

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 13, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Monday, July 13, 2015 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called:

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Anna Romeo, Veronica Belmonte, and Mark Kelty

Absent: Mary O'Brien

Also present: Cathaleen Roach, Helene Connolly, Assessor Pamela Kende, Attorney Pat Deady, Mental Health/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, Matt Baron from Inside Edge Public Relations, and Clerk Karen Taubman

Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular June 19, 2015 meeting, Trustee Belmonte seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

- None

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Second installment tax bills were mailed around July 1st, so phone calls have increased along with the need for filing resident certificates of error.
- Assessor Kende received a phone call from a resident's relative, expressing concern over whether the taxes had been paid. Upon researching, Kende discovered the property was soon going to a tax sale, so they were able to remedy the problem before the property was lost.
- The Board of Review (BoR) is planning to open in early August. The BoR is developing an on-line complaint filing system which they plan to unveil in the next appeal period. The new system might allow property owners to file their documentation for over assessment complaints from their computers.
- Assessor Kende will be absent for the August meeting.

Mental Health Committee (MHC)/General Assistance (GA)

Avis Rudner

- The final Sibshop was June 6th. Supervisor Sloan and Rudner will meet with Thrive to recap and devise a plan for the future of the program.
- Rudner attended an elder abuse review held at the RFCC. Occasionally elder abuse is discovered or suspected through mental health or GA, so Rudner felt it was valuable to be up-to-date.
- Rudner and Sloan attended a viewing of Walking Man, a documentary about a Missouri father and his adult son's struggle with mental illness. Endorsed by universities and mental health organizations across the U.S., Walking Man is a look at one family's journey with mental illness.
<http://walkingmanmovie.com/>
- We have one current GA recipient. We continue to have a lot of inquiries, but not applicants, for GA.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- A Concordia University Chicago Robotics Camp, partially sponsored by the Township, was a great success.
- The SAMHSA grant to address underage alcohol abuse, for which OP Township is the fiscal agent, hired a project director, Vicki Scaman, to develop the strategic plan. Scaman has been an IMPA.C.T. board member and will continue to work with IMPA.C.T. as part of the community coalition effort.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach

- Matt Baron of Inside Edge PR has assisted Ms. Roach in Senior Services publicity.
- Ms. Roach attended the Elder Abuse Coffee at the River Forest Public Library and the Secretary of State Rules of the Road at the OP Township.
- Ms. Roach plans to reach out to every church and synagogue with River Forest to make sure members are familiar with the Township.
- July 31st Advanced Directives Clinic will be held at the RFCCA, with Ms. Roach acting as one of the pro bono attorneys.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan

- On behalf of the board, Supervisor Sloan replied to *Wednesday Journal* reporter Deb Kadin's request for follow up comments on the River Forest All-Government Meeting on May 29.
- Matt Baron of Inside Edge PR has been a tremendous help in informing River Forest of updates in programming and trustees changes.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for July 31, 2015 in the amount of \$24,107.68. See enclosure. Trustee Belmonte seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, Kelty, and Belmonte
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance for July 31, 2015 in the amount of \$59.10. See enclosure. Trustee Belmonte seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, Kelty, and Belmonte
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Carla Sloan

- Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach has hit the ground running and has taken strong initiative in outreach to seniors.
- Knutte & Associates performed their audit last Thursday-Friday. Preliminary feedback was very positive with a just a few suggestions.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Trustee Belmonte gave a written and verbal resignation as a trustee for the River Forest Township. Trustee Romeo made a motion to accept her resignation, Mark Kelty seconded.
- Supervisor Sloan declared the position of trustee as vacant.
- Sloan proposed a resolution renaming the River Forest Township conference room in the honor of Veronica Belmonte. Trustees unanimously approved the resolution.
- In appointing a replacement for Trustee Belmonte, the board looked to our existing committee members who have experience with the Township and demonstrated commitment to the Township's mission, and have expressed the desire to serve at Trustee. Pursuant to that process, the board would like to appoint Helene Connolly, who has been a member of the Mental Health Committee for 20 years, and Chair for 15 years. Trustee Romeo made a motion to appoint Helene Connolly to the Township Board of Trustees, and Mark Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Helene Connolly took the oath of office, as counselled by Clerk Taubman. All present board members signed a warrant of appointment.

No executive session was held, minutes will be held for a future meeting.

Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Trustee Kelty seconded, the motion was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned immediately.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, August 18th at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Taubman, Clerk