

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll called:**

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Helene Connolly, Mark Kelty, Mary O'Brien, and Anna Romeo

Absent: none

Also present: Mental Health/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, Clerk Karen Taubman, Dick Chappell, Senior Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, Assessor Pamela Kende, and Ron Orzel & Bakahia Madison of IMP.A.C.T.

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular December 1, 2015 meeting, Trustee Connolly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Participation**

- Ron Orzel, IMP.A.C.T. Board Chair, and Dr. Bakahia Madison, Director of IMP.A.C.T., attended the Township meeting.
  - Sloan reminded trustees of: the mission of IMP.A.C.T, and how they are transitioning from a grass roots parent led organization to a more structured community coalition; that the RFT provides in kind office space for Dr. Madison, whose salary has been funded the last several months by the OP Community Mental Health Board; finally, for the last two years, the RFT has funded programs IMP.A.C.T. provides in River Forest to combat under-age drinking and drug use.
  - Orzel and Madison gave trustees a presentation about the history of IMP.A.C.T, recent accomplishments including obtaining a 501 (c) 3 and outlined strategies for achieving the goals of the organization as directed by the White Paper. IMP.A.C.T. is the only local agency which focuses on prevention. Orzel stressed how Dr. Madison and her professional guidance gives IMP.A.C.T. a long term sustainability. In March, funding for her position runs out.

**Assessor**

**Pamela Kende**

- All senior property owners have been contacted to assure they have filed forms for the Senior Freeze.
- There is a new property tax exemption for 70% or more disabled veterans, where the veteran or surviving spouse does not pay any property taxes for their lifetime. This includes the home any home the surviving spouse lives in during their lifetime, as long as they do not marry.
- Tax bills will be mailed around February 1st, this is the estimated bill which is 55% of the amount paid in the prior year. Exemptions are not included.

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

**Avis Rudner**

- Supervisor Sloan and Rudner will attend the January breakfast meeting of Youth & Family Behavioral Health Consortium (we are sponsoring the annual meeting along with the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park).
- Planning for the spring sessions of SibShop programs is underway.
- IMP.A.C.T. has a coalition meeting scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Supervisor Sloan attended a parent information session at Roosevelt Middle School in preparation for NAMI's Ending the Silence program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at RMS in February during PE classes.
- Local planning for suicide education and prevention is underway.
- The Infant Welfare Society Director, Elizabeth Lippitt, has resigned after 20 years with the organization. A search for her replacement is being conducted.
- MHC funding applications have been received, and are under review with the committee. Recommendations will be presented to trustees in March.
- Mental Health First Aid, a NAMI program, will be held at the RFCC on March 1<sup>st</sup>. D90 had 17 staff members accept the opportunity for training. Supervisor Sloan will attend, and the training and the opportunity has been extended to the RFPL, RFPD, RFCC, and D200.
- The RFPL wants to do a Mental Health in-service. Sloan connected her with NAMI for a program already in existence.
- NAMI has a job support program, helping members find jobs. They are asking people with personal hygiene samples and office supplies to donate items. Rudner provided trustees a list of items that could be of use to clients. This is an ongoing need.
- The Township currently has one GA client. Rudner and Sloan presented trustees with a survey of local Townships and their monthly grants to GA clients. Sloan informed trustees that after surveying local townships, RFT would be adjusting our flat monthly grant to reflect other comparable communities, to \$300/month from \$245/month.

## Senior Services

## Cathaleen Roach

- The 6th annual one week event, *Celebrating Seniors*, will be held in early May.
- On January 10<sup>th</sup>, we co-sponsored renowned story-teller, Bill Hellmuth, who shared insights on Iran at River Forest Public Library. The event was well attended.
- On a Coffee Monday on January 4<sup>th</sup>, Roach gave a presentation on writing memoirs.
- On February 1<sup>st</sup>, an a cappella duet will serenade seniors with love songs.
- Nationally known author Jane Hamilton, a former Oak Park resident, will present at the RFPL in May as part of the joint Township/Library Celebrating Seniors All Year Long program.
- We continue with the anticipated rollout of the Vital Information Packet (VIP) in May. This is a partnership with the RFFD paramedics. Seniors will receive packets in which to put their emergency medical information. Packets will be kept in the freezer; a decal on the freezer will direct paramedics where to find the emergency information.
- On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a partnership between Grace Lutheran and the RFFD, we will have a day-long workshop in regards to Falls Prevention.
- Roach passed out to trustees a summary of upcoming events related to Life Long Learning.

## Youth Services Committee (YSC)

## Carla Sloan

- On January 6<sup>th</sup> the YSC held its annual networking event, where prospective grantees make a brief presentation to the committee about their program. John Williams reviews grant requirements with the prospective grantees. Sloan provided trustees a copy of the current Youth Services Application, so they could understand both the complexity and requirements of a grant.

- The SAMHSA grant work group held their second meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>. They fine-tuned their mission/vision statement. Next steps include a community assessment, to be followed by a strategic plan by July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The RFPD is holding a “Rock In” for RF 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders on Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Advance reservations are required.
- The Youth Interventionist Program (YIP) IGA is up for renewal on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Sloan will work with other RF entities for support. Sloan provided trustees a copy of the Youth Interventionist 2015 Annual Report. It was noted River Forest was 24% of the clients. Reasons for referral now include mental health (beyond gangs, drugs, violence).

**Supervisor’s Comments**

**Carla Sloan**

- Jane Schlichting will no longer cover the River Forest Township for the League of Women Voters; she has been assigned to cover the Village of River Forest.
- Recently Sloan attended the COG, the River Forest Administrators Meeting, and the Business Managers Meeting. Highlights include:
  - D90 is focusing on equity and the exterior project
  - D200 is focusing on the pool
  - Concordia University is building a new dorm on Bonnie Brae
- Trustee Connolly attended the recent River Forest Collaboration Meeting. Highlights include:
  - D90 is interested with working with seniors getting involved with the schools.
  - The village is looking at a broadband internet service for all residents.
  - Connolly asked about the RF Township not participating in the Youth Network Council. Sloan expressed that the RF Township is represented by John Williams, of the joint Oak Park River Forest Township Youth Services Committee.
  - Discussions continue in regards to a joint community calendar and website portal.

**Approval of Bills**

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for January 2016 in the amount of \$27, 897.25 See enclosure. Trustee O’Brien seconded. Roll called.

Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, O’Brien, and Romeo

Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance for January 2016 in the amount of \$88.66. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.

Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, O’Brien, and Romeo

Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

**Carla Sloan**

- none

**New Business**

**Carla Sloan**

- Andrea Lissuzzo resigned from the Mental Health Committee. There were several applicants for the open position, and after careful consideration the position was offered to Anna Daly. Sloan and Rudner provided trustees a summary of her experience and education in mental health. Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve her membership to the MHC, Trustee Connolly seconded, and all approved.

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

Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn at 7:04 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, February 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Taubman, Clerk