

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called:

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Mary O'Brien, Helene Connolly, Mark Kelty, Anna Romeo (arrived at 7:11 p.m.)

Absent: none

Also present: Cathaleen Roach, Attorney Pat Deady, Mental Health/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, Jane Schlichting, Lila Pagni, Julia Gebert, and Clerk Karen Taubman

Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular July 13, 2015 meeting, Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

- None

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Second installment tax bills were due on August 3rd; we are assisting homeowners and seniors who did not get the correct exemptions.
- The Board of Review (BoR) is open and is using a new on-line complaint filing system. To assist homeowners and seniors, we organized a training session in conjunction with Riverside Township and the Boors
- A community outreach is scheduled for August 25th at 6:30 p.m. Press releases have been issued.
- Instructions on how to appeal property taxes have been mailing to new homeowners with assessments over 10% of their purchase price and to owners who have requested assistance.

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

Avis Rudner

- We have completed the SibShop and are working on the fall schedule. An additional volunteer facilitator was trained and we will continue to expand our volunteer base.
- Residents have suggested the Township address the incidence of suicide within our community. We are going to ask the RF Township MHC to take a look at suicide prevention and outreach. This is a new direction but we believe will be helpful for our community and bring new ideas to the group.
- We have one current GA recipient.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- A Concordia University Chicago Robotics Camp, partially sponsored by the Township, was a great success. We continue to receive requests from the community to repeat this opportunity.
- The YSC did not meet in July or August; we will reconvene on September 2nd.
- The YSC is beginning to hold their mentoring training, newly required for all grantees.
- Sloan and Rudner met with Vicki Scaman, the new project director for the SAMHSA grant.
- IMP.A.C.T. is in the process of hiring a coordinator for both Oak Park and River Forest. The position is being funded by the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park.

- The next community coalition meeting will be led by IMP.A.C.T. and will meet on September 28th at the RFCC. The purpose is to discuss and prioritize implementation of the white paper on underage substance use in OP and RF.
- We have funded 9 families and 11 children through scholarships. Sloan will contact the River Forest school social workers to remind them of the availability of services.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach

- The Township co-sponsored two well attended presentations at the River Forest Library, along with the continued coffees and computer workshops. There are now both day and evening events available.
- On July 31st there was an Advanced Directives Clinic for qualified seniors and caregivers held at the RFCCA, with Ms. Roach acting as one of the pro bono attorneys, along with 12 other attorneys. They received power of attorneys for healthcare and property as well as living wills. They received the documents the same day.
- Supervisor Sloan and Roach will meet with the STAR group of the Oak Park and River Forest synagogues. Outreach continues to other local organizations and buildings with a large percentage of senior citizens.

Supervisor’s Comments

Carla Sloan

- Sloan attended a retirement event for Kathy Kern, the executive director of Parenthesis.
- Community Support Services held an appreciation event for the funders, so Sloan attended on behalf of the Township.
- The River Forest Park District is considering a new recreation building, but to assure they have maximized all existing space in the village, they are meeting with local organizations. Sloan met with Ross Roloff, the head of the RFPD. Sloan felt it would be valuable to have Dick Chappell, the RFCCA Facilities Manager, at the meeting, so they will reconvene in late August.
- Kristin Vogel asked Supervisor Sloan to participate in Community Works (CW). CW has three priorities: Planet Green, Leadership, and Success of All Youth. Sloan will serve on the committee that oversees all three priority groups.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for August 31, 2015 in the amount of \$75,117.62. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, Kelty, O’Brien, and Connolly
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance for August 31, 2015 in the amount of \$341.04. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, Kelty, O’Brien, and Connolly
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Carla Sloan

- A preliminary draft of the Township audit performed by Knutte & Associates was received. Due to changing auditors, Sloan felt it was prudent to meet with Knutte & Associates to clarify some details. Sloan and Romeo have scheduled to meet with them prior to the September Township meeting.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Avis Rudner introduced the Trustees to Lila Pagni, who provided Trustees a summary of her experience and education in the mental health and social work areas. Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve her membership to the MHC, Trustee Kelty seconded, and all approved.

- Sloan provided a follow-up to the Village-Wide May meeting. The Village requests each board consider who will want to represent them for a one year commitment on the collaboration sub-committee to meet monthly. Anna Romeo volunteered to serve for the Township.

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

Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Trustee O'Brien seconded, the motion was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned immediately.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Taubman, Clerk