

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

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 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: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Assessor Pamela Kende, MH/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, and Senior Coordinator Cathaleen Roach

Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the regular October 18, 2016 meeting, Trustee O'Brien seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

Two guests were present: 1) Sara Mayeda, to fill vacancy on the Youth Services Committee left by Jane Hastings; Sara is a certified teacher who has been working both nationally and locally with youth mentoring, and 2) Dennis Healy, to fill a vacancy in the Mental Health Committee left by Paul Nijensohn; Dennis is a financial professional who has a child with autism.

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- October's permits were sent to Cook County.
- There were multiple questions regarding new sale prices versus additions to home and what the impact on their assessments and tax bills would be.
- C of E's were processed for Senior and Homeowners exemptions; and information regarding refunds expected for filed C of E's was cleared up.
- Board of Review decisions were sent to homeowners; questions were fielded regarding what the reductions mean and if filed with a lawyer, how they came up with the fees.
- Board of Review resolution for a resident that did not get a reduction due to missing documentation; contact was made with Dan Patlak and there was a resolution.
- There was a Cook County Township Assessors Association meeting.
- A letter was sent to a resident whose taxes were sold.

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

Avis Rudner

- The Sibshops met in October and November. This fall session ends in December and planning for the spring is underway. It has been a very successful program. The high school may also be interested in doing the program.
- IMPACT held a parent café at Roosevelt Middle School on Thursday, November 3. The format was taken from a larger program called Strengthening Families that is being offered in Oak Park. The program addressed the impact of alcohol and drugs on the brain, parental disapproval of kids using (studies show that this is the greatest deterrent), peer pressure and firm consequences for breaking family rules. It was a strong program although not well attended.
- The Community Needs Assessment RFP was released on November 4 for return by December 6, 2016. The contract ends on June 30, 2017. The partners are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Village of Oak Park | \$10,000 |
| CMHB of Oak Park | 10,000 |
| RFT | 7,500 |
| Rotary | 1,000 |
| Township of Oak Park | <u>1,500</u> |
| | \$30,000 |

- The Mental Health Committee has distributed funding applications to currently funded agencies and others who have requested applications. In January or February recommendations for funding will be made to the Township.
- There are two General Assistance clients.
- The Holiday Food and Gift Basket program is delivering gift cards the week of November 15 and will provide gifts to needy residents in December. Their goal was met and there was an article in the Wednesday Journal. Avis thanked everyone who helped.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- There was an abbreviated Youth Services Committee meeting on November 2 due to the World Series.
- Molly Uhlir after three years has resigned from the Youth Services Committee after three years of service; we will work to fill her spot. The open position previously held by Jane Hastings will be filled by Sara Mayeda.
- Carla thanked Avis Rudner for attending the IMPACT's parent cafe. Although it was an excellent presentation, attendance was limited. It may be necessary to reconsider the parent cafe model,

perhaps with webinars or programs online, to address the middle school parent population. IYS and evidence based data indicate the need to address permissive social and parent norms in our community, yet it is difficult to reach this middle school group.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach.

- There was some new outreach this month. Cathaleen met with Sue Ames, the new Grace Lutheran Parish nurse who will be the point person there for the Township. Cathaleen described River Forest Township Senior Programs and left Sue with materials for distribution. Sue has quite a few River Forest senior residents including the Grace Lutheran Cornerstones Senior Club. Cathaleen will also conduct a Memoir Writing seminar at the Church in early 2017.
- There is a new partnership to report. Carla, Cathaleen and Mental Health Committee member, Lila Pagni met with clinical social workers from Catholic Charities and their LOSS program (Loving Outreach of Suicide Survivors), a highly regarded, 37 year-old non-denominational program in the Chicago area. Catholic Charities is interested in using RFCC conference space to host group meetings that would provide them with a much-needed near west suburban location. This would also help meet an important need in our local community.
- Cathaleen reported on other Life-Long Learning programs including Coffee Monday with a national representative from the Epilepsy Foundation. There were also two programs co-sponsored with the River Forest Public Library in November relating to Cleopatra and *Gone With the Wind*; both programs were very well received. Upcoming on Saturday, December 3 will be *Christmas in the Holy Land* with travel historian Bill Helmuth.
- Cathaleen reported that Encore, a local choral group for singers age 55+, had a successful first fall season, thanks in part to outreach by River Forest Township. The spring season starts January 17, 2017. Encore is appreciative of RF Township support. Encore's first free concert will be December 10 at 4pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph Street in Oak Park.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan.

- Carla attended another special education parents meeting, this time at Willard, a smaller and more personal discussion. Suzanne McLeese, the Willard social worker, had attended the Sibshop training to become a facilitator and has used this training to help Willard students.
- Carla thanked Karen Taubman for her help in transitioning Abby Schmelling to the Clerk's position. Karen will be invited to the holiday meeting in January to receive recognition.
- The Township hosted the Administrators' Meeting in early November.
- Carla reported that there are a number of River Forest families with financial needs. Carla spoke with Bert Petania to involve the Youth Interventionists to support of some of these families.

- Carla gave a short report on the TOI Conference in Springfield.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo asked Supervisor Sloan to obtain more information regarding the September legal bill before it is approved.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for November 2016 in the amount of \$41,445.91. Trustee Kelty seconded the motion. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Kelty and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance in the amount of \$1,102.96. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Kelty and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- The determination of salaries for elected officials was discussed under Resolution 2016-01—Setting Compensation of Township Officials for the Four Year Term Beginning May 15, 2017. A motion to approve Resolution 2016-01 was made by Trustee Romeo and seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, Kelty and Connolly. Nays: None. Abstention: Supervisor Sloan. The motion passed.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan brought up the proposed Annual Town Levy for the Town of River Forest for 2016 Tax Year, to be approved at the December 6 meeting. This is a proposed increase of 0.7% (per the CPI) for a total of \$583,106 (\$573,106 for the Town Fund and \$10,000 for General Assistance).
- Trustee Romeo made a motion seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve Sara Mayeda for the Youth Services Committee. The motion passed unanimously.
- There was discussion to approve Dennis Healy to the Mental Health Committee. It was decided to approve this appointment at the December meeting to give Avis, the Mental Health Administrator, an opportunity to meet first with Dennis.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm. Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee O'Brien seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Schmelling, Clerk

