

Historic

Riverside Township

27 Riverside Road - Riverside, IL 60546

Township - (708) 442-4400

Fax - (708) 447-0302

Assessor - (708) 447-7700

Fax - (708) 447-6442

www.riversidetownship.org



Vera A. Wilt, Supervisor

Jay Reyes, Clerk

Frances Sitkiewicz, Assessor

Trustees

Mary Rob Clarke

Timothy Heilenbach

John P. Carroll, Jr.

Matthew J. Decosola

MINUTES OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE

RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

AT THE RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP HALL, 27 RIVERSIDE ROAD, RIVERSIDE

CALL TO ORDER

Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of the Riverside Township Board of Trustees, held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at the Riverside Township Hall located at 27 Riverside Road; Riverside, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Wilt at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Supervisor Vera Wilt, Clerk Jay Reyes, Trustee John Carroll, Trustee Mary Rob Clarke, Trustee Matthew Decosola, Trustee Tim Heilenbach.

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Michael J. Hayes, Counsel

Terri Rivera, 4418 Blanchan Ave., Brookfield

Kimberly Mertz, 2225 Enterprise Drive, Westchester

Desiree Scully, 111 W. Harris, LaGrange

Kate Dooley, 133 Herrick, Riverside

Charlotte Zia, 276 Addison Rd., Riverside

Rob Koncius, 252 Maplewood, Riverside

Katie Gregory, 180 Southcote, Riverside

Liz Chilsen, 32 E Quincy, Riverside

Adam Wilt, 511 Longcommon Road, Riverside

Lauren Wilt, 511 Longcommon Road, Riverside

Therefore, Supervisor Wilt declared a quorum and opened the Scheduled Meeting for the transaction of business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion was made by Trustee Carroll to approve the January 9, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Trustee Carroll

SECOND: Trustee Heilenbach

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Abstain; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 4 No - 0 Abstention - 1 MOTION CARRIED

A Motion was made by Trustee Clarke to approve the February 6, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke

SECOND: Trustee Carroll

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

A) Community Partnerships

a. Access To Care

Ms. Kimberly Mertz, COO, spoke on behalf of Access To Care. Ms. Mertz indicated that the organization had been in operation for 35 years, providing access to medical care through benefit discounts, opioid risk management, diabetic testing, and other services to others ineligible for other services or unable to benefit from insurance coverage. Ms. Mertz indicated that a grant of \$5,000 would serve to cover about 7 Township individuals for one year.

A Motion was made by Trustee Clarke to approve an award of \$5,000 to Access To Care pursuant to their request.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke

SECOND: Trustee Heilenbach

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

b. Aging Care Connections

Desiree Scully spoke in support of a grant request from Aging Care Connections, explaining that their program works with senior citizens, offering services to improve the quality of life for senior citizens. She explained that they have a number of programs including counseling services, assistance for grandparents raising grandchildren, transition related services, abuse related services, and other programs. They sought a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to continue their work.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to approve a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for Aging Care Connections.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Carroll

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

c. BEDS Plus

Ms. Terri Rivera, of BEDS Plus, presented on behalf of the organization. Ms. Rivera explained that BEDS Plus works to keep people in their homes and offer other housing related services. She explained that it is often less expensive to keep people in their homes than to rehouse them, which is often at a cost of greater than \$100,000. Ms. Rivera also explained that they offer emergency services, rental assistance, meal programs, and other services. Ms. Rivera sought a \$5,000 grant to support their continuing efforts.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to approve the grant to BEDS Plus in the amount of \$5,000.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

d. Riverside Rockets Baseball Club

The President of Riverside Rockets Baseball Club, Rob Koncius, presented on behalf of the organization, explaining its origin and goals. He explained that the group is seeking assistance to take their players on a trip to Cooperstown.

Trustee Heilenbach asked about the group's association with the local little league program and wondered about the Township's role in funding a local, private organization for funding requests for travel. Trustee Decosola expressed similar concerns and asked about prior historic funding of other similar organizations. Trustee Decosola expressed concern that the request was out of scope of the Township's role, but offered to cooperate with the organization to provide township space for a future fundraising event.

Supervisor Wilt asked for a motion to approve the grant. Hearing none, the request was not approved.

e. Riverside Arts Center

Ms. Liz Chilsen, Executive Director of the Riverside Arts Center, presented a grant request, seeking \$2,500 to conduct repairs to their facility bathroom.

Trustee Clarke asked how many bathrooms are in the facility. Ms. Chilsen indicated that they had already remodeled another bathroom in the facility, making it ADA compliant. This grant was for remodeling the second bathroom, floor tile, toilet, ceiling, and painting. Trustee Clarke indicated that she was opposed to the grant because the Riverside Arts Center had already received a grant for \$9,900 and the additional grant would put them over the \$10,000 limit. Additionally, Trustee Clarke indicated that the Township does not generally approve funding for construction projects.

