

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, September 19 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 Karen Taubman and Holly Economos. Not present: Trustees Helene Connolly and Mark Kelty.

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

Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular August 22, 2017 meeting, Trustee Economos seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Participation -- None**

**Reports**

**Assessor**

**Pamela Kende**

Report read by the Township Clerk:

The assessor's office helped residents obtain Certificates of Error due to missing exemptions.

The Board of Review opened for appeals August 1. There was one outreach held with the Cook County Board of Review Commissioner and his invited co-sponsor, Cook County Commissioner, Peter Silvestri.

The River Forest Township appeal period closed August 30. The assessor's office received a number of appeal inquiries and unfortunately, our voicemail system was unable to handle the call volume. We assisted residents with online appeal instructions and provided data and advice on how to present the best appeal for their situation. As in years past, packets were mailed to residents or envelopes left at the front desk of the Community Center for easy, quick pickup. The assessor's office expects that next year will be even busier because that is when the effect of the tri-annual reassessment will be felt on the second installment tax bills. Historically speaking, the Board of Review opens days after the second installment tax bills are due.

Pam helped staff the Township booth at the Rotary event Saturday, August 26.

We are continuing to get calls from lawyers and realtors requesting information.

Pam is currently attending continuing education classes to fulfill CE requirements.

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

**Avis Rudner**

- Karen Boozell, the District #90 Director of Special Education, briefed the Mental Health Committee at the September 5 meeting on the topic of special education.
- Mental Health Committee members Jim Hartzler, Lila Pagni and Joan Greene reported on meetings they attended at Oak Leyden, the OPRF Suicide Taskforce and a suicide prevention seminar at Unity Temple. At the meeting Patty Marino introduced a District #90 initiative from Ed Condon, Superintendent, called Mindset, the new psychology of success book called One School One Book. The endeavor is designed to bring together the District #90 learning community around the ideas in the book.
- Cathaleen and Avis attended a quarterly meeting of the OPRF Taskforce on Suicide Prevention on August 30. Of particular interest to the group is a program operating in the northwestern suburbs called Text a Tip. In discussing the texting program, it was noted that OPRF has a similar program already operating. Further discussion is expected. Dr. Peter Chien, a psychiatrist, provided on-line research and Cathaleen provided material on LOSS suicide support groups.
- On September 9, Avis attended the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board's strategic planning session. The CMH board is working to establish funding priorities for the next five years as required by law.
- There is one GA client.

Carla referred to the National Suicide Prevention Month ad that was passed out at the meeting. The four organizations sponsoring the ad are the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, River Forest Township, Riveredge Hospital and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Metro Suburban. September is National Suicide Prevention month and ads will be placed in the Wednesday Journal.

The Health Needs Assessment is complete and will be sent out to Trustees to go through. Discussion is continuing on how to disseminate the document to stakeholders and share with the community.

Sibshops start September 30. We already have 14-15 kids signed up for the various sessions plus three who aged out who are coming back as volunteer helpers. About eight of the participants are new. Three of our families agreed to step up and talk about their experiences with Matt Baron who is doing an article about Sibshops.

We now have two LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) support groups starting up, one for adults and one for teens. The teen group will be held on the third Thursdays starting September 21 and the adult group will be on third Mondays starting October 16. These programs offer a valuable anchor for this organization in the near west suburbs.

## **Youth Services Committee (YSC)**

**Carla Sloan**

- The Youth Services Committee met on September 13 when Carla was on vacation. The Committee is working on a mission statement and redefining its purpose. There are still three spots on the Committee that need to be filled. Carla will reactivate a notice in the ENEWS and follow up with people who previously expressed interest.
- Referring to the Alcohol Prevention Grant, Terria Diggins, who was hired as the grant coordinator to replace Vicki Scaman, has resigned and the job has been posted. Terria will stay on until her replacement is found. Work continues on the implementation of the strategic plan with various workgroups gearing up. Matt Baron has been hired to lead the work on the communications campaigns.

- Bakahia Madison has resigned as Director of IMPACT effective October 5. She stated that limited funding and resources made it difficult to continue effectively in her role. She will stay on as a member of their Board of Directors. She thanks the Township for its strong support of IMPACT and her role. Township funding will be on hold as of October 5, since it was specifically budgeted to support the work of the Director. The November parent forum which is also funded by the Township will still be held at Roosevelt or elsewhere in River Forest. Board Chair Ron Orzel and Carla will meet at the end of the month to see what will happen with IMPACT going forward. There may be further consolidation with the alcohol prevention grant.

## Senior Services

**Cathaleen Roach.**

- Cathaleen reviewed the Township's participation in the Rotary Rally held on August 26.
- Cathaleen distributed four handouts on events sponsored by the Seniors.
- Cathaleen reported on the Coffee Monday presentation by Jan Dressel, President of the Oak Park River Forest Historical Society. Twenty-one people attended. Discussion followed about the opening of the new home of the Society in a renovated firehouse in Oak Park.
- Cathaleen reported on the Sunday programs: Midlife Maze, navigating middleage and beyond; and the Mesopotamia program.
- At St. Luke's Prime Timer's request, Cathaleen will present her *Memoir Writing: Getting Started* seminar for their seniors on September 20.
- Senior Services is helping to sponsor the live webinar with Atul Gawande at the Nineteenth Century Club on September 25.
- Cathaleen brought up other events coming up which were mentioned in the handout at the meeting.
- Avis and Cathaleen attended a meeting sponsored by NAMI on the elderly and suicide.
- Judy Smith and the Senior Committee are doing a great job and have a good working relationship.

## Supervisor's Comments

**Carla Sloan.**

- Carla is now the Legislative Chair for the TOCC Board which will be meeting with Metro Township (the larger Illinois townships) and their lobbyist on October 4 to see how they can better work together. TOCC does not have its own lobbyist. There will be a meeting with TOI's new lobbyist in Springfield in mid to late October and again at the TOI conference. The goal is to get a handle on the legislative agenda as it relates to townships, now that SB 3 has passed.
- The TOCC Board met on August 31 and will meet again at the TOI conference in November.
- Carla presented the new one page flyer with color icons of each of our programs. This flyer will be the basis of other communications pieces and website graphics.

## Approval of Bills

- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve bills as of September 30, 2017 totalling \$28,256.27. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Economos and Taubman. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of September 30, 2017 in the amount of \$330.49. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Economos and Taubman. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

## Unfinished Business

- Carla has signed all the paperwork for the color copier and will schedule the delivery and setup.
- Carla thanked everyone who worked at the Rally for the 100th Anniversary Celebration. There was a great turnout and the wheel of fortune was successful in drawing both kids and parents.

### **New Business**

**Carla Sloan**

- Carla referred to the Annual Treasurer's Report of the River Forest Township's Township and General Assistance Funds which were included in the meeting packet and the rules for their notification to the community.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 pm. Trustee Economos made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Taubman seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk