

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 22, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, August 22 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Helene Connolly, Mark Kelty, Karen Taubman and Holly Economos.

Also present: Assessor Pamela Kende , Clerk Abby Schmelling, MH/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, and RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell; and guest Judy Smith.

Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the regular July 18, 2017 meeting, Trustee Connolly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

Supervisor Sloan introduced Judy A. Smith who is being recommended as an independent contractor on a short term basis to support the Township Senior Services Committee in developing two new projects: Reach Out, a block by block program for residents to help meet the needs of their senior neighbors, and a 311-type central resource line for seniors to get information and referrals.

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

The office has been busy with assisting tax payers with questions regarding Board of Review appeals as well as Second Installment tax bills and exemptions.

All 2012 Exemptions are now closed. All 2016 exemptions need Certificates of Error.

The office arranged a community outreach for the residents of River Forest to understand the Board of Review's procedures. Over one hundred appeal packets were created for appeal pre-filing. There were many residents who wanted appeal packets with comparables but this is not available to them through the Assessor's office.

The Assessor wrote information for the Township and Village newsletters.

The office helped residents get corrected tax bills and duplicate tax bills by submitting correct paperwork or ordering it for them; and helped those who had difficulty navigating the Treasurers website. The office helps them pay their property tax bills on line in their office.

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

Avis Rudner

- The Mental Health Committee has invited Karen Boozell, Director of Special Education at District #90 to join the Committee for a review of Special Ed programs at District #90 at their September 5 meeting.
- Mental Health Committee member Jim Hartzler will report on Oak Leyden as our representative to their annual meeting.
- Also reporting at the next meeting are Lila Pagni, who represented River Forest Township at OPRF's Suicide Taskforce meeting earlier in the summer; and Committee member Joan Greene who attended a suicide seminar at Unity Temple in August.
- Carla and Avis met with the Thrive staff to plan our fall Sibshop Program sessions. The format will be the same. It starts September 30 with six sessions through December 16. Kids aging out will become volunteer helpers. Some parents have agreed to speak anonymously for a news article.
- Carla reported that the Township, along with the other major partners of the Community Health Assessment (the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board and the Oak Park Public Health Department) and the consulting firm, have been in the process of reviewing the final document. The Needs Assessment proposes solutions which are measurable and able to be achieved given the resources available and the extent to how those resources are used.
- In General Assistance, there is one released GA client with one client left.
- Carla reported that the Township worked with the people from the American Association of Persons with Disabilities (AAPD) to hold voter registration sessions at the Township last month. There was a small turnout, so they are reassessing how to better get this done. Carla recommended they work closely with the high school to better target disabled adults aged 18-22, as well as educate parents and caregivers regarding online voter registration.
- LOSS, for those who have lost loved ones to suicide, is starting up again in October at the Township offices on 3rd Monday evenings. It is now an open group with no required pre-registration and commitment to a specified number of sessions.
- The Suicide Prevention Task Force is meeting on August 30. District #200 is interested in collaborating on suicide prevention efforts.
- Carla spoke about the safe disposal of medications, which also is an interest of the high school. There are two safe disposal boxes, one in River Forest and one in Oak Park, which need to be better publicized and utilized. This issue will be included in the Health Needs Assessment in the Opioid section.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach.

- Thursday August 3 Celebrating Seniors All Year Long (CSAYL) co-sponsored *Solar Eclipse is Coming* at the River Forest Public Library in anticipation of the August 21 eclipse. Fifty-six attended and it was very well received. Participants received free Adler Planitarium eclipse glasses.
- The last summer Coffee Monday was held on August 7. Upcoming Coffee Monday programs include September 11, a visit from Jan Dressell and the OPRF Historical Society; and October 2, Abby Schmelling on searching two important databases, Ancestry and FamilySearch.
- At St. Luke's Prime Timer's request, Cathaleen will present her Memoir Writing: Getting Started seminar for their seniors on September 20.
- Cathaleen attend the inaugural seminar underwritten by AARP and the new Concordia University Entrepreneurial Center and Gerontology Center at Concordia on July 31 called Work for Yourself at 50+. They are very interested in our help in getting local senior residents to this seminar when it is held again in November.

- The Township is also supporting the September 25 Arbor West Network (rescheduled) live webinar with author Atul Gwande of Being Mortal fame.
- Brain Health Initiatives:
October 28 from 10am to 11:30am is the first of an educational series as part of our new partnership with the Alzheimer's Association. The first lecture is called Healthy Living for your Brain and Body: Tips from Latest Research.

Carla and Cathaleen met last month with River Forest Police Chief Greg Weiss to discuss the Police Department's rollout of a bracelet program for local residents with dementia and/or other communication difficulties. Residents receive a bracelet with an ID connected to a database. River Forest police are also stepping up their mental health training.

Carla and Cathaleen met with River Forest resident Helen Kwan, a geriatric social worker involved with the Dementia Friendly Illinois initiative. Helen is working to get River Forest designated as a Dementia Friendly community.

Carla is interested in a collaborative effort with the Village and others to support a broader dementia initiative for our community.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- A new youth interventionist, Brison Blackwell, has been hired with the departure of Bert Patania. All three interventionists will now report directly to John Williams.
- The Youth Services Committee has been on hiatus over the summer. Three River Forest resident spots remain open on the Committee. Carla will work to fill these positions throughout the fall.
- Terria Diggins has been hired to replace Vicki Scaman as the coordinator for the alcohol prevention grant being managed by Oak Park Township on behalf of both communities. Terria has hired Inside Edge Communications (run by Matt Baron) to help with the grant's communications projects. A resident survey is also in process.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan.

- The Governor has signed Senate Bill 3. We worked with our legislators to encourage them to pass this bill, given that passage of a consolidation bill was inevitable, and that SB3 was the most palatable and least hostile of the consolidation bills. The Township will keep innovating and demonstrating to our taxpayers that we provide tremendous value to the community.
- River Forest and Oak Park Townships co-hosted the TOCC Supervisors meeting at the Township Senior Center last month. There will be a TOCC Board meeting on August 31.
- The TOI Annual Conference will be held in Springfield on November 12-14. Elected officials and staff are encouraged to attend.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve bills as of August 31, 2017 totalling \$85,771.32. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Economos and Taubman. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of August 31, 2017 in the amount of \$360.94. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor

Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Economos and Taubman. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Carla made a recommendation to lease a Savin (Ricoh) color copier from ISBS, who also sells phone systems. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos that the Township enter into a monthly lease for the ISBS Savin color copier for 48 months at \$229.79 per month. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Economos and Taubman. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Carla gave an update on the 100th Anniversary Celebration to be held on August 26 as part of Rotary's Food Truck Rally in Keystone Park. The Township as a Silver Sponsor will have a tent with giveaways and information, and Abraham Lincoln (Oak Parker Kevin Wood) will be there.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Carla began the discussion about hiring Judy A. Smith as Senior Services Committee Project Director. Her resume and job description were included in the packet. Judy would be hired for seven months from September 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 as an independent contractor at \$23/hour, working five to seven hours per week. Funding is supported under approved budgeted line item entitled Senior Services Committee Projects. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to hire Judy A. Smith as an independent contractor at \$23/hour, working no more than five to seven hours per week, through the end of the fiscal year. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Economos and Taubman. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously. Trustee Taubman asked that it be noted for the record her concern about shouldering 100% of this contract, with Oak Park Township supplying support services only.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Trustee Taubman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kelty seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk