

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 16, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 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 Helene Connolly, Mary O'Brien, Mark Kelty, and Anna Romeo

Absent: none

Also present: Clerk Karen Taubman, MH/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, and Senior Coordinator Cathaleen Roach

Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular July 19, 2016 meeting, Trustee Sloan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

- none

Assessor

Pamela Kende (provided a written report)

- Second installment tax bills were mailed on July 1st; the office will be helping residents obtain corrected tax bills due to missing exemptions.
- The Board of Review will open in early August 1st; two outreaches were held in River Forest to assist residents in filing an appeal. We have received a number of appeals, and phone calls. Unfortunately, our voice mail fills up quickly, a persistent problem, despite Kende checking the voice mail on a regular basis. We are continuing to get calls from lawyers requesting information and forms for their clients.
- Joan Rock, the River Forest Village Finance Director, contacted this office looking for "new properties" in order to increase the Village of River Forest tax levy. She questioned some properties and whether the permit amount had been put on to the value of the homes. This office did a survey of permits and forwarded that information to Cook County Assessor office. Rock requested a contact name so she could deal directly with the County. Kende referred Rock to the Cook County Assessor legal department.

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

Avis Rudner

- Paul Nijensohn has resigned from the MHC, as he recently moved from River Forest.
- Oak Park's Parenthesis Family Center has announced its intention to merge with New Moms of Chicago in the fall. They have committed to keeping the organization in Oak Park.
- Sloan & Rudner continue to meet with Lisa DeVivo in regards to a planned community needs assessment for Oak Park & River Forest. We are hopeful of getting additional funds for the assessment.
- Sibshops will resume on September 24th from 11:30-1:30 on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.
- Bob Atkinson has resigned as executive director for Oak-Leyden Developmental Services.
- Housing Forward (PADS), expects to be designated as a walk in site for west suburban Cook County, as a new centralized intake & admissions program will serve a greater number of clients, and will operate out of the Prevail office in Oak Park.
- A developmental disabilities (DD) consortium has been operating in Oak Park for about a year, the Township is now part of the group which meets on Thursday. This group includes all of the DD agencies we fund.
- We have one current GA client.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach

- Roach distributed to trustees a fall 2016 schedule for Let's Celebrate Seniors All Year Long.
- At the September Coffee Monday, Forest Park Senior Services will present the many trip opportunities available to our seniors.
- Sloan, Roach, and Rudner met with the Executive Director of the OP Food Pantry. In just a few years, they have grown from one program to six and a budget that was \$70K to \$2M. They met to discuss food insecurity for RF seniors. The food pantry is piloting a food delivery program.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- The late summer report from the Youth Interventionist reports a relatively quiet summer.
- Tianna Hill will replace Rob Simmons as a Youth Interventionist for Township Youth Services
- The Robotics Camp doubled in size and Concordia paid for the additional students; the families who utilized the camp were very happy.
- The IMP.A.C.T. School Committee is working on selecting a poster design for the Riskiness of Marijuana Campaign at OPRFHS.
- There is a kickoff party for the River Forest Library afterschool program on August 25.
- The response size of the 2016 Illinois Youth Survey administered in D97 was considerably smaller than previous surveys; the impact on the data remains unclear.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan

- Sloan distributed the new Township Services brochure, which we share with the OP Township.
- Sloan distributed the new Township Officials of Cook County brochure.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for August 2016 in the amount of \$53, 948.81 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 approve August General Assistance in the amount of \$688.64. 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

- Sloan presented the completed Township audit to Trustees.
- The Township voted previously to support the Community Health Board Needs Assessment at a contribution of \$7500.00. Other potential stakeholders have been encouraged to contribute as well, but no one has done so yet.
- There is a potential opening for the Township Clerk's position. The position has been posted on the website and on the River Forest Village August e-news.
- The first annual Illinois Township Day is Wednesday, September 21st. We are working jointly with OP Township, the OP Township will be doing an event at the Senior Center from 2p-4p and the RF Township will have an ice cream social from 4:30-6:30.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- The Township is offering partial need-based scholarships to seniors interested in participating in the Oak Park/River Forest Encore Chorale. Encore Chorale is the largest chorale organization for older adults in the country. A 15 week session costs \$150.00

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

Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 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 September 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Taubman, Clerk