River Forest Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2026

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

Roll Call:

- Trustees: David Bonner, Phillip Buta, Helene Connolly, and Keith Strom.
- Supervisor Becvar was excused absent and unable to attend.
- Also present: Clerk Mark Hosty and Assessor Pam Kende via zoom after a restart of the zoom link which failed to link initially at 6:55.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation and Comments: None

Approval of Consent Agenda Items:
A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Connelly to approve the below six consent agenda items:

1. Minutes from February 10, 2026 Meeting
2. FY26-to-date Profit and Loss Statement (Unaudited)(Includes RFCCA)
3. Intergovernmental Agreement with Oak Park Township for services
   Only 1, 2, and 3 were voted on.
4. April 14, 2026 Annual Township Meeting Agenda and notice to publish in Wednesday Journal (and sent to permissioned email addresses on file)
5. Zumba Contractor Instructor - Kathy Valdivia $40 / session.

- Trustee Strom asked if any items needed separate consideration. Discussion ensued. Trustee Bonner asked to discuss the Zumba agreement. Trustee Bonner was asking if the age for Zumba was 55 or 60. The contract says both; the agreement was for 55 and it was felt that is the age that would be used but is being marketed as 60 plus to be consistent with Oak Park Township programming. Also,he questioned if younger people would be allowed if it does not fill up.
- Roll call on the motion made by Trustee Bonner second by Trustee Connelly was taken.
    - Yeas: Trustees Bonner, Buta, Connelly, and Strom.
    - Nays: none.
    - Not present: Becvar
    - The motion was approved

Reports:

Assessor Pamela Kende provided a report that was read

The Board has requested additional information regarding the proposed Assessor budget. • River Forest Township: Approximately 4,536 parcels (2023 reassessment data); proposed Assessor budget $84,881.43
• Responded to numerous inquiries regarding the First Installment 2025 tax bill, which was mailed in early March. The standard due date is March 1; this year's due date is April 1.
• Addressed questions regarding Board of Review assessment reductions, including how reductions impact tax bills and when changes take effect (Second Installment 2026).
• Assisted seniors with exemption concerns. Exemption forms have not yet gone live on the Cook County Assessor's website. Communications and Administrative Updates
• Spoke with the Assistant Village Administrator regarding assessment values of commercial properties.
• Added upcoming events to the Township calendar.
• Issued multiple press releases to the Village and Township e-newsletters, as well as the Township website, regarding exemptions and First Installment tax bills.
• Attended the Cook County Township Assessor Association (CCTAA) meeting.

Senior Outreach Coordinator (SOC) Betsy Kelly provided a report that was read

- SOC sent out the March email to River Forest seniors.
- Mahjong, Chess and Pickleball are going well.
- Coffee Monday went well. The speaker, a retired chaplain, talked about making end of life decisions.
- Triton/RSVP tax assistance has been going well, although they canceled March 6 and March 13 visits because they are short of volunteers.
- SOC sent April, May and June information to Oak Park Township for their newsletter.
- Trustee Strom and Yazmin Morales from Oak Park Township will be meeting with people from the mobile Secretary of State tomorrow (3/11) to see if our building can host the Senior DMV event.
- SOC met with Yazmin Morales, Coordinator of Programs for Oak Park Township and introduced her via email to our program instructors.
- She is currently finishing up her annual report and will go over with Supervisor Becvar when he returns.

Mental Health Committee (MHC) (Buta) - *next MHC meeting April 7*

- Trustee Buta reported that MHC had an informative meeting reviewing applications and the processes for assessing the grantees.
- They expect to have recommendations at the next meeting.

Youth and Family Services (YFS) (Bonner) - *next YFS meeting April 8*

- Trustee Bonner reported the committee is reviewing applications. They expect to have decisions at the next meeting.

Village Collaboration Committee (Hosty) - *next meeting April 29*

Clerk Hosty reported that he felt the meeting was very informative.

