

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

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Supervisor Veronica Krawczyk.

Roll called:

Present: Trustees J. Davis, M. O'Brien (late arrival), A. Romeo, Supervisor V. Krawczyk

Absent: Trustees M. Kelty

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 February 16, 2010 meeting of the Township Board of Trustees. Trustee Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Assessor – There has been significant notary activity for senior exemptions, especially since Maywood's services closed during the senior exemption period. The Board of Review has started mailing out its notices. Assessor Kende is receiving calls from residents regarding their Board of Review decision.

Home sales in River Forest are occurring in the \$1million+ price range and the \$400-500,000 price range; less activity is occurring in the \$700-800,000 range.

Assessor Kende reports that a new fax machine is required.

Mental Health– The job description for the new Township position of Mental Health Administrator was posted for the appropriate period. Supervisor Krawczyk and Trustee O'Brien interviewed Avis Rudner for the position. She is highly qualified and enthusiastic for the position. Ms. Rudner was the best candidate and they recommend her for the position starting April 1. The Mental Health Administrator would be a Township employee, work 600 hours maximum per year, and receive a salary of \$32.30/hour (\$30/hour plus FICA). The Township is expected to realize significant savings over what we are now paying for mental health services administration through the CMHB. In addition, RF Township will have better visibility with agencies and enhanced control in mental health services for its residents.

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to hire Avis Rudner as the River Forest Township Human Services Administrator for the Mental Health Committee, effective April 1, 2010, at an hourly wage of \$32.30/hour. Trustee Davis seconded. Roll called:

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

Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Seniors – The intergovernmental agreements for both Seniors and Youth are coming up for renewal. Supervisor Krawczyk recommends a 2-year extension of the agreements (2010-11 and 2011-12). Any cost increases are subject to the agreement of River Forest Township.

Trustee Romeo made a motion approve the intergovernmental agreements for both Seniors and Youth. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Roll called:

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

Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Youth – Supervisor Krawczyk attended the Citizens Committee Forum at Oak Park & River Forest High School. Parents, OP and RF Youth Services, Park District of Oak Park, Oak Park Health Agency, and the OP and RF Police Departments were represented. All expressed a high level of concern for the level of alcohol and drug use among youth in the community. Parents are particularly frustrated and want to take action. OPRF High School is willing to take stronger measures against drug and alcohol use on school property and needs the support of parents in this effort.

The intergovernmental agreement for the youth interventionist is up for renewal. Costs are covered by the townships, villages, park districts, school districts and libraries of River Forest and Oak Park. For 2010-11, the budget is \$246,540; for 2011-12, the budget is \$253,841. RF Township portion is 3.67% or \$9000 for 2011 and \$9300 for 2012. RF Township has supported the interventionist program for almost 12 years.

Supervisor Krawczyk reviewed the history of the program. The youth interventionists are very "hands on" in working with local youth. The program used to be funded through grant money but now it is a budgeted item. She feels the program is very beneficial and has a strong presence in River Forest. River Forest cases have increased in the last couple of years; no referral is turned away. John Williams has done an excellent job administrating the program.

Trustee Romeo made a motion to accept the intergovernmental agreement for the intervention program for 2010-11 and 2011-12. Trustee Davis seconded. Roll called.

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

Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor's Comments - River Forest Police Chief Limon is resigning from his position. He has been an asset to the RF Police Department, as he has restored morale and made improvements to the department.

Avis Rudner is retiring from the Community Mental Health Board. There is a reception in her honor on Tuesday, March 30, 4-7 pm in the Shaker Building in Oak Park.

There will be a Town Hall meeting with Congressman Danny Davis on Wednesday, April 7, 7-9 pm at the River Forest Community Center.

Opportunity Knocks is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, April 10 at the Carleton Hotel in Oak Park.

Old Business –

The Township has met the FOIA requests of Bill Dwyer, a reporter formerly at the Wednesday Journal and now at the Pioneer Press, and Molly Hague, a resident. Mr. Dwyer requested the Township's meeting schedule and documentation regarding the hiring of Attorney Pat Deady and his firm. Ms. Hague requested significant financial documentation which totaled over 1600 pages. Trustee Romeo noted the significant resources required to meet such requests. The Township has not received any feedback following fulfillment of these requests.

Development of the new website will move forward. The proposed colors will be enhanced to make the website more interesting. The interactive phase of the new website is forthcoming.

New Business - Supervisor Krawczyk distributed the draft budget of \$526,000, approximately \$50,000 below last year. Each year, the budget is gradually moving closer to the levied amount. The goal is to bring the budget and levy in line. Trustee O'Brien requested clarification of the Assessor and Supervisor increases. The Supervisor increase was effective 4/1/09; the Assessor increase was effective 1/1/10.

Bills - Supervisor Krawczyk presented the bills for January. Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the bills for the General Fund totaling \$73,932.93. See Enclosure. Trustee Davis seconded. Roll called.

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

Nays: None The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Romeo made a motion to give Supervisor Krawczyk authority to pay out any remaining mental health, youth or senior services agency-related bills between now and March 31, 2010. Trustee Davis seconded. Roll called.

Ayes: Trustees Davis, O'Brien, 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, April 13, 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 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Sloan, Clerk