

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was a meeting held electronically by Zoom, per Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-7.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees, Karen Taubman, Mark Kelty, Holly Economos and Helene Connolly. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator, Avis Rudner, RFCCA Administrator, Dick Chappell, and new Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Participation—None

Supervisor Sloan introduced Betsy Kelly, the new Senior Outreach Coordinator, including her background.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

The following was accomplished by the Assessor's office:

- We are continuing with the daily activities of the office: returning phone calls, permits, etc.
- We have not heard when the Cook County Assessor will certify River Forest Township with their final assessment values. The Cook County Assessor has published the Covid-19 adjustment to the assessments in each of the five neighborhoods in River Forest. (Data included in the report).
- We have updated the Assessor's web page on the Township website with new information and press releases.
- We are expecting, but do not have confirmation, that 2nd installment tax bills will be sent out on time, July 1. Tax bills will have a long interest free payment period and may be paid as late as October 1st. without accruing interest.
- We will be helping residents obtain corrected tax bills due to missing exemptions.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- The Mental Health Committee does not meet in July and August. They will meet in early September.
- Committee member Anne Drake has resigned from the Committee. Notices have been put out to find a replacement.
- Avis is preparing the FY2021 contracts for the agencies.
- The one GA client has moved to Oak Park.
- The online Covid-19 Social Services Guide continues to be a useful tool for agencies and individuals. The Guide is updated weekly and always is easily accessed through the same link.
- Our virtual HUB training was held with strong attendance and positive feedback. The core funder team has regrouped after a hiatus due to the pandemic. The team is starting the process of hiring someone part-time to manage the HUB.
- All of the mental health and social service agencies in Oak Park and River Forest continue to be on a weekly call to update each other. Agencies are doing an amazing job during this time with virtual treatment, therapy, education, support groups, etc.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Now that school is out, organizations have by necessity figured out what the summer can look like for our youth in terms of camps, programs and childcare. Many have opened on a small scale.
- The Youth Interventionists continue to work hard to stay connected by phone and video means with the kids on their caseloads and with new kids who are being referred to them. They will be active in the parks this summer, meeting with kids and families.
- The PYD (Positive Youth Development) committee met. We are going to approach the high school about doing a virtual parent university in the fall. The live Parent U last fall was so successful and the spring one was cancelled. The next one will be virtual.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach/Betsy Kelly

- Cathaleen gave a warm welcome to Betsy Kelly.
- Cathaleen attended the May Dementia Friendly meeting. Betsy will go along with Carla to the June meeting, on Zoom.
- The River Forest Census Committee is still underway. The reporting deadline has been extended until the fall. The response rate is at 75%.
- Cathaleen attended the May 20 Senior Services Committee meeting. The next meeting is June 24.
- Cathaleen attended a couple of webinars sponsored by the American Society on Aging,

one on social isolation.

- Carla related the recognition that was given to the 60 Over 60 seniors by Cathaleen in lieu of the Celebrating Senior Week events that had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.
- The LOSS group, those who have lost loved ones to suicide, is still meeting, in Zoom format.
- Cathaleen, her husband and Betsy Kelly are delivering meals.
- Betsy and Carla are setting up a meeting with Helen Kwan to determine where the Volunteer Care Corps is headed.
- The Village appointed the age-friendly commission in conjunction with the age-friendly River Forest process. Betsy and Carla will connect with Village Trustee Res Vasquez on how the Township can partner in this effort.
- Carla talked about the interview process for the SOC position.
- Now that Betsy is on board, we need to regroup with the library to plan senior programming which doesn't require meeting in person, since seniors are likely to be the last group to return to in-person programming.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Carla spent a significant amount of time on the special town meeting, which was ultimately cancelled. Significant work was done with Pat, Matt, and Jeff, our website person. In the end, Carla feels the right decision was made by Steve Lefko's organization to withdraw the proposed advisory referendum question relating to freshman honors classes, given the timing and forum in which it was being considered.
- Cathaleen really appreciated the many notes which everyone sent her.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve Operating Fund bills as of June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$27,238.19. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Economos, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve General Assistance bills as of June 30, 2020 totaling \$177.91. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business—

Carla gave an infrastructure update:

Phone system upgrade—temporarily on hold until October due to the extremely busy time for the Assessor’s office. Carla will work with the RFCC to possibly coordinate on phone system upgrades.. Carla would like to get everything set up so we can complete the upgrade in October.

Computer upgrades—software upgrade work is in progress on all the pc’s but Carla’s. She needs a new pc, which is on backorder. When it arrives, the upgrades will be completed. We are getting satisfactory service from Access One.

Website—Carla met with Tom Elliott., a website designer and more. He applies behavior economics to website development: i.e. he considers how people consume the website space. Carla received a proposal from Tom and will get at least two other proposals.

Carla gave a 2020 Annual Meeting Update: We will wait until Illinois is in Phase #4 to hold the meeting in Room 206.

New Business

- Approval of the FY2021 Budget. Roll was called: Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Kelty, and Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously for a total of \$751,472 for FY2021, including \$673,185 for the Town Fund, \$16,287 for the General Assistance Fund, and \$62,000 for the component unit River Forest Civic Center Authority. Roll was called: Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Kelty, and Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of the IGA for the Youth Interventionist Program. Carla went over the Agreement. A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Youth Interventionist Program for FY2021 and 2022. Roll was called: Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Kelty, Connolly and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Note: the date is being changed from the previously scheduled July 21 meeting date, since Supervisor Sloan will likely be out of town on July 21. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk