

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, March 15th, 2016 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called:

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

Absent: Mark Kelty

Also present: Clerk Karen Taubman, Dick Chappell, and Senior Coordinator Cathaleen Roach

Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular February 16, 2016 meeting, Trustee Connolly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

- Ginger Colamussi, OPRFHS Prevention Wellness Coordinator/Social Worker, gave trustees a overview of the field of prevention, which has moved towards evidence based programs. Additionally, what the risk and protective factors are within our own community. The Illinois Youth Survey and the White Paper are among the tools used to judge these factors.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Kende was absent, but provided a written report indicated below:
 - First installment tax bills have been mailed. The office fields inquiries for residents who need a duplicate tax bill copy or other assistance.
 - We are assisting seniors with their senior exemptions, which must be filed every year. Many new homeowners need assistance with filing their home owner exemptions.
 - River Forest Township is open for appeals until Monday, February 29th. Appeals are filed online at the Cook County Assessor website. Our office can assist in finding comparable properties or filing an appeals based on incorrect property description errors.

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

Avis Rudner

- Supervisor Sloan and Rudner attended the January breakfast meeting of Youth & Family Behavioral Health Consortium, which the Township sponsored along with the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park.
- The next sessions of SibShop are scheduled for February 27th, March 12th, and April 23rd. Sessions will be held at Thrive in Oak Park.
- NAMI's *Ending the Silence* program will be presented to 7th and 8th graders at RMS in February during PE classes.
- Local planning for suicide education and prevention is underway. The Township is working with Thrive, NAMI, and the Mental Health Board of Oak Park to determine initial program plans. A task force is being forged to prepare a community assessment.
- Mental Health First Aid, a NAMI program, will be held at the RFCC on March 1st. 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, D200 and the Village of RF.
- The NAMI PIAT Conference – Fostering Family Resiliency will be held on March 19th at Brooks Middle School in Oak Park. The conference is for parents, clinicians, teachers and everyone who cares for children and families with mental health needs.
- NAMI Illinois has been shut down due to lack of state funding.

- Tyra Manning, former D90 superintendent, has written a memoir, *Where the Water Meets the Sand*, her personal journey of mental illness, hope and courage. The Township and RFPL will co-host Dr. Manning's book talk on May 1st at 2pm at the RFPL.
- The Township currently has one GA client.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach

- The tri-suburban (OP, FP, RF) 5th annual one week event, *Celebrating Seniors*TM, will be held May 12-19.
- At the February Coffee Monday, an a cappella duet serenaded seniors with love songs.
- The River Forest Police are doing a scam protection session at the March Coffee Monday.
- The September 22nd Falls Prevention event has been put on hold, due to the resignation of the Grace Lutheran nurse, who was the primary event coordinator.
- Sloan and Roach attended a Livable Communities conference at Rush, which focused on making our communities more amenable for seniors to age in place.
- Sloan and Roach met with Lydia Manning, Concordia's Associate Professor of Gerontology, to discuss a caregiver support group. Concordia is interested in starting a support group for their staff and faculty, and also wishes to work with the Township to extend the support to the local community.
- Computer learning labs at the RF Library continue to be successful; parking remains a challenge.
- We continue with the anticipated rollout of the Vital Information Packet (VIP) in May. This is a partnership with the RFFD paramedics. The program may change names.
- Talks continue in regards to senior snow removal; Sloan believes a block-based "help your neighbor" effort might be an idea for consideration, to help support seniors' needs such as snow removal.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- All grant applications have submitted to the YSC, so they will begin the review process. At their March meeting, they will begin making decisions on grants.
- Lynn Hayes has resigned from the River Forest Youth Services Committee due to other commitments. The opening is posted on the RF Township website, and Sloan has some residents who have expressed interest in serving on the committee.
- The RFPD held a "Rock In" for RF 5th-7th graders on Friday January 22nd, with 107 attendees. The program was deemed a success and will be considered for next year.
- The Youth Interventionist Program (YIP) IGA is up for renewal on July 1st. Sloan organized a meeting for the RF taxing bodies on February 17th where John Williams of Oak Park Township will present. A representative of each group will attend, except the RFPD.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan

- Recently Sloan attended the COG, the River Forest Administrators Meeting, and the Business Managers Meeting. Highlights include:
 - D90 is adding air conditioning to the RMS Gymnasium
 - The RFPD has hired an architect to add two additional paddle tennis courts to Keystone; the RFPD also now has a contract with the Forest Preserve to maintain the baseball diamond at Lake & Bonnie Brae
 - The Rotary Rally is scheduled for August 27th
 - Concordia University is building a new dorm on Bonnie Brae
- Sloan updated Trustees regarding bills introduced in the Illinois Senate regarding townships. Sloan is closely monitoring the situation.

Unfinished Business

Carla Sloan

- None

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Sloan presented trustees a proclamation to make May 2016 Older Americans Month.
 - Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the May 2016 Older Americans Month Proclamation See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Sloan presented trustees a proclamation to make April 13th Volunteer Day.
 - Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the April 13th Volunteer Day Proclamation. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Holiday Food & Gift Basket has requested a grant for \$1500 to support its Thanksgiving grocery gift card program for RF residents in need.
 - Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the \$1500 Holiday Food & Gift Basket grant. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called. The motion passed unanimously.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, and Romeo
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Sloan presented trustees a grant request for \$1,000.00 from IMP.A.C.T. for parent cafes to be held at RMS in April and November 2016.
 - Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the \$1000 IMP.A.C.T. parent café grant. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called. The motion passed unanimously.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, and Romeo
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Sloan and trustees discussed a grant proposal received by IMP.A.C.T. to help support funding of their director position. Trustees and Sloan discussed funding of salaries vs programs. Trustees requested Sloan provide them a detailed description of the director's job responsibilities.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for February 2016 in the amount of \$71, 606.71 pending final confirmation of total from Quickbooks. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, and Romeo
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance for February 2016 in the amount of \$29.54. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, and Romeo
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 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, March 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Taubman, Clerk