the September 21, 2017 Township Day events, highlighting River Forest Township's 100th birthday.
- Carla added that page seven of the Celebrating Seniors Resource Guide has a nice ad for River Forest Township highlighting our offerings for this year's Celebrating Seniors Week events located in River Forest. Carla also commented on the Ribbon Fest

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

Avis Rudner

- Preliminary funding letters are being prepared to mental health agencies. Almost all of the agencies are on a July to June fiscal year and are preparing their own budgets.
- Our guest for our May Health Committee meeting was Bertha Magana, Executive Director of Oak Leyden. Ms. Magana brought Program Director Rachel Wood with her. We received a very informative review of Oak Leyden's Early Intervention program.

- We have two General Assistance clients and another River Forest resident inquiry was received.
- Carla added information about the Community Health Needs Assessment. The report was issued Friday evening to all stakeholders analyzing the survey results and available health data. The stakeholders will have their first meeting on Thursday May 18 to identify problem areas and priorities based on the report. Significant time was spent recruiting stakeholders sending out “save the dates” and ensuring attendance at the kickoff meeting. Four more stakeholder meetings follow and will be completed by the end of June. Color copies will be available at the budget hearing for the Trustees.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- The Youth Committee met on May 3 but Carla was unable to attend. Concerning the Alcohol Prevention grant, Vicki Scaman is no longer the Coordinator and a search is underway to replace her. The work continues. Based on the strategies set forth over the last year, five teams have formed which will implement the strategies. Youth Engagement Team, Parent Engagement Team, Community Team, Policy Team and Data Team. Recruitment for those teams is underway.
- IMPACT and District #200 alcohol prevention staff are coordinating activities for National Prevention Week next week at the high school. They wanted to get the word out about their efforts and we engaged Matt Baron to do an article in support of their efforts; they are very grateful.
- Carla reported on the Council of Government meeting. Because it is the middle of the two-year youth interventionist program grant cycle, Bert Patania, the head of the youth interventionists and John Williams, the Director of Youth Services gave a state of the youth interventionist program to the many funders at the meeting. Bert especially covered the homeless families in River Forest, the financial need that exists, the mental health issues they are addressing and the increase in violence.

Supervisor’s Comments

Carla Sloan.

- The hearing on the budget will be May 23 at 7 pm. The draft budget has been sent out. The major funding elements will be brought up under new business.
- Carla met with Howard Brundage to review the breakdown of our insurance costs for fy2018. The good news is there are no increases from last year. Carla explained the insurance fy2018 handout with a total of \$13,287, showing that the insurance did not go up.
- The design of our 100th anniversary logo is complete. We are going to make the banner which will hang on the side of the building, and there will be new provisions for hanging other banners. Carla presented copies of two banners, one with and one without the website listed. The banner with the website listed will probably be selected. We have ordered new items to give away at the parade and Celebrating Seniors Week.
- We are starting to plan for Township Day on September 21 and are looking for community groups for musical entertainment.

- Carla gave thanks to all who could attend. More people are needed who can walk fast along side the bus and car and hand out pens, candy, etc.
- The Townships of Cook County (TOCC) spring conference is Wednesday, May 17. Carla thanked all who will be attending.
- Carla gave a Legislation update. She reported with great sadness that Tim Bramlet, the TOI lobbyist, passed away the past weekend after a brave fight with esophageal cancer. Tim was a great supporter of Illinois townships and went the extra mile to help legislators understand what we do and the value we provide to residents. Tim was a huge help to Carla personally during HB4425 when the Village of River Forest and Rep. Chris Welch tried to eliminate River Forest Township. The day I had to testify in Springfield, Tim was very supportive and instructive. TOCC will be making a donation in his memory to a scholarship fund at U of I.
- Carla attended Township Topics Day in Springfield on April 26. Controller Susanna Mendoza was the keynote speaker and made clear the disastrous impact that not having a budget has on the ability to pay the State's bills.
- Carla met with with Rep Chris Welch and Senator Lightford. Made it clear to them that the House bill which passed was a hostile "one size fits all" bill aimed at coterminous Townships, and that the Senate bill which passed is at least more "palatable". Senator Harmon has since amended the House bill so that it more mirrors the Senate bill. Welch made it clear that a Township consolidation bill is a bargaining chip of the governor in return for a budget. Carla reiterated that Township consolidation will not lower a single property tax bill and will have no impact on the State being able to balance a budget or pay its bills. She also emphasized that the Township is paying its bills, whereas the State is not.
- Fresh Thyme Market is scheduled to open June 21. Concordia's new dorm opens on August 20. On May 31 at 5 pm, Washington School friezes will be installed at the District #90 administration building by Lincoln School. The 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther will be commemorated in October by Concordia University including a rare books display, a celebration day and a Christian clergy panel with Cardinal Supich. River Forest Fire Chief Jim Eggert is retiring and is being replaced by Kurt Bowman who has been in the dept a long time.
- Safe Disposal of Unused/Expired prescriptions and over the counter medicine (pill form only) is available at Village Hall. The Township wants to promote this because it is both important from a substance use prevention standpoint as well as an environmental perspective and touches on all Township areas: seniors, youth, and mental health.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Connolly made a motion for approval of bills as of May 31, 2017 of \$50,919.56. Trustee Taubman seconded the motion. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Kelty, Taubman and Economos. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve the General Assistance bill of \$679.10. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Kelty, Taubman and Economos. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan reviewed preparation work with the Trustees for some of the larger items that will be brought up in the Budget Hearing in more detail:
 1. Funding recommendations of the Mental Health Committee, Township Senior Services and the Youth Services Committee. Carla thanked the volunteer committee members for their time.
 2. A proposed hourly increase for the Mental Health/GA Administrator from \$32/hr to \$33/hr, approximately 3%. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos of this \$1/ per hour increase effective June 1. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Economos, Kelty and Taubman, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
 3. The need to lease a new color copier to replace the office black and white copier bought by the Township. Carla will get two or three bids.

The Board went into Executive Session to approve the minutes of the April 16 Executive Session at 8:12 pm. The regular meeting resumed at 8:16 pm. The next meetings of the Board will be the FY 2018 Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 23 at 7pm and the next regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 13 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Abby Schmelling, Clerk

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF Trustees
Executive Session
Tuesday, May 21, 2017**

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Supervisor Sloan and seconded by Trustee Kelty. Clerk Abby Schmelling called the roll. Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Economos and Supervisor Sloan were present along with Clerk Abby Schmelling. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Sloan at 8:12 pm.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 18 Executive Session was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion passes unanimously.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Supervisor Sloan and seconded by Trustee Kelty at 8:15 pm. The motion passed unanimously.