



RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Caring | Connection | Community

## **River Forest Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 23, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 5:07 PM. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom.

### **Roll Call:**

- Supervisor Sloan, Trustees: Helene Connolly, Deana Herrman, Keith Strom, and Karen Taubman.
- Also present: Clerk John Becvar, Mental Health Services Administrator Sarah Schwarting, Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly, and RFCCA Facilities Administrator/RFCC Executive Director Dick Chappell.
  - Assessor Pam Kende and Website Manager Kathleen Elliott participated via Zoom.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Public Participation and Comments:**

- Public was not in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- A motion was made by Trustee Herrman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 regular meeting. The motion passed by voice vote unanimously.

### **Assessor**

- Assessor Kende stated 2023 first installment property tax bills (55% of the prior year), payable in 2024, are posted to the Cook County Treasurer's Office Website. Bills will be mailed to property owners in February. Payment is due Friday, March 1. Exemptions are only applied to the second installment property tax bill; exemption filings are delayed until March.
- The Assessor's team fielded questions regarding what the Board of Review reduction means, how it will affect tax bills and how it takes effect in the 2nd installment of 2024. Residents who were unhappy with the result of their Board of Review decision called looking for advice about the option of submitting an appeal to the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB).
- Assessor Kende completed Village permits for the year 2023.

## **Mental Health Services (MHS)**

- Mental Health Administrator Schwarting said funding applications for all 12 agencies have been returned and are now with the Mental Health Committee (MHC) for review.
- The 2nd quarter agency checks were mailed out and ACH information received for all agencies.
- Schwarting interviewed a new potential MHC member and pending Board approval, she will join the MHC in February.
- *Positive Youth Development (PYD)* has been working on social media content and is in the process of separating PYD from the Opioid Task Force and Addiction Recovery Team.
- Supervisor Sloan and Administrator Schwarting attended the *Plant Green Leaders Forum* in December and met a local high school student who attended the Dubai summit to work on climate awareness.
- Our new office chairs were purchased from a company that is environmentally sustainable – Office Furniture Center in Chicago. The MHC has also moved many processes online to reduce paper waste.
- Starting January 1, *NAMI's* Living Room centers in LaGrange and Summit went to a 24/7/365 model.
- The January Behavioral Health Consortium was held on January 17 on Zoom and the next I/DD Consortium meeting is January 24 at 9am in person. The April 24th consortium will be a joint consortium breakfast at the Carleton, being reinstated after Covid.
- The first *Parent University* planning meeting of the new year was held on January 16. The next Parent University is April 10.
- Sloan added we are pulling together resources for the Feb 1 next D90 parent support group meeting on February 1 for parents of children with IEPs.

## **General Assistance (GA)**

- Supervisor Sloan reported we continue to have one (1) GA client.

## **Senior Outreach Coordinator**

- Senior Outreach Coordinator Kelly reported she distributed flyers about programming with the library and posted them at River Forest buildings with a large older adult presence.
- Celebrating Senior Week (CSW) had their stakeholders meeting on January 18.
- The senior mailing mailed last week to all River Forest postal addresses.
- Tiffany Clements from CDEL came to Coffee Monday to talk about Wills, POA and TODs (Terms of Death Instruments)
- Coordinator Kelly hosted a nice luncheon catered by Opportunity Knocks with the Mahjong group of 16 women.
- Bridge players will now permanently play at Dole Center.
- Oak Park Township will host a joint Senior Services Committee and Youth & Family Committee meeting on February 7 at 6 pm to discuss a new Intergenerational project.

## **Youth and Family Services (YFS)**

- Trustee Herrman indicated the grant applications have been submitted (including 1 intergenerational, 2 River Forest only programs; 3 Oak Park only programs; 9 joint of which 5 are new). The YFS committee will meet on Feb 7 to talk about the grants.

- Supervisor Sloan is meeting with Director Traficano this week about the River Forest only grant submissions. Sloan suggested we recruit applications more proactively in the future.
- Clerk Becvar attended the YFS Contractor Night presentations on January 10 at the Oak Park Township office. Trafficano reminded new and existing applicants that applications for FY2025 (beginning April 1, 2024) are due January 17, 2024. Applicants who attended included OPRF HS Intramural program, WonderWorks, iSearch, OPRF HS Self Defense, OPRF HS Operation Snowball, Your Passion 1st, SLAM (a D97 program for Oak Park residents), and Style for Kids.
- Supervisor Sloan reported there are still two openings on the YFS Committee. We posted in the River Forest Village newsletter and Township website and will continue to search for River Forest residents who want to volunteer for a 3-year term.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Supervisor Sloan thanked Sarah for doing the holiday e-card digitally.
- Evan Michel is the new Township Manager at Oak Park Township. Supervisor Sloan interviewed and recommended him. Sloan will meet with Evan before our next meeting. All of our IGA's renew this year, so that will be a good introductory project to work on with Evan.
- She attended *Planit Green* leadership meeting with Schwarting and learned about the Climate Summit in Dubai and the local students who attended.
- She attended a presentation by Greg Johnson, high school superintendent, at Township Senior Services, on the state of the high school. He discussed new facilities Projects 1 and 2 and the positive financial state of the school.
- Website Manager Elliott is adding statistics for FY2023, which will be easy to update for FY2024 after the Annual Meeting.
- Since tax bills are due March 1, we will have the bonus of three tax bill's revenue in FY2024, after receiving one tax bill's revenue in FY2023.

### **Approval of Bills**

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve River Forest Township operating fund bills as of January 31, 2024 in the amount of \$75,477.00.
  - Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Herrman, Strom, and Taubman. Nays: none. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

- The 2023 Levy filed by the deadline.
- The 2024 Meeting Dates were published in *The Wednesday Journal* which has a higher circulation than the *Forest Leaves*.
- The Efficiency Report Committee meeting is January 29 at 7pm.
- The Collaboration Committee meets January 24.
- Banking update
  - The Township CDs (\$105,000) are now converted to protected publicly pooled funds at an 11 month rate of 4.5%.
  - A new money market account will be opened at Byline, first using \$50,000 from the operating account. These are publicly pooled funds as well, at a rate of 3%. If the other banks cannot offer us 3%, we will transfer funds from other banks to this money market account.

- Supervisor Sloan opened new credit cards at Byline bank with an \$8000 credit limit divided amongst all the employees.
- Sloan has received ACH payment info from many parties and is preparing to implement Protected Pay.
- Policy Handbook - Supervisor Sloan reported Clerk Becvar did an excellent draft that has been reviewed by the Township Attorney, Assessor and Supervisor. After some small updates, he will send it to the Trustees for their review and vote in February.

### **New Business**

- Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) filers were submitted before the February deadline.
- Records Disposal Certificate was approved by the State of Illinois..
- A motion was made to appoint Deborah (Debbie) Borman, J.D. and LCSW, to the Mental Health Committee to fill vacancy through June 2025 by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Taubman.
  - The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting**

- The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6PM.

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Strom to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Becvar, Township Clerk