

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 16, 2010**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 4:37 PM by Supervisor Veronica Krawczyk.

Roll called:

Present: Trustees J. Davis, A. Romeo, Supervisor V. Krawczyk

Absent: Trustees M. Kelty, M. O'Brien

Also present: RFCC Executive Director Dick Chappell, Assessor P. Kende, Attorney Pat Deady

Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular January 19, 2010 meeting of the Township Board of Trustees. Trustee Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Assessor** – Assessor Kende reported that exemptions for the seniors have been mailed out. She provided notary logs for Supervisor Krawczyk and Clerk Sloan.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> installment tax bills may not come out until 2011, with the next bill coming out shortly thereafter. The Board generally noted that this will be challenging for Townships, school boards and other taxing entities. Supervisor Krawczyk noted that this occurs in some other counties in Illinois.

Assessor Kende provided her budget to Supervisor Krawczyk by January 31<sup>st</sup>, as required. The Board of Review has not decided on any appeals and will probably do so by mid-March. Assessor Kende received numerous questions from residents about their being taxed at 55% of last year's bill.

**Mental Health Committee (MHC)** – Last month, the Board discussed the continuation of system data reporting from the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board. Supervisor Krawczyk reported that the proposal she received from Alex Campbell, EMK Data Systems, includes producing quarterly reports for an annual fee of \$3250, plus \$125/hour for extra work. Oak Park CMHB would charge an additional \$1200 to use the program.

Supervisor Krawczyk and the Mental Health Committee do not feel they need quarterly reports. She asked the MHC to review what data would be most critical to help them make funding decisions.

Board members felt that the nearly \$5000 in fees, as proposed, would be excessive. Supervisor Krawczyk explained the function of the data program and reporting system: each resident has one identification number and can use services from multiple mental health agencies. The database compiles usage data for each resident, across all agencies, for the purposes of tracking and billing.

Supervisor Krawczyk reported that the MHC is currently considering 6-month and year-end reports (\$1500), plus \$250 for set-up, plus \$1200 to Oak Park CMHB, for a total of \$2950. Additional reports can always be added. She clarified that the new RF Township Director of Human Services would not have access to this data without paying for the reports.

The Board felt that approximately \$3000 for data reporting fees would be reasonable.

**Senior Committee (SC)** - Katherine Walsh has volunteered to serve as a member of the Senior Committee. Dr. Walsh is a River Forest resident and a practicing family physician who trained at Loyola. Trustee Davis made a motion to accept Dr. Walsh's application for the SC membership. Trustee Romeo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Youth Committee (YC)** – Nothing reported.

**Supervisor's Comments-** Supervisor Krawczyk attended the Opportunity Knocks Open House and was very impressed with the facility. The OK staff reported 21 students enrolled. Dick Chappell reported closer to 30 students enrolled in 5 week sessions, 3 days per week, 3:30-6:30 pm. He shared a favorable article about OK from the local *Tribune* edition.

The 2008 fiscal report card summary shows River Forest Township with a per capita services cost of \$39, very favorable relative to other townships. Supervisor Krawczyk shared the report.

The annual TOIA meeting is in Springfield on April 20.

Supervisor Krawczyk sent a letter to Joe O'Connor of the River Forest Service Club, thanking his organization for the Park District referendum forum.

Oak Park and River Forest received a grant of \$89,000 from Cook County for at-risk youth programming. Supervisor Krawczyk noted that this might replace lost Badge funds to help fund and strengthen the I-Search program.

**Old Business** - Last month, Trustee Romeo had sought clarification of the IMRF hours for each position covered. Supervisor Krawczyk reported that each position would be qualified at 1000 hours. Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve Resolution 2010-1, to qualify the IMRF hours for the positions of Supervisor, Assessor and Building Manager at 1000 hours. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business** – The Township has received a FOIA request from a River Forest resident, Molly Hague, requesting a large volume of information from the Township and the Civic Center Authority dating back 10 years. The Trustees noted that her request was very detailed.

Ms. Hague has requested a waiver of printing fees. The Township will consider this if she can reduce the volume of her request. Attorney Deady noted that the Township does not even incur many of the expenses for which she requested documentation.

There was general discussion among the Trustees as to what may have prompted this request by Ms. Hague, an elected Park District Commissioner.

Attorney Deady noted that this FOIA request is aimed at trying to discern the relationship between the RF Community Center and the RF Civic Center Authority. He noted that the relationship between these entities is often misunderstood. For example, people do not understand the legal obligations of the Civic Center under the grant issued 20 years ago. The key challenge to the Township is how to overcome these misunderstandings. The trustees commented that the unique structure and relationships of the organizations is not easy to understand, especially among people that were not around 20 years ago.

Trustee Romeo clarified that the FOIA response would come from the Township. Trustee Romeo highlighted that fulfilling FOIA requests requires a significant amount of Township time and resources. Attorney Deady added that it is important to try and establish some common ground and better understanding of the relationship between the governmental entities.

Supervisor Krawczyk passed along a suggestion from Trustee Kelty to look at the house and lot behind the Community Center, which is still for sale. The goal would be to develop more space for the Community Center. Trustee Romeo expressed concern that the lot is zoned for residential only.

Supervisor Krawczyk asked for feedback on the revised website she previously sent to the Board. Trustee Davis felt that it looked very good, with minor comments. He and Supervisor Krawczyk felt that the colors need improvement. Others had not yet reviewed the proposed changes. The discussion was postponed until next month's meeting.

Supervisor Krawczyk will have a draft budget in March for review.

Supervisor Krawczyk and Trustee O'Brien will meet with the new Human Services Director candidate. They plan to have a hiring decision by the next meeting, with a start date of April 1.

**Bills** - Supervisor Krawczyk presented the bills for January. Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the bills for the General Fund totaling \$20,171.72. See Enclosure. Trustee Davis seconded. Roll called.

Ayes: Trustees Davis, Romeo, Supervisor Krawczyk

Nays: None The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve a General Assistance payment in the amount of \$225.00. See Enclosure. Trustee Davis seconded. Roll called.

Ayes: Trustees Davis, Romeo, Supervisor Krawczyk

Nays: None The motion passed unanimously.

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, March 16, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the River Forest Civic Center. Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Davis seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Sloan, Clerk