

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 5:04 pm. This was a meeting held electronically by Zoom.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees: Deana Herrman, Keith Strom, and Helen Connolly. Also present: Clerk Vanessa Druckman, Assessor Pam Kende, Dick Chappell, and Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly.

Absent: Karen Taubman

Public Participation: none.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 regular meeting. Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Strom, Connolly and Herrman. Nays: none. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Answered phone calls regarding the 1st installment tax bill. They are 55% of last year's tax bill. No exemptions are taken into account on the 1st installment.
- Helped taxpayers pay their tax bills on-line using their checkbook. .
- Homeowners asked for the total amount of property tax they paid in 2021 to be able to do their federal income tax.
- Many residents reached out to us because they were accustomed to receiving their exemption forms in January or February. They were concerned about applying for their exemptions. Informed residents in many outlets that 2020 exemption(s) will auto renew for 2021. Residents should receive a card in the mail of the exemption(s) that are being auto renewed sometime in March.
- New residents, first time Senior or Senior Freeze are now able to apply for their 2021 exemptions on-line as the Cook County Assessor went live with a new application process. We are helping many of them with this new process. We have had many seniors come into the office.
- Fielded calls regarding Cook County Appeal periods.
- Submitted annual budget.

- Residents can now sign up for the Assessor's Constant Contact on our website page.
- Sent out a press releases to newspaper/ Village e-newsletter and the Township website regarding exemptions and 1st installment tax bills.
- We have been informed by the Cook County Assessor, that they believe that the 2nd installment tax bill may come out as late as December.
- Attended CCTAA and Cook County Assessor zoom meetings.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Sarah Schwarting

As Sarah Schwarting was not present at the meeting, Supervisor Sloan read the Mental Health Services report. Sarah Schwarting reported the following:

- Mental Health agency funding requests will be voted on during the April Mental Health Committee meeting. The funding requests for some agencies increased.
- A new Illinois law grants students 5 days annually for mental health.
- Mental Health Committee members were asked to participate in the They Deserve More call to action by filing witness slips.
- Sarah is putting together a Mental Health Committee orientation packet for new committee members.
- I/DD and Behavioral Health Consortiums met on zoom this month.
- Supervisor Sloan explained that Thrive and Oak Leyden were underspending their FY2021 grants. Sarah and Supervisor Sloan met with them to understand why and suggest how to ensure the full grant was utilized. Thrive is shifting the rest of their grant spending to suicide prevention funds and Oak Leyden will be using the remained of their FY2021 grant to fund a new EMR database.
- D200 Parent U took place on March 3 virtually with 150 attendees.
- IPLAN is an ongoing process with the Village of OP public health department, with meetings taking place every two weeks. Both Supervisor Sloan and Sarah Schwarting are attending. An RFP was sent to consultants to assist with the IPlan process.
- The HUB team continues to meet. Recently the committee discussed that the new service "211" for Chicago is coming soon but it will not replace HUB as it doesn't offer referrals, just information.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy reported that Coffee Mondays are planned through August.
- Betsy announced that the Circle of Friends Newcomers group will be winding down as they no longer need the support of the organization to continue to meet on their own.
- Preparation for Celebrating Seniors Week is in full swing. A new session has been added on Memoir Writing.

- Betsy met with Karen Stille of the River Forest Park District to discuss how to work together.
- Betsy will be meeting with Lisa Shiner.
- Betsy is attending her regular meetings and sending weekly email and monthly River Forest Community Connect emails.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the Senior Services Committee Meeting
- Supervisor Sloan reported that the Home Repair program continues to flourish. 27% of orders are from River Forest residents. We will renew the agreement with the Northwest Housing Project for another 2-3 years, keeping the price the same. Occupational Therapy and Home Health Care Assessments will be a new program component.
- River Forest Cab Coupon Books are going down in price to \$6 to match the Oak Park coupon books.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman

- Trustee Herrman announced that the Girls on the Rise program is officially being implemented within District 90 for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Trustee Herrman announced that Oak Park has approved the Youth Services IGA with River Forest Township for next year.
- Trustee Herrman announced that the Youth Services Committee awarded a grant less than the requested amount to STEM scholarships at Concordia University and to the ISearch program. The ISearch program grant is subject to the program submitting a schedule of their sessions for the year.
- Trustee Herrman announced that the Youth Interventionist Program has been renamed the Youth Engagement Program.
- Trustee Herrman reported that the Youth Services Committee is no longer looking for 2 additional members as the committee structure has been reduced to 5 from River Forest and 6 from Oak Park.
- Trustee Hermann met with Megan Traficano and Debbie Lubek to present the Girls on the Rise program.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan thanked those who attended the recent Diversity Equity Inclusion and Access training.
- Supervisor Sloan reminded everyone to complete their OMA training and submit the certificate to Clerk Druckman.
- Supervisor Sloan also reminded everyone to complete their Statement of Economic Interest and flagged that the reporting guidelines this year are different from the past.

- Supervisor Sloan reported that she received a check back from our previous building insurance. She is checking to make sure we received 100% of what we were supposed to receive back.
- Township Topics Day will take place on Wednesday, April 6. Township officials and staff will head to Springfield to meet with legislators and other Townships. Supervisor Sloan is going with Sarah Schwarting. Chris Welch will be the luncheon keynote speaker.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that Jane Brennan is retiring from the River Forest Community Center. She currently acts as our bookkeeper. Supervisor Sloan has asked her if she would like to continue doing the River Forest Township books as a freelancer and Jane is considering the offer.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve River Forest Township Operating Fund bills as of March 31, 2022 in the amount of \$31,128.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve River Forest Township General Assistance Fund bills as of March 31, 2022 in the amount of \$1,750.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Vanessa Druckman provided an update of the website redesign. Supervisor Sloan, Trustee Strom, and Vanessa Druckman met with Hutchinson Associates on Monday, March 7 to review mock-ups of the home page and of the minutes, agendas and budget page. Had a productive discussion of the website look and feel. Website options look clean, fresh, and professional. Lots of flexibility. She also reported that Hutchinson Associates provided Carla, Keith and Vanessa with website logo options on 3/18. Using our mock up feedback, Hutch is moving forward with creation of a few pages that we can use for user testing. April 1 is our target date for readiness to do user testing.
- Supervisor Sloan read the Collaboration Sub-Committee meeting notes from Trustee Taubman in her absence. The Lake and Lathrop building is reported to be 60% sold. Construction is slated to begin mid-April. The mask optional policy at District 90 is going well. The River Forest Public Library reported that the cost to move their air handlers was more than expected and the project has been put on hold. The River Forest Park District reported that the Keystone tennis court renovation and batting cage

relocation has been scheduled for the fall. D200 reported that the freshman curriculum changes are moving forward for implementation in Fall 2022.

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve Vanessa Druckman for the River Forest Township Marketing and Communications Manager position as an independent contractor.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the River Forest Community Center and River Forest Civic Center Authority Lease (pending River Forest Community Center approval).

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion of the River Forest Township Vision Statement was postponed to our April meeting.

New Business

- Supervisor Sloan announced that Anna Romeo will act as our moderator for the 2022 River Forest Annual Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve the agenda for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- Supervisor Sloan announced that the last Mental Health Committee opening will be filled by Elisabeth (Beth) Dunne.

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve the appointment of Elisabeth (Beth) Dunne to the Mental Health Committee.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- The proclamation in support of Older Americans has been tabled until our April meeting.
- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Township Senior Services for FY2023 and FY2024.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Township Youth Services for FY2023 and FY2024.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve the appointment of Betsy Kelly, senior outreach coordinator, as a township employee.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve the appointment of Betsy Kelly, publisher of the Community Connect Email, as a freelancer.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Connolly, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- The approval of FY2023 Funding Recommendation: Township Senior Services will take place during our April meeting.
- The approval of FY2023 Funding Recommendation: Senior Programs at the River Forest Public Library will take place during our April meeting.
- The approval of Prevention Services IGA for FY2023 and FY2024 will take place during our April meeting.

Announcement of the Annual Town Meeting

The 2022 Annual Town Meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 immediately following the Annual Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to adjourn the meeting at 6:08pm. Roll call was taken. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk