

## **RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was a meeting held electronically by Zoom, per Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-7.

**Roll called:** Supervisor Sloan, Trustees, Karen Taubman, Mark Kelty and Helene Connolly. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator, Avis Rudner, RFCCA Administrator, Dick Chappell, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach and Assessor Pam Kende. Trustee Holly Economos was absent.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Public Participation**

Supervisor Sloan presented the draft 2020-2021 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for a Public Hearing. It will be approved in June. She explained the provisions in the budget and answered questions.

#### **Assessor**

**Pamela Kende**

The following was accomplished by the Assessor's office:

- We are still processing Exemption Certificates of Error.
- River Forest closed for appeals on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This was the longest appeal period in history
- We are working remotely and coming into the office when necessary. We have been able to help all residents in this manner.
- Permits were filed.
- The Cook County Treasurer's mail date for 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> installment tax bills is scheduled to be on time. Tax payers should receive their tax bills in the mail approximately July 1<sup>st</sup>. At this time there is a push to have the due date October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We are currently strategizing for the future. If the Board of Review opens for appeal in July as currently expected, and the tax bills also come out at the same time, we will be very busy. To minimize our direct contact we'll need to help residents through with phone call, mail or email.

## **Mental Health Services/General Assistance**

**Avis Rudner**

- The office and building have been closed.
- We will be advising the agencies of what has been budgeted for them and get our next year's numbers going.
- A Zoom meeting of the Mental Health Committee will take place on June 2. The committee does not meet in July and August.
- We have one GA client until the end of May.
- HUB trainings are starting up again.
- The Covid-19 online Social Services Guide is updated weekly. All of the agencies and government entities from Oak Park and River Forest are on a weekly call to update each other.
- Carla spoke with the Sibshop therapists at Thrive to see if families are interested in some Sibshops this summer.

## **Youth Services**

**Carla Sloan**

- All of the youth related organizations in Oak Park and River Forest, including the Community Center, are trying to decide on summer programs for youth this year, i.e. what kinds of camps, childcare, etc. will be possible with the limits we have.
- The youth interventionists stay in touch with their client families.
- There was a Zoom Youth Services Committee meeting last week.

## **Senior Outreach Coordinator**

**Cathaleen Roach**

- This would have been the tenth annual Celebrating Seniors Week, but everything was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, all of the photos and bios of the "60 Over 60" award honorees will be published in the Wednesday Journal.
- The Dementia Friendly Committee met on Zoom yesterday, May 18, hosted by Lydia Manning at Concordia.
- Memory Café will be held by Zoom tomorrow.
- River Forest Library is hoping to create 4-5 minute instructional videos for caregivers and seniors in particular to get connected to the available technology at the library.
- Cathaleen is wrapping things up for a smooth transition to her replacement.
- Cathaleen and her husband are still delivering meals for Oak Park Township Senior Services.
- There will be a Senior Services Committee meeting tomorrow, May 20.
- Carla developed a flier to promote the Volunteer Care Corps. Cathaleen delivered the fliers to condo buildings and faith-based organizations. Avis did a mailing of the flier to 225 River Forest seniors who receive case management from Senior Services.
- We received nine applications for the Senior Outreach Coordinator and will begin the interview process. Cathaleen will help in doing the interviews.

- We will have to work together with River Forest Library on virtual senior programming since this group will probably be the last to return to in-person programming. Coffee Monday will be on Zoom in June.

### **Supervisor's Report**

**Carla Sloan**

- There was an administrators meeting and all agreed to piggyback on the governor's five stage plan in terms of planning for re-opening.
- The TOCC supervisors division met and elected officers; the new president is the supervisor of Rich Township, Al Riley.

### **Approval of Bills**

- A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve Operating Fund bills as of May 31, 2020 in the amount of \$46,331.89. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve General Assistance bills as of May 31, 2020 totaling \$182.65. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**—Cathaleen gave an update on the RF Complete Count Committee. The end date has been moved up to October 1<sup>st</sup>. Completion is at almost at the 79% count level achieved at this time in 2010.

### **New Business**

- Insurance Renewals FY2021: Carla provided the Premium summary from Schulz-Brundage Inc. Insurance for Workers' Compensation, Public Officials Liability, Commercial Package Policy and Umbrella Liability for a total of \$10, 859, which is close to last year's cost. This was for information only.
- Approve new audit firm: Carla explained the move to the firm Illinois NFP Audit and Tax, LLP. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to accept Illinois NFP Audit and Tax as our new audit firm. The motion passed unanimously.
- Approve two new members of the Township Youth Services Committee: Angelika Rupp and Colleen Norton. Carla gave the background of each new member. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve these members. The motion passed unanimously.

- Amendment to Resolution 2016-01: Postpone previously set CPI increases for Supervisor and Clerk. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to amend the resolution. The motion passed unanimously. This will reviewed again in six months.
- Approve Youth Interventionist Program IGA: This is tabled; IGA is not yet received.
- Approve Township Youth Services IGA: A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Youth Services unanimously.
- Carla gave an infrastructure update: Phone system upgrades to be done by the end of the year, computer software upgrade to Windows 10 and a new website and approve a project manager.
- A motion was made by Supervisor Sloan and seconded by Trustee Kelty to request the Clerk, Abby Schmelling, to set a Special Town Meeting for June 16, 2020 at 6:00 pm, for River Forest electors to consider and vote whether the following Advisory Referendum question should be placed on the November 3, 2020 ballot: *“Shall Oak Park and River Forest High School eliminate separate, standalone, freshman honor courses in English, history and science?”* The motion passed unanimously.
- There was a big thank you to Cathaleen Roach.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, after our Special Town Meeting on the referendum question. A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Kelty to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk