

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – August 18, 2009

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Supervisor Veronica Krawczyk. The meeting took place Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at the River Forest Civic Center. Roll called

Present: Trustees J. Davis, M. Kelty, M. O'Brien, Supervisor V. Krawczyk

Absent: Trustee A. Romeo

Also present: Assessor Pam Kende, RF CC Executive Director Dick Chappell, Carla Sloan, resident

Trustee Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular July 21st meeting of the Township Board of Trustees. Trustee Kelty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

Assessor - Assessor Pam Kende reported that RF is now closed for appeals. Board of Review will start again in the fall. Home sales seem to be picking up, as indicated by an increase in sales sheets coming through the Assessor's office. Assessor Kende has just completed 30 hours of classroom continuing education.

Assessor Kende is not certain when the tax bills will be mailed out. This will happen quickly once the tax rates and the homeowners exemptions have been set. She will notify Supervisor Krawczyk when this has occurred.

Supervisor Krawczyk noted that the Township will be holding some checks until the tax bills come in to cover them. Currently, there is a \$50,000 shortfall to pay \$80,000 in mental health bills alone. Supervisor Krawczyk has notified the agencies that the bills will not be paid until the tax bills are paid. She noted that once the tax bills go out, the money comes in quickly.

Mental Health Committee (MHC) – Supervisor Krawczyk completed a review on Lisa DeVivo, Director of the CMHB. Prior to Supervisor Krawczyk's input, Dr. Richard Carroll of the CMHB had already reviewed Lisa, renewed her contract and given her a raise. Supervisor Krawczyk noted Lisa's knowledge and enthusiasm; she expressed some concern about Lisa's tendency to provide more complex information to the committee than might be necessary.

Supervisor Krawczyk also expressed concern about database and administration costs which the Township is being asked to pay without prior approval or discussion.

Youth Committee (YC) – Supervisor Krawczyk met with Bert Patania, Youth Interventionist, who continues to ride park to park with the other interventionists. Everything is falling into place with I-Search; RF Police Chief Limone is supportive of the program. RF Police Officer Troy Fields has been assigned to the I-Search program for another year. Bert hopes to bring in new officers going forward. Supervisor Krawczyk met with Troy and noted that Troy is very enthusiastic about the program; she expressed optimism about Troy's commitment and improved follow-through going forward. The Township pays the entire \$7800 cost of the I-Search program.

The Trustees discussed opening an I-Search bank account. Originally, I-Search program was managed by the Oak Park and River Forest Police Departments, funded by the RF Township and Badge funds. Funds were channeled through the Oak Park PD. When the Oak Park PD cut the program, funds were then channeled through the River Forest PD. Bert is now proposing that the

Township set up a separate I-Search bank account or paid directly to him as a contract provider, so that funds are no longer channeled through the RF Police Department.

Supervisor Krawczyk noted that an issue must first be resolved involving an existing \$3000 in I-Search funds, as reported by Troy. She needs to determine whether these are unspent I-Search funds, i.e., RF Township funds earmarked for I-Search, or whether these are leftover Badge funds, i.e., funds possibly belonging to the River Forest PD. If it is RF Township I-Search funds, these funds can go directly to the I-Search program. Troy has proposed developing an I-Search website with the funds.

Trustees O'Brien and Kelty noted that a separate I-Search bank account would better enable Bert to function as an independent contractor for the I-Search program.

Senior Committee (SC) – The next meeting for the Senior Committee will be in September.

Supervisor's Comments – PADS is having a progressive dinner fundraiser on Oak Park on September 14. Sarah's Inn is moving to 309-311 Harrison Street in Oak Park; their Open House on September 30 from 5-8 pm. Cook County is changing the way birth certificates are filed and obtained; it is not clear exactly how the new system will operate.

The RF Community Center is \$12,000 in arrears; the Board needs to discuss with RFCC Director Dick Chappell.

Bills - Supervisor Krawczyk presented the bills for August. Mental health, senior services and youth services are not going to be paid. Supervisor Krawczyk noted that these bills are for future services in September; we have been paying these agencies in advance. We are actually paid up for services delivered in August, so nothing is in arrears. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the bills for the General Fund totaling \$88,628.06. See Enclosure 1. Trustee Davis seconded. Roll called.

Ayes: Trustees Davis, Kelty, O'Brien, Supervisor Krawczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Romeo

The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Krawczyk presented the August bills for General Assistance. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the bills for General Assistance totaling \$225.00. See Enclosure 1. Trustee Davis seconded. Roll called.

Ayes: Trustees Davis, Kelty, O'Brien, Supervisor Krawczyk

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Romeo

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business – Supervisor Krawczyk had no specific comments. There was discussion of the new phone and voicemail system in the Community Center. The new system has improvements and has sufficient capacity for Assessor messages.

Supervisor Krawczyk and Trustee Romeo informed outgoing Counsel, Attorney Greg Melnyk, that the Township is retaining new Counsel. He was cordial and offered to facilitate transition. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to retain Hogan, Marren LTD for legal representation as required by the Township. Trustee Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that minutes need to be emailed to the new Counsel, since they are located downtown, as well as to Dick Chappell.

The Freedom of Information Act has been signed. The supervisor and new clerk will need to attend classes on the new law in January, 2010.

New Business - None

Supervisor Krawczyk asked for a motion to adjourn the Township meeting. The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the River Forest Civic Center. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Kelty seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Martin, Clerk