

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:00 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, Holly Economos, Karen Taubman, Mark Kelty and Helene Connolly. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator, Avis Rudner, RFCCA Administrator, Dick Chappell, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach and Assessor Pam Kende.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Participation

River Forest resident Anna Schaider attended to discuss the proposed Advisory Referendum question which had been submitted for vote at the now postponed Annual Town Meeting. The question will be discussed at the rescheduled Annual Town Meeting, to be announced, per Supervisor Sloan.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

The following was accomplished by the Assessor's office:

- In March, River Forest was opened for appeals of our Triennial Re-assessment with the Cook County Assessor's Office. River Forest was supposed to close March 19th. We are currently still open for appeals for an undetermined amount of time. Residents are still contacting us regarding how to appeal. We have helped hundreds of residents complete their final appeal with direction and evidence.
- We are continuing to process Exemptions and Certificates of Error.
- We are currently working remotely and coming into the office when necessary. We have been able to help all residents in this manner.
- Cook County is discussing an adjustment to all assessments; a factor of reduction for Covid-19 is being discussed.
- Deputy Assessor Kathy Elliott, transitioned on April 1st from an independent contractor to a Township employee; she was officially welcomed by the Board.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- The Mental Health Committee did not meet in April. The majority of the Committee's work is done, as the Committee made its final funding recommendations to the Trustees.
- First quarter payments were made to mental health and ID/DD agencies at the beginning of the quarter, rather than the end, to help agencies' cash flow and efforts to retain employees.
- Carla commented that most agencies' fundraisers have been cancelled, so the agencies have to improvise in terms of fundraising.
- The ID/DD Consortium meeting and HUB trainings have been postponed. We are working with Aunt Bertha to make the HUB more responsive to the crisis by improving and updating service listings.
- Carla sent everyone today a link to the Covid-19 Social Services Guide, which will be updated weekly. The Oak Park Community Mental Health Board is heading up this effort and has included us as well. All of the social service agencies and government entities from Oak Park and River Forest are on weekly calls to update each other.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla and Youth Services Director Megan Traficano met with River Forest Park District Director Mike Sletten and program director Karen Stille to update them on the Youth Interventionist Program (YIP). The meeting focused on how the Youth Interventionists can help the Park District. The YIP is scheduled to present at a staff training for summer camp.
- We met with Oak Park Township and the Prevention Services/PYD team to talk about the FY2021 budget. Prevention Services has spun out from under Youth Services and now includes the FACE IT program.
- YIP is working hard to stay connected by phone and telehealth with the kids on their caseloads and with new referrals.
- The Parent University scheduled at OPRF High School on April 29 has been postponed, as well as the showing of the Screenagers movies at Roosevelt and the high school.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- All senior programming at the River Forest Library has been cancelled through May 31. This includes Coffee Mondays. All presenters have been notified and will be rescheduled.
- Celebrating Seniors Week programs have been postponed, but 60 over 60 honors and a resource-type guide will take place in the fall.

- The monthly memoir writing seminar with Arbor West Neighbors and Concordia University has been cancelled.
- Carla assisted the Village and resident Helen Kwan in putting together the River Forest Volunteer Care Corps to assist seniors. This included background checks and outreach. There is currently a surplus of volunteers, so outreach to seniors about the program is a priority.
- Cathaleen attended two Zoom meetings of the Complete Count Committee (67% as of now), and Dementia Friendly on March 30th.
- Cathaleen and her husband are delivering home meals twice a week for Township Senior Services.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Carla will no longer be attending Township Topics Day in Springfield and the National Township Conference in Washington DC, since the events have been cancelled.
- Carla has been working on the year-end financials as well as the FY2021 budget. The FY2021 budget will reflect some spending out of fund balance to support increased program spending.
- Carla talked about the issues around reopening community buildings and programs.

Approval of Bills

- Supervisor Sloan made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of March 31, 2020, in the amount of \$89,445.49. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, Kelty, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Supervisor Sloan made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of March 31, 2020 totaling \$91.42. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Economos, Connolly, Kelty, Taubman, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business—Cathaleen talked about the RF Complete Count Committee meeting which was held on March 31, through Zoom.

New Business

- Carla reminded the Board to file the Statement of Economic Interest by May 1st.
- Avis nominated River Forest resident Jane Moore to fill the last vacancy on the Mental Health Committee. A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve her joining the MH Committee. The motion was unanimous. The committee is now full.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, our budget hearing. Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk