



RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

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## **River Forest Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Tuesday, July 18, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:08 PM. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom.

### **Roll Call:**

- Supervisor Sloan, Trustees:, Helene Connolly, Deana Herrman, and Karen Taubman.
  - Keith Strom participated via Zoom for a work related remote reason.
- Also present: Clerk John Becvar, Mental Health Services Administrator Sarah Schwarting, and RFCC Executive Director Dick Chappell.
  - Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly attended via Zoom.
- Assessor Pam Kende was excused.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Public Participation:**

- Public was not in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- A motion was made by Trustee Herrmann and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 regular meeting.
  - Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Herrman, Strom, and Taubman. Nays: none. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Assessor - Kathy Elliott**

- Assessor Kende provided a written report stating that July was a less busy month. They filed the exemptions, determined that the permits from the Village were incomplete and are reviewing all permits from 2022. They also responded to residents' phone calls and emails regarding sales, future appeal periods and exemptions.

### **Mental Health Services - Sarah Schwarting**

- Mental Health Administrator Schwarting said FY2024 agency contracts were updated, mailed out and three have already been signed and returned.

- The HUB sunset announcements have gone out.
- Quarter 1 usage statistics has started to come in.
- The two consortias met this month at the new Community Recreation Center (CRC) in Oak Park, followed by a tour of the building. The OP Community Mental Health Board now has their offices in the CRC.
- The planning meeting for Positive Youth Development's screening of the "Screenagers" film has been postponed.
- She is working on resources to use with the Mental Health Committee (MHC) this coming fall, and setting up their speakers, of which they will hear from *Live4Lali* stigma busting van in September, River Edge hospital in October and the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association Plus (OPALGA+) in November.
- Supervisor Sloan, Trustee Strom and Administrator Schwarting attended the farewell party for Oak Park Township Manager Gavin Morgan.
- At the Township Officials of Cook County (TOCC) annual spring conference, Supervisor Sloan spoke on a panel which shared how different townships manage their mental health services. Various legislative changes have taken place in regards to mental health, a summary of which was provided to the meeting participants in a handout.
- With summer being a quieter time, Administrator Schwarting is focusing on updating the River Forest mental health resource guide.
- Supervisor Sloan was contacted by Debbie Lubeck who heads up Special Education for D90, as well as the Social Worker team. Debbie would like to re-start the special ed parents support group which stopped meeting during COVID. The Township will assist where needed.
- Sloan reported that during the most recent legislative session, the *They Deserve More* campaign was able to achieve a \$2.50/hr raise for Direct Support Workers (DSP's).

#### **General Assistance - Carla Sloan**

- Supervisor Sloan reported the Township continues to have one (1) General Assistance (GA) client.
- Governor Pritzker signed a new law which expands eligibility for General Assistance, which includes allowing Class X felons to receive GA. Supervisor Sloan will learn more about the law at the TOCC Supervisors Division lunch.

#### **Senior Outreach Coordinator - Betsy Kelly**

- Senior Outreach Coordinator Kelly reported mahjong and bridge are still continuing through the summer.
- The next Coffee Monday will be August 7 with Roz Byrne talking about the "Upside of Downsizing". Coordinator Kelly is scheduling Coffee Monday speakers through the winter.
- The first meeting of Dominican University's *Reminiscing Project* was July 17 with 13 people in attendance. The first class went well with three more classes scheduled.

