

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, December 1, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting took place Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Supervisor Veronica Krawczyk.

Roll called:

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

Also present: RFCC Executive Director Dick Chappell, Assessor P. Kende, Former Clerk Buff Martin

Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular November 17, 2009 meeting of the Township Board of Trustees. Trustee O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Participation-** Former Clerk Martin verified the increase of the levy to be .001 or 0.1%, or \$498. The levy was published correctly in the legal notices.

**Assessor** – Assessor Pam Kende noted that the tax bills are due today. She has received 18-20 phone calls per day from residents regarding the tax bills. The Board of Review will be open until December 18, 2009; Assessor Kende is accepting complaints until December 17<sup>th</sup>. Trustee O'Brien noted that about 200 people attended the public meeting held by Assessor Kende in November. Supervisor Krawczyk commented that Assessor Kende has a positive rapport and communicates effectively with residents. Former Clerk Martin shared positive feedback from her neighbors about the meeting.

**Mental Health Committee (MHC)** –The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8.

Supervisor Krawczyk reviewed past discussions regarding the intergovernmental agreement with the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board. She and Trustees Romeo and O'Brien had met with Dr. Richard Carroll, CMHB President, and Lisa Devivo, CMHB Director. At that time, the CMHB had asked for increased fees from RF Township; alternatively, they offered "a la carte" services at current fees.

Supervisor Krawczyk and Trustee O'Brien recently met with 5 mental health agencies; agencies overall reflected a lack of knowledge that River Forest was involved in the CMHB or the CMHB needs assessment survey.

The key question is: does River Forest want to operate on its own in the future? Trustee O'Brien developed a "pros and cons" handout, reviewing the issue (see Enclosure 1). Agencies were in favor of working directly with River Forest, even if it took more time. The CMHB has to be notified in December if we are to terminate the contract with them.

Trustee O'Brien stated that we are paying the CMHB \$37,000 per year to process \$160,000 worth of service bills. The meeting with the agencies indicated that CMHB administrative support did not have anything unique to do with River Forest. All agencies do treat people from River Forest.

If River Forest does pursue Mental Health independent of the CMHB, Supervisor Krawczyk stated that the formula for the funding of agencies is not yet determined. Funding would not necessarily be the same each year, nor would all agencies be guaranteed funding. It would depend on the number of RF residents being treated, for example.

Supervisor Krawczyk asked that the Township Board of Trustees seriously consider terminating its intergovernmental agreement with the CMHB. RF Township would retain its two other intergovernmental agreements with Oak Park. She does not want to break with Seniors and with Youth; in these two areas, RF remains intertwined with Oak Park. She noted that the CMHB has been supportive of RF over the years, and she doesn't want to "slam any doors". Walking away from a long-term relationship is difficult.

Trustee Romeo asked about cost. She raised concern that this could end up costing more in the long run. She suggested that managing a "mental health administrator" potentially adds more responsibility for Supervisor Krawczyk. She cautioned that a break from Oak Park Mental Health would not be easily reversed. Trustee Davis added that the cost of the administrator we hire cannot exceed \$37,000. Trustee O'Brien felt that a well-qualified person could be hired for that amount.

Trustee O'Brien said that Mental Health is the weakest and most costly of the intergovernmental agreements. This is a good place to start re-evaluating the agreements. Supervisor Krawczyk added that the RF Mental Health Committee has felt disconnected; they support the separation from Oak Park. Supervisor Krawczyk is concerned that we exit properly and within the appropriate notification period.

Trustee Romeo made a motion that River Forest Township terminates its mental health administrative agreement with Oak Park Township, effective at the end of the fiscal year, with notice to be given in accordance with the current contract, within the month of December. In addition, we will post a job description, title and salary to be determined, in January, 2010. Trustee Davis seconded the motion. Roll called.

Ayes: Trustees J. Davis, M. Kelty, A. Romeo, M. O'Brien, Supervisor Krawczyk.

Nays: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Youth Committee (YC)** – December 2 is the Youth Committee holiday meeting.

Supervisor Krawczyk reported that the Volunteer Center will be dissolving its Youth Connect Program, focusing instead on its youth programs, Time and ENUF.

Bert from the I-Search Program plans to be present in classes during December and again in February. He will be developing some PowerPoint presentations to update the I-Search program and enhance its appeal.

**Senior Committee (SC)** – The annual holiday dinner meeting was held two weeks ago. A large number of River Forest residents attended, as well as new Senior Committee member Linda Ryan.

**Supervisor's Comments-** The proposed meeting calendar for 2010 was distributed. It was noted that the proposed dates avoid holidays and school breaks.

The Holiday Gift Basket Program is highly successful, despite an additional 96 families and a major donor reducing its commitment.

**Bills -** Supervisor Krawczyk presented the bills for December. We were able to pay the August bills as approximately \$100,000 in tax revenues have come in so far. Previously approved bills will continue to be paid off as tax revenues come in. Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the bills for the General Fund totaling \$11,095.42. See Enclosure 2. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.

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

Nays: None      The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Krawczyk presented the December bills for General Assistance. Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the bills for General Assistance totaling \$225.00. See Enclosure 3. Trustee Davis seconded. Roll called.

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

Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business –None**

**New Business –**

A motion was made by Trustee O'Brien to adopt the levy for the year April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010, for the sum of \$498,000. Trustee Davis seconded.

Roll called:

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

Nays: None.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Trustee Davis made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2010. Trustee Romeo seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

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, January 19, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the River Forest Civic Center. Trustee Davis made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Romeo seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Sloan, Clerk