Trustee Heilenbach reiterated Trustee Clarke's concerns about funding a construction project, noting that the Township just denied a similar request to the North Riverside Library.

Supervisor Wilt asked for a motion to approve the grant. Hearing none, the request was not approved.

f. Riverside Junior Women's Charity

Ms. Carey Kogol spoke on behalf of the organization, explaining its goals and purpose such as funding the efforts of a child with dyslexia to attend a camp for children with his needs. Ms. Kogol sought support for their upcoming Brewfest event, which raised over \$25,000 last year, part of which was used to support those efforts. Ms. Kogol sought Township support to pay for the band.

Trustee Decosola asked which organizations were funded with those funds. The response involved Pillars, BEDS Plus, Riverside Parks and Rec, and about 20 organizations throughout the year. Trustee Decosola asked whether funds were being solicited from sponsors as well. Ms. Kogol indicated that they were.

Trustee Clarke asked about the funding levels for the organizations they were supporting. The response was that the funding levels vary depending on the need of the organization.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to approve the \$2,000 grant request.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Decosola

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

g. Riverside Community Garden

Ms. Katie Gregory spoke on behalf of the organization, explaining that they grow food for the food insecure and educate others about food growing at the Ascension Lutheran Church property. She explained that they are a volunteer organization that has done some fundraising on its own. She gave examples of the services they offer, including a seed exchange with the Riverside Public Library. She sought \$3,000 for new soil for raised beds, amendments, and other repairs.

Trustee Decosola asked if the \$3,000 was the bulk of the operating budget for the group. The answer was that it was. Trustee Decosola further asked if they had sought mulch, topsoil, and other supplies from the local public works departments. Ms. Gregory indicated that they had not.

Trustee Heilenbach indicated that he had been a big supporter of the program in the past but that there were many services offered and that the organization had to do a better job of fundraising because the Township couldn't support the program in totality. Trustee Heilenbach indicated he would support the program for another year.

Trustee Clarke asked about using funds to buy seeds but then giving them away instead of using them to grow food in the garden. Ms. Gregory explained that they used specific seeds for growth and that others were used for exchange. Trustee Clarke asked about the beds that needed to be rebuilt and the breakdown of the \$2,000 cost for the repairs and the additional \$1,000 cost for the fairy garden. Another representative explained that the fairy garden was a destination location that families would go to as a big draw.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to approve the grant in the amount of \$3,000.

Trustee Decosola expressed concern about the level of funding for the program.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – No; Heilenbach - Yes; Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 4 No - 1 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

h. Best Buddies International

Mr. Adam Wilt presented on behalf of Best Buddies, explaining that they had programs in three Township schools, creating a culture of inclusion in schools through their One To One program and others. The focus of the program was to create an environment of inclusion for people with disabilities. Mr. Wilt also spoke about their inclusion program for adults with disabilities. Mr. Wilt sought a \$5,000 grant to continue their program and train student leaders.

Trustee Decosola asked why it had not been in another school. Mr. Wilt explained that faculty support was necessary to promote the program through a faculty advisor to act as the sponsor of the school program or after school club.

Trustee Heilenbach spoke in support of the program, indicating that they did wonderful work. Trustee Clarke asked about the 9 adults mentioned in the grant application. Mr. Wilt explained that they would connect people in the one-on-one program.

A Motion was made by Trustee Clarke to approve the grant for \$5,000.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke

SECOND: Trustee Decosola

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Abstain

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 4 No - 0 Abstention - 1 MOTION CARRIED

i. Riverside Arts Weekend

Mrs. Charlotte Zia spoke on behalf of Riverside Arts Weekend, explaining that the group had been around since 2008, and its mission was to educate and inspire the community by having an art fair. She indicated that the art fair drew participants and attendees from the neighboring 10 communities and the group was made up completely of volunteers. She sought a grant in the amount of \$1,500 to pay for a part of the entertainment.

Trustee Decosola asked if there was fundraising in addition to the grant request. Mrs. Zia indicated that they do and have a full budget of approximately \$25,000.

Trustee Clarke asked if they gave sponsor recognition for contributions. Mrs. Zia explained that they do and gave examples of the types of recognition received by sponsors.

A Motion was made by Trustee Clarke to approve the grant request for \$1,500.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke

SECOND: Trustee Carroll

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Clarke reminded the Board that the shredding event was on the same day as Riverside Arts Weekend and attendees should drop off their shredding then attend the event.