- She reminded everyone that the Township Senior Services has a representative in the River Forest Township office on Wednesdays to help seniors with their benefits. They assist with food stamps, license plate stickers and Medicare/Medicaid.
- The president of the River Forest Garden Apartments Condo Association (7200-16 Oak Ave) reached out to better understand how residents in the Association could take advantage of the Township services. Coordinator Kelly is planning on visiting the complex in August to talk to the Association and their residents.
- The Cook County Commissioner sent the Township fifty (50) complimentary tickets (including parking) to the Chicago Botanical Garden to distribute to River Forest older adults. All tickets have now been distributed.
- The River Forest Fire Department requested 60 “In Case of Emergency” (ICE) Packets for a local apartment building. Coordinator Kelly will deliver the ICE Packets to RFFD this week.
- Coordinator Kelly sent one combined Community Connect / River Forest Township email in both June and July but plans to return to two separate emails in August with the River Forest Township once monthly and Community Connect on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

#### **Youth and Family Services (YFS) - Trustee Deana Herrman**

- Trustee Herrman said the Youth and Family Services committee does not meet in the summer.
- The backpack and school supply drive continues with an event on August 11. You can order through a link to Amazon and have the supplies shipped directly to Oak Park Township. Clerk Becvar reported OPALGA+ has volunteered to help with the backpacks.

#### **Supervisor’s Report - Carla Sloan**

- Supervisor Sloan announced Gavin Morgan resigned from Oak Park Township after 15 years to become the Village Administrator for Indian Head Park. The Township will do a proclamation for Gavin in August if he can attend. Gavin has been great to work with and has always included River Forest Township in a positive way including the intergovernmental agreements. Pam Mahn and Megan Traficano are the interim managers. They are interviewing someone to take over as interim; then a search will be conducted for a permanent replacement.
- The Township Officials of Cook County (TOCC) Spring Conference was held June 22. Supervisor Sloan thanked all who attended. The turnout was excellent and the feedback on the educational programs and the venue were very positive. Senator Harmon was a very good keynote and it was great for him to see a filled room of positive Township people.
- The TOCC Supervisors’ Division meets June 20 at Lemont Township. The next speaker is Senate Minority Leader John Curran. At the meeting, Supervisor Sloan hopes to learn more about the new GA law and how other townships are faring with FOIA requests and with the Efficiency Report work.

- The River Forest Township is getting ready for the Rotary Food Truck Rally on Saturday, August 26. If you are able to volunteer for 2 hours, please let Supervisor Sloan know. It's a lot of fun.

### **Approval of Bills**

- A motion was made by Trustee Herrman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve River Forest Township operating fund bills as of June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$8577.74.
  - Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Herrman, Strom, and Taubman. Nays: none. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Supervisor Sloan noted the Township accounting clerk has been out on vacation so there are additional checks that will be submitted next month.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Website Project update
  - Supervisor Sloan, former website project manager Vanessa Druckman, and Kathy Elliot met to transition the website project to Kathy. Supervisor Sloan has three sections left to review. Kathy will meet with Hutchinson and Associates to discuss some content sections.
- Collaboration Sub-Committee update from Trustee Karen Taubman
  - There is no new update at this time.
- Efficiency Study update
  - There has been no new update since the June kickoff meeting.

### **New Business**

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Herrman to approve Angie Grover as a Mental Health Committee (MHC) member. Angie Grover has a policy and data background.
  - Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Herrman, Strom, and Taubman. Nays: none. The motion passed unanimously.
- The FY2023 Audit is finished early this year. Supervisor Sloan sent a PDF for everyone's review. The Board of Trustees will vote in August to accept the audit; Supervisor Sloan will generate the Treasurer's report for approval in September. Supervisor Sloan thanked our bookkeeper, Jane Brennan, for her assistance.
- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the Rotary silver sponsorship in the amount of \$1500.00 to support the local grants which Rotary makes to organizations. This would expand the Township support of great programs beyond the borders of River Forest to include places like Beyond Hunger and PING.
  - Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Herrman, Strom, and Taubman. Nays: none. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Herrman to approve Holiday Food and Gift Basket (HFGB) grant in the amount of \$1500.00 to help fund Thanksgiving Gift Cards for 36 River Forest households / 116 residents.
  - Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Herrman, Strom, and Taubman. Nays: none. The motion passed unanimously.

**Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting**

- The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Monday, August 14, 2023 following the 6:00 PM RFCCA Board of Managers meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Herrman to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Becvar, Clerk