RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 by Supervisor Druckman, at 6:30PM. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom.

Roll Call:

- Supervisor Druckman and Trustees, Phillip Buta, and Helene Connolly.
- Absent: David Bonner and Keith Strom
- Also present: Clerk Mark Hosty, Assessor Kathy Elliott

Public Participation and Comments:

Members of the public were in attendance. No one spoke.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items:

A motion was made by Supervisor Druckman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the below consent agenda items:

i. Minutes from October 20, 2026 RFT Board meeting
ii. October FY27 Profit and Loss Statement (Unaudited)(Includes RFCCA)
iii. Dolly Parton Imagination Library
iv. Appointment of Catherine Chavez to RFT Mental Health Committee for 2026-2029 term
v. Application of FY28 MHC Funding Request

Supervisor Druckman asked if any of the items needed to be considered separately.

Supervisor Druckman made a motion and seconded by Trustee Connolly to nominate Catherine Chavez for 3-year term to the River Forest Township Mental Health Committee from November 10 2026 - June 30, 2029.

- Roll call on the motion to approve the consent agenda items was taken.
    - Yeas: Supervisor Druckman and Trustees, Buta, and Connolly.
    - Nays: none.

A motion was made by Supervisor Druckman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the remaining consent agenda items:

- Roll call on the motion to approve the separate item of appointing Catherine Chavez to the River Forest Township Mental Health Committee was taken.
    - Yeas: Supervisor Druckman and Trustees, Buta, and Connolly.
    - Nays: none.
    - The motion was approved

- Levy Discussion to increase Operating and Assistance Funds by PTELL
  Supervisor Druckman recommended a 1.5% increase to the upcoming levy.
  The total would be $813,912. Discussion ensued and the matter will be voted on at the December meeting.

Reports:

- Assessor Office Report :Assessor Elliot said her office has been focused on assisting residents with making their payments and advising if PTAP is worth exploring.
- Senior Committee Trustee Connolly said that the committee is organizing an authors forum to be held on November 19. Next *Sr. meeting in November 18*
    - Supervisor Druckman also shared the following:
    - October Attendance of Weekly programming classes:
        - Walking (Monday): 12
        - Art (Monday): 37
        - Intermediate Mahjong (Monday): 32
        - Yoga (Tuesday): 10
        - Chess (Tuesday): 20
        - Pickleball (Wednesday): 4
        - Piano (Wednesday): 25
        - Mindful Movement (Thursday): 29
        - Beginner Mahjong (Thursday): 135
        - Zumba (Friday): 63
        - Walking (Friday): 14
    - Planning January - March programming at 8020 Madison Street. Under consideration: a cookbook club, NIA (no-impact aerobic) classes, ukulele classes, and possible partnership with local choir. Trustee Connolly recommended that card games be considered.
    - Program growth and engagement in October was significant and feedback from residents is very positive.
    - Township Administrator Kathy Elliott is an invaluable resource to senior programming in River Forest.
    - RF Resident Lucia Giudice has offered to volunteer her time to assist in building the 55+ activities in River Forest.
    - Upcoming Senior Special Events:
        - Pickleball clinic 11/13
        - Author's Forum 11/19
        - Breath Workshop 11/17
- Mental Health Committee (MHC) - *next MHC meeting January 5*
    - Report on Q2FY27 Activity
    - Supervisor Druckman and members of the Mental Health Committee conducted site visits to Sarah's Inn and Nami including attending NAMI Stop the Silence Workshop with Roosevelt 6th graders.

- FY27 MHC grants were changed from flat fee grants to a fee for service structure that is not capturing ID/D agency activity. $117,050 was budgeted for ID/D agencies, but only $19,796 was paid out by the end of Q2. The formula is working better for the Behavioral Health agencies.

Agency	Paid to Date	% Paid to date of Total Awarded	Total Grant	Recommended Incremental Flat for November 2026
Cayr	$604	**10.07%**	$6,000	$0
CSS	$2,964	**10.40%**	$28,500	$11,286
Oak Leyden	$3,704	**15.12%**	$24,500	$8,546
UCP Seguin	$3,216	**10.03%**	$32,050	$12,809
WSSRA	$3,000	**100.00%**	$3,000	$0
Opportunity Knocks	$7,800	**33.91%**	$23,000	$3,700

- Motion made by Supervisor Druckman and seconded by Trustee Buta to release funding up to the amount allocated to each ID/D agency as a flat grant through Q2FY2027 in recognition of the fact that the new fee for service formula has led to an unanticipated disbursement shortfall for the River Forest Township Mental Health Committee.

  Roll call on the motion was taken.
  - Yeas: Supervisor Druckman and Trustees, Buta, and Connolly.
  - Nays: none.
  - The motion was approved

- Youth and Family Services (YFS) - *next YFS meeting Jan 6*
  - David Bonner attended the 11/4 YFS meeting. Megan Traficano reported that three clinical social workers/therapists had resigned and that new staff was hired. David shared with the committee that he spoke with a couple individuals who attended the information night and planned to apply for one of the grants. He also told the committee how impressed he was with the new application structure and how efficiently the information meeting was run. Trustee Buta stated that the application deadline is Dec 15, 2026
  - Supervisor Druckman has been meeting with various River Forest entities to increase awareness of the Youth and Family Services Grants. Applications will be submitted by Willard School PTO and Lincoln PTO for Field Trips, Enrichment programs (speakers about bike safety, author visits, etc.) - $4,000, Belonging and Inclusion Programming, Family Care, Connect 4 Kids, and Big Hearts Little Hands annual senior breakfast. Lincoln School PTO is working on their application. Supervisor Druckman is talking to Roosevelt principal Tina Steketee later this week as well. A River Forest co-ed scout troop has also expressed interest in applying.
  - Village Collaboration Committee - *next meeting Nov 18*

    - Supervisor Druckman and General Assistance Report:
      We had no GA or EA clients in October but we did have 1 emergency assistance inquiry from one of the victims of the Harlem Avenue fire.
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
    - Continued to refresh and update website pages with special emphasis on general assistance and youth.
    - Introduced a shorter mission statement in Township newsletters: “The River Forest Township improves the wellbeing of our residents across all stages of life through social and supportive services.” Will revise the Township home page with the same statement as well.
    - Township Senior Newsletter sent on 10/28/26 via Square Space to 860 recipients had a 61% open rate and a 10% click through rate. Two recipients emailed positive feedback following receipt of the newsletter.
    - Township November General Newsletter sent on 11/4/26 via Square Space to 1630 recipients had a 62% open rate with a 7% CTR. Also sent FRED newsletters via Square Space.
        - FRED newsletters sent 3rd and 4th Monday of each month
    - See here the joint Oak Park Township printed calendar piece for October - December 2026
    - October Social Media Metrics:
        - Facebook 13,170 views (1,282% increase) and 429 engagement (1,432% increase) and 20 new followers (567% increase) to bring total followers to 1,006.
        - Instagram: 1,295 followers. Increase of 6 from prior month.
    - October Website Metrics: 3.5K visits from 3.4K unique visitors and 4.9K page views (1.4 pages per visit). We came up in Google Search 13,400 times which resulted in 340 clicks. Top pages accessed from search were:
        - River Forest Township voter registration,
        - River Forest Township Organization Structure,
        - and River Forest Township Medical Lending Library.
- **MEETINGS AND PUBLIC EVENTS**
    - (10/5) Meeting with Janice Pavelonis
    - (10/5) Meeting with Andi Drileck of the Dolly Parton Imagination Foundation
    - (10/5) Delivered handicap placard to RF resident
    - (10/5) LemonAid Committee Meeting
    - (10/6) Site visit of Cayr Connections
    - (10/7) Site visit of WSSRA
    - (10/7) Call with Ledgers Accounting Firm
    - (10/20) Meeting with Patricia Ochoa of Oak Park Township on General Assistance
    - (10/21) Behavioral Health Consortium with Oak Park Community Mental Health Board
    - (10/21) Meeting with Laura Brookes on Parent University
    - (10/21) Meeting with Mike Carmody from Opportunity Knocks
    - (10/23) Meeting with Megan Traficano and Andi Drileck of the Dolly Parton Imagination Foundation
    - (10/26) Meeting with Corina Davis, Willard School PTO President
    - (10/26) Meeting with Cheryl Potts of Oak Park Community Mental Health Board
    - (10/26) Meeting with Mary Reynolds of Collaboration for Early Childhood
    - (10/28) ID/D Consortium with Oak Park Community Mental Health Board

- (10/29) Meeting with Kevin Ryan, RF Mental Health Board Committee member
- (10/29) Site visit of Sarah's Inn
- (11/2) Meeting with Evan Michel of Oak Park Township
- (11/2) Meeting with Jonathan Livingston of River Forest Community Center
- (11/4) Meeting with Matt Walsh, Village of River Forest Administrator
- (11/4) Meeting with Lynn Libera, River Forest Park District Board Member
- (11/5) Meeting with Kate Newman and Lillian Shaker, Lincoln School PTO Presidents

APPROVAL OF TOWNSHIP ACCRUALS AND EXPENSES FOR OCTOBER

Supervisor Druckman moved and Trustee Buta seconded the motion to approve River Forest Township Operating Fund Bills and Accruals in the amount of **$67,054.07** for October 2026.

- Roll call on the motion was taken.
  - Yeas: Supervisor Druckman and Trustees Buta,and Connolly.
  - Nays: none.
  - The motion was approved

Supervisor Druckman moved and Trustee Connnolly seconded the motion to approve River Forest Township General Assistance Fund Bills and Accruals for October 2026 in the amount of **$225.00**

- Roll call on the motion was taken.
  - Yeas: Supervisor Druckman and Trustees Buta, and Connolly.
  - Nays: none.
  - The motion was approved

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Supervisor Druckman is continuing to research agencies available to assist in** evaluating Township website to make sure all Township communications are ADA compliant per (https://www.ada.gov/resources/small-entity-compliance-guide/) . Granted an extra year by DOJ so in our case, until April 2028 ADA Compliance for our website and FRED integration **.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion to set 2027 Meeting Dates (2nd Tuesday except 1st Tue Dec) at 6:30PM and to publish such in the Wednesday Journal
  - Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 PM
  - Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 PM
  - Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 PM
  - Tuesday, April 13 - following the Annual Town Meeting that starts at 6PM
  - Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30 PM - FY28 Budget Draft - note 1st Tuesday
  - Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30 PM - FY28 Budget Hearing and Approval
  - Tuesday, July 13 at 6:30 PM
  - Tuesday, August 10 at 6:30 PM
  - Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 PM
  - Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 PM
  - Tuesday, November 9 at 6:30 PM - Discuss 2026 Levy
  - Tuesday, December 7, 2027 - note 1st Tuesday - at 6:30PM - 2027 Levy Hearing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting – **Tuesday, December 1, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in room 208**

ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Trustee Buta and seconded by Trustee Connolly to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark S. Hosty, Clerk