

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called:

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Anna Romeo, Mary O'Brien, Veronica Belmonte, Mary Kelty

Absent: none

Also present: Clerk Karen Taubman, Assessor Kende, Mental Health/GA Administrator Rudner, Attorney Deady, RFCC Executive Director Dick Chappell, Jane Schlichting, and Deb Kadin

Trustee Belmonte made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2014 regular meeting. Trustee Romeo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

- none

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- The Cook County Assessor has mailed senior exemption and freeze forms to homeowners who have had the exemption in the past. The River Forest office is assisting seniors in filling out the forms. Assessor Kende has sent a notification out to "prime" seniors, those who are first year qualifiers for the exemption, requesting they send in the proper documentation to secure the exemption.
- River Forest may be open for appeals as soon as next week, an actual date has yet to be given. Once the appeal process is open, Assessor Kende will hold an outreach for residents.
- The office continues to do a lot of clarification on permits with the village for Cook County.
- For the upcoming River Forest Village newsletter, Assessor Kende will provide appeal information.

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

Avis Rudner

- We are continuing our planning for the sibling support group, SibShop, with Thrive and NAMI. We will meet with them to finalize details in February.
- Mental Health Resource Directory is in the final stages of preparation and will be distributed throughout the Village in the next 30 days.
- Funding applications have been received, and funding decisions will be made by the Mental Health Committee in February and March.
- The NAMI Illinois PIAT North Conference will be held at Dominican University in River Forest on Saturday, March 21st. This northern Illinois mental health conference is open to the public.
- Our GA recipient is now receiving Social Security Benefits, with much guidance from Ms. Rudner, and will no longer be receiving GA. A new GA recipient will be starting in February.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- The YSC committee meeting was held on January 14th, commencing the grant application process. When considering funding, committee members need to ensure that programs target River Forest residents and their needs.
- Beth Kirchenberg is the new River Forest Library Middle School/Teen Services Librarian, and will be

directing their after school programming. Supervisor Sloan will meet with Ms. Kirchenberg to discuss the Township and our support of their programming.

- Supervisor Sloan has been working with Kathie Kane-Willis from Roosevelt University to network in River Forest and pave the way for her to collect data for the White Paper project. Supervisor Sloan worked with River Forest Police and I-Search to identify staff to interview. The police agreed to provide quantitative data. Supervisor Sloan and Ms. Kane-Willis met with D90 as well.
- Holiday Food & Gift Basket provided a written summary report to trustees.
- There will be an IMP.A.C.T. Parent Café at OPRFHS on January 26th at 6:30pm.

Senior Services

Carla Sloan

- Thus far in January, we have co-hosted with the River Forest Library two Senior Health Series events: a talk on hearing/hearing loss and another on stroke prevention and emergencies. Upcoming talks include navigating Medicare and arthritis care.
- Supervisor Sloan expressed her gratitude for the Village providing space in their newsletter, as it has been a tremendous resource to the Township in communicating with residents, especially seniors.
- The Senior Cab Coupon books have been redesigned (in house); the Village will assist in selling these to seniors.
- January 29th is the kick off meeting of 5th annual Celebrating Seniors Week.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan

- From the January 12th Administrators Meeting highlights include:
 - The Village is applying for TIF funds on Madison and North Avenue
 - The River Forest Library has reapplied for afterschool funding from the Township and also has started a foundation to enable fundraising for a capital campaign.
 - D90 has started their 5 year strategic plan process.
 - The River Forest Fire Department reported the Citizen Council Volunteer Core obtained 501(c) (3) status and can begin fundraising.
 - River Forest Police Chief, Gregory Weiss, requested the Township involve the police in outreach with SibShop opportunities
- Trustees discussed the most recent Township brochure, "What Can Your Township Do for You". The Township printed a mailing quantity with Oak Park's order, planning to do a fall mailing, which did not materialize. The brochure is now out of date, so Trustees agreed to wait until a new brochure was printed to execute the new mailing.
- With more programming, a need has arisen for a projector for presenters to use with their laptop when doing a presentation, or for use when showing movies to seniors. The approximate cost would be \$600 inclusive of audio speakers.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Belmonte made a motion to approve bills for January 2015 in the amount of \$46,402.22. See enclosure. Trustee Romeo seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Belmonte, Kelty
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Belmonte made a motion to approve general assistance for January 2015 in the amount of \$333.66. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Belmonte, Kelty
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Carla Sloan

- None

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Trustees discussed adopting a Township Services Agreement with the RFCC, to include front end services, bookkeeping, and IT/server. Attorney Deady advised preparing a formalized agreement so trustees could vote, and the agreement became part of the permanent records. It was agreed that because the RFCC would be providing the services, the Township should request the RFCC provide a letter of understanding detailing the services to be performed and the cost.
- Ron Orzel, President of the Board of Directors of IMP.A.C.T., has made an office space request for Susie Bohun. There is only a need for desk space, files, and a copy machine. They are willing to reimburse the Township for photocopy expenses.
 - Trustee O'Brien made a motion to allow IMP.A.C.T. to use Township space on a part-time basis at no cost, but to reimburse us for any usage of administrative materials. Trustee Belmonte seconded.
- Supervisor Sloan discussed with trustees consideration of hiring a 10 hour or less a week part-time position to assist with senior outreach. Each program requires a tremendous amount of planning from concept to completion. She envisioned an independent contractor (as opposed to employee), with variable hours. A wide range of skills is important from computer skills to ability to plan and staff an event. Trustees asked if the committee would be able to help Supervisor Sloan. Supervisor Sloan said that committee members are willing to help more, but many of them have full or part-time jobs and commitments that would make them unable to fulfill regular hours. Many members also contribute tremendously to Celebrating Seniors Week. Trustees were in favor of Supervisor Sloan pursuing a job description, at an estimated hourly range of \$15-\$20/hour.
- The TIF district on Madison will be discussed in the RFCCA meeting
- Supervisor Sloan provided trustees a copy of a letter OP Township drafted to the OP Village supporting a change of age for tobacco sales to 21 in Oak Park (despite the IL age of 18). According to Supervisor Sloan, the Village of River Forest has discussed, but this is not on the present agenda.

At 7:54pm, Trustee O'Brien made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the upcoming Township lease agreement with the RFCCA. Trustee Romeo seconded, and all were in favor.

At 7:58pm, the meeting reconvened and Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn at 7:59pm. Trustee Belmonte seconded, the motion was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned immediately. Trustee O'Brien noted she would be unable to attend the February 17th meeting.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will take place on Tuesday, February 17th 2015 @ 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Taubman, Clerk