

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING – October 20, 2009

The regular monthly meeting took place Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Supervisor Veronica Krawczyk.

Roll called:

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

Absent: A. Romeo

Also present: RF CC Executive Director Dick Chappell, Assessor P. Kende, and Carla Sloan

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular September 15, 2009 meeting of the Township Board of Trustees. Trustee Kelty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Participation**

**Assessor** - Assessor Pam Kende stated that property tax bills would be in taxpayers' hands by November 1, due by December 1. The Assessors are trying to put forth a motion to delay the 1<sup>st</sup> installment 2010 tax bills which normally go out in February, as they would be too close to the bills due December 1. In Cook County, beginning in 2010, the first installment is now 55% of the annual tax bill, vs. 50% in previous years. The Board of Review opens after the tax bills go out November 1 and remains open for 30 days. Assessor Kende stated that important tax information is now on her answering machine. Clerk Martin recommended providing this information to the Village Hall desk. The new tax bills will show actual dollars paid out to each entity, rather than percentages.

**Mental Health Committee (MHC)** – Abby Schmelling notified Supervisor Krawczyk that the Community Mental Health Board will no longer fund the Volunteer Center unless the Center can document outcomes, which may not be possible. Ms. Schmelling wanted to know if the RF Township will require similar documentation in order to continue funding programs. Supervisor Krawczyk will attend the Center's Board meeting next week to discuss the issue. Ms. Schmelling also expressed concern about not being paid by the Township in the last few months. Supervisor Krawczyk assured her that services delivered in the past would be paid for, and that the Volunteer Center was not being singled out for nonpayment of bills.

**Youth Committee (YC)** – See Supervisor's report.

**Senior Committee (SC)** – See Supervisor's report.

**Supervisor's Comments** – Attila Weninger is stepping down as Superintendent of Oak Park and River Forest High School. There are many open school staffing positions to be filled, even before a new Superintendent is hired.

The Village of River Forest will no longer mail its newsletter to residents. Supervisor Krawczyk was just informed of this after she had submitted the Township newsletter for inclusion in the next mailed Village newsletter. The Village newsletter will now be posted on the Village website. Township needs to decide whether the Township newsletter should be attached to the electronic Village newsletter, or whether a link to the Township newsletter will suffice. Trustee O'Brien stated that Township seniors may still want/need a hard copy newsletter, even once per year. We want people to be aware of our services. It was noted that bulk mailing costs are

expensive. Suggested alternative delivery options: include in the River Forest *Post* or other local media, utilize a GA recipient for hand-delivery, turn it into an Eagle Scout project, and utilize the senior mailing list. For now, the Township newsletter will be attached to the electronic Village newsletter on the website.

Avis Rudner thanked to the Board for the dinner gift certificate which the Board sent when her son-in-law passed away.

Supervisor Krawczyk sent a letter to the editor of the *Wednesday Journal* regarding recent River Forest Park District activities and has copies for review. She also shared her response to Resident W. Piper, who had requested details of the financial relationship between the RF Township and the RF Community Center.

Supervisor Krawczyk met with George Gregg and others from the RF Service Club. Their goal was to obtain factual information about the Park District, Civic Center, and Community Center relationships and history, in order to better inform residents about issues.

Conversion to the new phone system has not been smooth. There are still issues with the system.

**Bills** - Supervisor Krawczyk presented the bills for October. Trustee Davis made a motion to approve the bills for the General Fund totaling \$13,431.53. See Enclosure 1. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Romeo                      The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Romeo                      The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business –None**

### **New Business – None**

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to go into Executive Session, to discuss the subject of private contractor. Trustee Davis seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting reconvened at 8:15pm.

Supervisor Krawczyk discussed TIF funds with Steve Guttierrez. Of the \$6 million in funds, \$1.3 million will be spent by the Village and Park District. There is a potential surplus of \$4.7 million in unspent TIF funds as of December 31. Surplus funds will go back to Cook County; funds will be redistributed to entities on the tax bill according to the percentages taxed. This would be a nice surplus for the Township. Clerk Martin recommended placing the surplus funds into General Assistance as a "cushion". Supervisor Krawczyk noted that funds can never be removed from GA funds; whatever funds we do receive should be set aside and allocated in writing.

Clerk Martin announced that she will resign effective the November 17 meeting. Carla Sloan will be installed as the new Clerk. Supervisor Krawczyk accepted the resignation and acknowledged Clerk Martin's years of dedication and service to the Township Board.

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, November 17, 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 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Sloan, Clerk

CORRECTED, November 17, 2009