B) Approve Resolution for Mental Health Board Appointment

Supervisor Wilt explained that there was a Resolution to appoint Christine Carr to the Mental Health Board to fill an unexpired term commencing on March 1, 2024 and terminating on December 31, 2025.

A Motion was made by Trustee Heilenbach to approve the Resolution.

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Decosola

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Wilt presented her report to the Board.

1) Emergency Assistance

Supervisor Wilt reported that General and Emergency Assistance have continued to be busy, as has the Food Pantry and Nurse's Closet.

2) 2024-2025 Budget

Supervisor Wilt noted that she would keep working on the budget as more of the last year's expenditures become clearer. Despite board discussion last week regarding the budget, Supervisor Wilt indicated that she would project more for interest because the interest from the current fiscal year only started increasing after the first few months, and even if rates drop somewhat, the forecast on interest earnings is adequate.

3) First Installment of Real Estate Tax revenue

Supervisor Wilt informed the Board that there was no first installment Real Estate Taxes have been received yet, but expected something later this month, as the Treasurer's Office is receiving payments. Supervisor Wilt recalled that usually some revenue is provided before the deadline for payments.

4) Township of Cook County

Supervisor Wilt reported that she participated in a Township Supervisors of Cook County luncheon meeting on January 18th at Schaumburg Township. She noted that there was a lot of discussion about how various Townships manage Food Pantries and General Assistance. Supervisor Wilt believed she may be the only Supervisor who actually handles all the GA and EA matters herself. She also noted that Riverside Township manages all township business with a much smaller staff than most, reminding the Board that Riverside Township is a small township, but other small townships have agreements with neighboring townships to administer some things Riverside manages itself. She encouraged the Board to be proud of the job we do here.

5) Congressional Open House

Supervisor Wilt indicated that Congressman Garcia's office requested space here for a pop-up office hours event last week, and the Township accommodated them. They also inquired about holding a town hall meeting here, but the Auditorium was already reserved on the day they wanted. They will be holding that event on Monday evening, February 26th at Hauser Junior High, at 6:00 PM. They asked Supervisor Wilt to speak there, greeting the audience, and participating in a panel discussion. Supervisor Wilt noted that many of the topics are outside the Township's scope, but would give her the opportunity to clarify for attendees the role the Township fills, as opposed to the Villages.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

There was no Assessor's Report.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Trustee Carroll reported that the Snowball event was a smashing success.

Trustee Clarke reported that the exercise class was going well and that on Monday they had a 50th birthday party for their class instructor. She reported that she's working to put together a program on fraud for senior citizens. And that the TOC conference is on June 13th. She was also elected to the state board. The Board congratulated Trustee Clarke on a job well done.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD'S REPORT

Trustee Heilenbach reported that the Mental Health Board decided to go to their core agencies and held their first meeting in Brookfield. The newly appointed member would do a fine job going forward and was looking forward to the new member, Christine Carr. He further reported that Hauser school agreed to support a new program, Support For You, related to young people and texting. He thanked Public Safety Director Buckley for supporting the program. Trustee Heilenbach also reported that they did the Mental Health Board budget on Tuesday and would be presenting it to the Board next month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Discussion of 2024-2025 Budget

Supervisor Wilt noted that she already spoke to the budget and did not have anything at the time for approval. She suggested that any proposals should be brought forward. She inquired whether there should be another Committee of the Whole meeting to further discuss the budget.

B) Discussion of Senior Exercise Program

Supervisor Wilt reported that they met with the program director of the exercise program, who agreed to do 2 of the 3 exercise classes. Supervisor Wilt explained that they would put together a simple document to memorialize the agreement, and that the other instructor was the only other employee of the group.

Supervisor Wilt explained that the deadline for items to the agenda of the Annual Town meeting on April 9th was March 1st.

She further encouraged the Board to mark their calendar for the upcoming OCC conference.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Trustee Decosola moved to authorize and ratify payment of the bills identified on the General Warrant for February 2024 in the amount of \$10,875.69.

MOTION: Trustee Decosola

SECOND: Trustee Heilenbach

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Decosola moved to authorize and ratify payment of the Utility Warrant in the amount of \$2,091.43; Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$18,142.83; Health Warrant in the amount of \$3,232.14; General Assistance Warrant in the amount of \$7,229.89; Township Radio Players in the amount of \$200.00, and the Food Pantry Warrant in the amount of \$829.78.

MOTION: Trustee Decosola

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact, Trustee Clarke moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke

SECOND: Trustee Decosola

ROLL CALL: Carroll – Yes; Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach - Yes;
Supervisor Wilt - Yes

VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention - 0 MOTION CARRIED

Vera A. Wilt, Township Supervisor

Jay Reyes, Township Clerk

2-13-2024