Supervisor Becvar and General Assistance Report

ASSISTANCE FUND

- We had 2 active General Assistance (GA) clients in February and one new inquiry.

FILINGS AND MEETINGS

- (Feb 25) Meeting with Oak Park Township regarding the IGAs
- Byline Bank CD renewal on March 6 - rolled over for 6 months at 3.7% APR
- Already scheduled FY26 Audit meeting with auditor for Tuesday, May 19th at our office

COMMUNICATIONS

- Township March General Newsletter sent via Square to 1634 recipients had a 65% open rate with a 4% CTR. Also sent Assessor, Senior and FRED newsletters via Square.
    - FRED newsletters sent 3rd and 4th Monday of each month
- Margaret Detmer transitioned social media postings to Mark Hosty who will involve Oak Park Township via new IGA in the future to post joint programs.

COMPLIMENTARY TAX PREPARATION SERVICE FOR SENIORS

Triton College's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is offering Free Tax Assistance for households with older adults earning less than $69,000/year. River Forest Township, in coordination with Triton Community College, will have appointments at our building in Room 202.

VOTE BY MAIL CHANGES

With the March 17, Illinois Gubernatorial Primary Election approaching, please note the U.S. Postal Service changed how it defines a postmark. Under the new policy, a postmark now reflects the date the mail is processed, which may occur days after a voter drops their ballot in the mail.

- Bring their ballot directly to a USPS retail location and request it be postmarked at the counter; or
- Use one of the 55 secure mail ballot drop boxes that will be available throughout suburban Cook County beginning March 2, 2026.

OTHER UPCOMING JOINT EVENTS WITH OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

- PARENT UNIVERSITY - MARCH 18 at 5:30PM AT OPRF HIGH SCHOOL
- CSO TOWNSHIP OUTING - MARCH 25 at 10AM - ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- UPSIDE OF DOWNSIZING DISCUSSION - APRIL 8 AT 1PM AT RFCCA

Trustee Strom moved and Trustee Connelly seconded the motion to approve River Forest Township Operating Fund Bills and Accruals in the amount of $21,618.48

- Roll call on the motion was taken.
    - Yeas: Trustees Bonner, Buta, Connelly, and Strom.
    - Nays: none.
    - Absent: Becvar
    - The motion was approved

Trustee Strom moved and Trustee Bonner seconded the motion to approve River Forest Township General Assistance Fund Bills and Accruals in the amount of $ 1701.00

- Roll call on the motion was taken.
    - Yeas: Trustees Bonner, Buta, Connelly, and Strom.
    - Nays: none.

- Absent: Becvar
- The motion was approved

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Status of collecting OMA Training Certs from all Committee members
  - YFS - Cal Davis (Now received - complete)
  - MHC - Kevin Ryan (new appointee) - have a verbal confirmation that he took the training and we are awaiting his certificate.
- Assessor Budget Submission for FY27 Discussion (continued)
  - Trustee Bonner was concerned if the Assessor wants more funding that she should attend the meeting. Trustee Strom pointed out a large increase is in the Deputy Assessor hours which relate to the Reassessment.
  - The Assessor joined the Zoom. She explained the extra funding is to cover the reassessment that did not happen in the current fiscal year. She also pointed out there is a legal requirement to do training that was not in the current fiscal year.
  - Trustee Bonner asked the Assessor to provide a report of calls received over time. Trustee Buta asked if the length of calls could be collected.
- Sheridan Impact Fee - from Sunrise Senior Living - now received
- Township spaces - deferred maintenance work completed
- Reminder for Elected Officials and Employees to complete Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) by May 1 for both RFT and RFCCA

NEW BUSINESS - None

ANNOUNCEMENT of the next regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. or immediately following the Annual Town Meeting

ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Trustee Bonner and seconded by Trustee Connelly to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 PM. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark S. Hosty, Clerk