

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 6:00 pm

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll called**

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Karen Taubman and Helene Connolly. Trustees Holly Economos and Mark Kelty were absent. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell, Attorney Patrick Deady, Assessor, Pam Kende, and Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator, Avis Rudner.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2018 minutes. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the minutes of the special meeting of October 3, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Participation – none**

**Reports**

**Assessor**

**Pamela Kende**

Assessor Pamela Kende reported the following activities:

- Updated the VPN system to connect with the Cook County Assessor
- Received recertification of her Certified Illinois Assessing Officer license, CIAO
- Sent permits to Cook County
- Board of Review decisions were sent to home owners. Fielded questions regarding what the reductions mean, and, if filed with a lawyer, how they came up with the fees.
- Answered multiple questions regarding a new sale price vs. an addition to a home and the impact on the assessment and tax bills.
- Attended Cook County Township Assessor Association meeting.
- Certificates of Error—processed senior and homeowners exemptions.

## **Mental Health Services/General Assistance**

**Avis Rudner**

- The funding applications went out two weeks ago and will be back before Christmas.
- Trustee Economos attended the mental health committee meeting.
- Carla talked about Aunt Bertha which now has a website name, nicknamed the HUB @healthconnectionhub.org, (also bought .net, .com, and .edu); and a logo that was explained that it is a clearinghouse, single point of entry. There are participants for the pilot: District #97 social workers, New Moms, Thrive, Seguin, Housing Forward and Senior Services. The first implementation meeting is December 10.
- The Fire Department approached the Township to help put together kits for the homeless. We are donating socks, tissues, hand warmers, cough drops and Chapstick. Some kits will go to the police department. Also included are Housing Forward Street Cards. We are meeting with the Housing Forward Street Team which the Township funds, to connect the Street Team with our first responders.
- There is still one GA client with an application pending for a second person.

## **Youth Services**

**Carla Sloan**

- Carla was not able to attend the Youth Services Committee meeting; she noted the YSC is gearing up for the grant review process and site visits.

## **Senior Outreach Coordinator**

**Cathaleen Roach**

- Cathaleen and Avis met on November 7 with Amanda Kuhn, Social Services Director at the Oak Park Food Pantry. She provided them with what free services she provides anyone as part of the Pantry's Food Assistance Program, especially to our elderly and mentally ill callers. Recently we have referred several of our constituent callers to the OPFP.
- We are working with Triton's RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) and Arbor West Neighbors on getting the word out for the upcoming training to be volunteer tax preparers for local low-income seniors. Training is free and starts right after January 1 for five consecutive Saturdays. Volunteers are then certified by the IRS to volunteer.
- Email Carla or Cathaleen to nominate River Forest's allotted percentage of "60 Seniors Over 60" making a difference, to honor during Celebrating Seniors Week 2019 in May. A nomination form was in the Trustees' folders.
- Cathaleen attended another onsite meeting at the local West Clook American Job Center with a River Forest resident looking for work, and the director Laina Krisik as part of our ongoing outreach on assisting mature workers connect with job placement services.

- Cathaleen represented the Township at a community meeting held at Village Hall to get River Forest certified as Illinois Dementia Friendly. Cathaleen and Pam Mahn have prepared a draft flow chart listing all local government, nonprofit and private business resources available to anyone diagnosed with dementia.
- Cathaleen and Carla attended the Library's morning-long planning meeting for the three year plans for the Library.
- In partnership with River Forest Library and 'Celebrating Seniors All Year Long', Cathaleen mentioned Coffee Monday on November 5 that featured Denise Murphy from the Mohr Community Center in Forest Park about their senior trips.
- 'FDR' had a Fireside Chat with more than 55 attendees, and at Film Lovers Friday, 'It's a Wonderful Life' was shown. Next month on Saturday December 8, historian Leslie Goddard will speak about the 'Making of It's a Wonderful Life'.
- Sunday December 9 will be Bingo For Books celebrating National Bingo Month.
- December 8 is the ENCORE concert.
- Trustee Taubman reported on the senior committee meeting.
- Carla talked about Dementia Friendly River Forest and the next meeting on Monday, November 26.
- Senior pickleball started at the indoor tennis club at Lake and Ridgeland on Wednesdays at 1 pm. There is a small group coming from last year but they want to add new people.
- Arbor West Neighbors had a Neighbors Asset Mapping meeting.

### **Supervisor's Report**

**Carla Sloan**

- Carla attended the Community Funders group meeting. This is a group of 708 mental health boards and foundations who fund mental and physical health care in the western suburbs.
- Riveredge Hospital hosted the annual Women in Leadership Conference.
- Carla attended the Library Strategic Planning meeting.
- Carla spoke about the services provided by the Township at the Elections Forum held by the River Forest Civic Association.
- Carla attended the TOI Conference in Springfield.

- Carla attended the YEMBA (Educating Our Youth, Mentally, Physically and Spiritually) fundraiser. It was founded by Ed Redd and provides a coed mentoring environment after school for District #97 middle school kids and stresses academics, financial literacy and life values.
- Carla attended the Community Business Managers meeting where Anthony Cozzi presented District #90's financial picture. Carla also met the new financial people at District #97 and District #200.

### **Approval of Bills**

Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of November 30, 2018 totalling \$43,271.15. It was seconded by Trustee Taubman. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of November 30, 2018 totalling \$482.24. It was seconded by Trustee Taubman. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Carla presented a explained the draft of the proposed 2018 Levy (with an increase in the CPI of 2.1%) to be approved in December. Discussion and questions followed.
- Public Act 100-0983: Township Clerk attestation to payments, was discussed and Attorney Deady provided further comments. This attestation will be part of the minutes for River Forest Township beginning in January.

### **New Business**

- Carla presented a preliminary 2019 Township Meeting Dates prepared by the Clerk to be approved in December.
- Carla talked about the proposed increase to our monthly GA grant. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to go from \$300 to \$350 effective January 1, 2019 in the Flat General Assistance Grant. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Carla spoke about Emergency Assistance. Carla has ordered the manual to determine a possible plan.

A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman, at 6:50 pm. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting resumed at 7:05 pm.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, December 4 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Taubman. The motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk