

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, January 17 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 Mark Kelty, Mary O'Brien and Anna Romeo (arrived at 6:10).

Absent: Trustee Helene Connolly, Assessor Pamela Kende.

Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, MH/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, Patrick Deady and Dick Chappell

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the regular December 6, 2016 meeting, Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation- None

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

Assessor Kende was absent, but provided a written report indicated below:

- Senior exemption forms have been mailed to seniors by the Cook County Assessor. The Assessor's office is receiving related phone calls and making appointments..
- The Assessor met with staff from the Cook County Assessor's office to review several issues before the triennial reassessment notices are mailed.
- We anticipate opening for appeals early to middle of February. The appeal period will be 30 days.

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

Avis Rudner

- Funding applications for Mental Health have been distributed , with some already returned. The Mental Health Committee will be considering the requests in February and March. There is a new funding request is from Way Back Inn which has Grateful House in Oak Park, the only residential program for women in the western suburbs. Supervisor Sloan stated that the Township's goal has been to add a new funding partner each year.
- The Committee is working diligently on a budget recommendation for Avis to bring to the Trustees.
- The Addiction Recovery Team is comprised of community leaders and people in recovery, working together to spread awareness that addiction is a disease. In September, a free movie, panel

discussion, resource fair and open mike program will be scheduled to celebrate National Recovery Month. The goal is to reduce stigma associated with recovery. A preliminary meeting was held on January 13.

- The Youth and Family Behavioral Health Consortium will meet on January 26 for their annual breakfast at the Carleton. Local service providers will network and provide information on their programs and activities. The Developmental Disabilities Consortium has been running an ongoing series of full-page ads in the *Wednesday Journal* this fall and winter, with stories of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, highlighting all the agencies that provide these services. The Township supports both of these consortium partners.
- Carla reported on the Community Needs Assessment. LHF, Leading Healthy Futures, a Chicago research firm that specializes in health care research, has been collectively chosen. Next steps in the coming weeks include a resident survey as well stakeholders interviews. The first meeting with LHF and the funding partners is Tuesday, January 24.
- Sibshops begin again on Saturday, January 21. Fliers have been sent out. Eleven participants have signed up so far for this session. Most are returning for this session; new children are always welcome..
- There will be a special education parent forum on February 1 at Roosevelt Middle School. Supervisor Sloan will attend to meet parents and staff and present Township services.
- There are currently two General Assistance clients.
- The Holiday Gift and Food Basket delivery was successful and planning has begun for next year.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- There was no Youth Services Committee meeting in January since grant applications were due on January 13. There is a four-hour meeting scheduled on February 1 to begin review of grant applications. There is still an opening available on the Youth Committee for a River Forest resident.
- Two new Youth Interventionists have been hired, Dominique Hickman and Amanda Mueller.
- The SAMHSA grant group met last week to work on the strategic planning process to develop goals and strategies. The Leadership Committee, including Supervisor Sloan, meets on Thursday.
- IMPACT: The School Committee, including Supervisor Sloan, meets next Tuesday. The Riskiness of Marijuana poster campaign is in full swing at OPRF High School. IMPACT's new website, a project which the Township is helping to fund, is being launched. Dr. Bahahia Madison will be at the February 21 Township meeting to demo the website. She will also discuss IMPACT's grant application efforts.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach.

- We are working with River Forest Paramedics Dave Bochenek and Quentin Young for follow-up with our popular ICE Packet program. We want to know how the ICE Packets are helping paramedics do their jobs and whether they suggest any changes to the packets or medical forms.
- We continue our Life Long Learning Program with the River Forest Library. There are two Sunday programs in January, as well as Coffee with Abe Lincoln on February 6. February programs include a Tour of Presidential Libraries on February 13 and an Oscar Prediction Party on February 19.
- The ENCORE Senior Choir Ensemble, with whom we partner, begins Spring rehearsals next Tuesday at Trinity High School.
- Celebrating Seniors Week is May 18-25, and the Kick-off Breakfast is January 19 at the Forest Park Mohr Center. For CSW this year we will again provide presentations on Falls Prevention, Advance Directives Planning, and Memoir Writing. We will also co-sponsor programs with River Forest Library, including a talk by local author Elizabeth Berg. 60 over 60 Award nominations are due in the next few weeks.
- We continue promoting income tax preparation assistance with both Triton's RSVP program and the local arm of the AARP program, for moderate and low-income local seniors.
- Arbor West Neighbors is a tri-village group of engaged local seniors interested in promoting the Village-to-Village "aging in place" movement. As part of our new partnership, we are providing space at the RFCC on February 13 for a national webinar featuring the acclaimed author of *Being Mortal*, Atul Gawande. We are also assisting AWN in distributing surveys to local citizens, seeking citizen input on this new group's focus and direction.
- For the first time, we are collaborating with the River Forest Library to participate in The Senior Citizens' Center of Oak Park and River Forest's day-long HALE (Health and Longevity Expo) on March 2 at the 19th Century Club. Our Clerk, Abby Schmelling is a board member of the SCC.
- Cathaleen will attend the legislative breakfast on Friday sponsored by Age Options, as a guest of the Alzheimer's Association. The Township wants to increase its involvement with our local Association to better provide residents with access to the Association's many outstanding webinars and seminars.
- The Senior Committee brainstorming retreat scheduled for January 14 has been postponed.
- The Township has a new partnership with the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program. The Township will provide outreach and space for a free, weekly, six-week LOSS support group on Thursday evenings beginning March 2.
- The Township's 100th birthday celebration will involve Senior Outreach activities.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan.

- Supervisor Sloan attended meetings of the RF Administrators, OP and RF Business Managers and

Council of Government..

- The Township celebrates its 100th birthday this year. Cathaleen, Avis, Abby and Carla met with Matt to brainstorm; ideas from Pam and the trustees are welcome. We created a slogan which acknowledges the anniversary but also projects us into the future and elaborates on what we do: *Building on 100 years of Vital Human Services*. Township Day in September will be the anniversary event.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills totalling \$24,251.07. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien, and Kelty. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Romeo made a motion to General Assistance in the amount of \$59.10. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, O'Brien and Kelty. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- No Unfinished Business

New Business

Carla Sloan

- The Board approved two items:

1) *Older Americans Month 2017 Proclamation*: states the 18th through the 25th of May 2017 be designated as Celebrating Seniors Week. A motion to approve the proclamation was made by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Trustee Romeo. The motion passed unanimously.

2) *Ordinance 2017-1*: An Ordinance Establishing the Reimbursement of all Travel, Meal, and Lodging Expenses of Officers and Employees in the Township of River Forest, Illinois, effective January 1, 2017. A motion to accept the ordinance retroactive to January 1, 2017 was made by Trustee Romeo and seconded by Trustee O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kelty seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Abby Schmelling, Clerk

