

Historic

Riverside Township

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Vera A. Wilt, *Supervisor*

Jay Reyes, *Clerk*

Mary Jo Miller, *Assessor*

Trustees

Mary Rob Clarke

Timothy Heilenbach

Matthew J. Decosola

Kelly Navarro

MINUTES OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE

RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

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 10, 2026, 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 Mary Rob Clarke, Trustee Matt Decosola, Trustee Tim Heilenbach, and Trustee Kelly Navarro.

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Michael J. Hayes, Township Counsel
Mary Jo Miller, Township Assessor, 165 Bartram, Riverside, IL
Ann Filmer, Executive Director, Riverside Arts Center, Riverside, IL
Kate Rodgers, Riverside Junior Woman's Charity, Riverside, IL
Kate Dooley, Riverside Junior Woman's Charity, Riverside, IL
Demetra Karas, Progress Center for Independent Living, Forest Park, IL
Jonathan Barton, Forest Park, IL
Charlotte Zia, Riverside Arts Weekend, Riverside, IL

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 Clarke to approve the January 13, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke
SECOND: Trustee Navarro
ROLL CALL: Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Yes; Navarro – Yes
Supervisor Wilt - Yes
VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention – 0 MOTION CARRIED

A Motion was made by Trustee Navarro to approve the February 3, 2026, Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Trustee Navarro
SECOND: Trustee Decosola
ROLL CALL: Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Yes; Navarro – Yes
Supervisor Wilt - Yes
VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention – 0 MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

A) Community Partnerships

a. Riverside Little League

Supervisor Wilt introduced a request from Riverside Little League.

A Motion was made by Trustee Clarke to approve the request for a Silver Sponsorship as a Community Partnership for the Riverside Little League.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke
SECOND: Trustee Navarro
ROLL CALL: Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Yes; Navarro – Yes
Supervisor Wilt - Yes
VOICE VOTE: Yes – 5 No - 0 Abstention – 0 MOTION CARRIED

b. Aging Care Connections

Supervisor Wilt introduced a request from Aging Care Connections for a Community Partnership in the amount of \$5,000.

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

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

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

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

c. Progress Center for Independent Living

Supervisor Wilt introduced the request from Demetra Karas, from the Progress Center for Independent Living. Ms. Karas introduced the Progress Center and described its services.

Trustee Clarke inquired about the Center's budget, staff, and services to Riverside Township residents.

Trustee Heilenbach inquired about the Center's services and explained that many of those services were already provided by the Township Mental Health Board and other community groups the Township partners with.

Trustee Decosola indicated that for want of services provided to Riverside Township residents, he would not be able to support the request.

For want of a motion to approve the request, the matter was not pursued.

d. Best Buddies International

Supervisor Wilt introduced the request from Best Buddies International.

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

MOTION: Trustee Heilenbach

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

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

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

e. Riverside Arts Weekend

Supervisor Wilt introduced the request from Riverside Arts Weekend and introduced Mrs. Charlotte Zia, who spoke to the program and sponsorship request.

Trustee Clarke inquired about the signage benefit associated with sponsoring the event.

A Motion was made by Trustee Decosola to approve the request in the amount of \$1,500.

MOTION: Trustee Decosola

SECOND: Trustee Navarro

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

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

f. Riverside Arts Center

Supervisor Wilt introduced the request from Ann Filmer, the Executive Director of the Riverside Arts Center, who spoke on behalf of the RAC grant request.

Ms. Filmer explained the scope of the request and described the various programs taking place at the Riverside Arts Center, including the Youth Arts Leaders Program and Teen employment program.

Trustee Clarke inquired about the number of seniors participating from the Township. Ms. Filmer explained that most participants were from the Township.

Trustee Decosola inquired about the students being employed, and whether they were from the Township. Ms. Filmer explained that they were all from the Township and gave breakdowns of the cost associated with the program.

Trustee Decosola also inquired about the cost of the partnerships and the levels of support received from other groups. Ms. Filmer indicated she would get back to the Trustee on the actual figures.

Trustee Clarke inquired about additional sponsors. Ms. Filmer explained that there were several different groups that support the organization, including sponsorships and businesses from the Township including La Barra.

Trustee Decosola inquired as to whether the Township was the highest level of sponsors. Ms. Filmer explained that the Township would be the second highest level of sponsors.

Trustee Navarro inquired about the connection between the Riverside Arts Center and mental health. Ms. Filmer explained that there were various studies that supported the benefits of art practice to mental health.

A Motion was made by Trustee Navarro to approve the request in the amount of \$10,000.

MOTION: Trustee Navarro

SECOND: Trustee Heilenbach

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

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

g. Riverside Junior Woman's Charity

Supervisor Wilt introduced the request from the Riverside Junior Woman's Charity. Ms. Kate Dooley and Ms. Kate Rodgers explained the request, for a Kentucky Derby themed event with a dice game that allowed people to compete for prizes.

Trustee Clarke asked for an explanation of the game and event, which Kate Dooley provided.

Trustee Decosola asked for information about the ticket cost and table cost for attending the event, and the date of the event. Kate Rodgers explained that the event would take place on April 19th and sales had not opened yet.

Trustee Heilenbach asked which community groups were supported by Riverside Junior Woman's group.

Trustee Decosola asked about last year's sponsorship, inquiring as to whether the Township was last year's biggest supporter for the event. Ms. Rodgers explained that the Township may have been the largest sponsor.

Trustee Heilenbach explained that it appeared that some of the groups their group supports were supported by groups the Township already sponsors or supports. He suggested that the Township should instead waive the rental fee requests. Ms. Rodgers explained that their giving is "hyperlocal" and targets very specific needs for families they find need assistance, such as paying outstanding school lunch debts, and other such benefits. She also explained that their declined membership is what has prompted them to seek grant support.

Supervisor Wilt asked whether they had made a contribution to the Food Pantry, to which they answered that they had. Supervisor Wilt explained that the circular return of funds and benefits is what the Township hoped to avoid.

Trustee Decosola asked about the membership numbers of the group and whether there were funds going to other organizations. Ms. Dooley indicated that their membership included about 32 active members and other associate members.

Trustee Navarro expressed her appreciation for the group and its efforts, noting that she was a member. She also expressed some concern about the circuitous nature of the funding.

A Motion was made by Trustee Navarro to approve the request in the amount of \$1,000 and a waiver of the rental fee for the event.

MOTION: Trustee Navarro

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

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

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

B) Special Event Requests

a. Junior Woman's Fundraiser – Saturday, April 18th

Supervisor Wilt introduced the request from the Junior Woman's Fundraiser event. Supervisor Wilt explained the waiver of the fee had already been approved but the special request was still pending because of the alcohol, and the insurance requirement.

A Motion was made by Trustee Decosola to approve the request.

MOTION: Trustee Decosola

SECOND: Trustee Heilenbach

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

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

b. Baptism Celebration – Saturday, June 27th

Supervisor Wilt introduced the request for a private family event for Saturday, June 27th.

A Motion was made by Trustee Decosola to approve the special use request with the usual proviso of providing insurance and paying the fees as listed.

MOTION: Trustee Decosola

SECOND: Trustee Navarro

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

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

C) Proposal For Additional Security Cameras

Supervisor Wilt introduced the proposal, informing the Board that there were several blind spots throughout the space that the proposed cameras would address.

Trustee Decosola and Supervisor Wilt discussed specifics of the camera proposal and its intended purpose.

A Motion was made by Trustee Clarke to approve the proposal in the amount of \$7,673.00

MOTION: Trustee Clarke

SECOND: Trustee Decosola

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

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

D) Pre-Approval For Payment of Town Hall Electrical Work

Supervisor Wilt introduced the proposal, to address the imbalance in light service in the building, particularly changing out preexisting lighting so it would all match and other light fixture repair and replacement, troubleshooting. Supervisor Wilt indicated that she expected some wiring as well.

A Motion was made by Trustee Decosola to approve the proposal in the amount of \$1,600 to TRH Electric.

MOTION: Trustee Decosola

SECOND: Trustee Heilenbach

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

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

E) Approval of Budgetary Transfer

Supervisor Wilt explained that a budgetary transfer was necessary to cover shortfalls arising from the late Cook County tax bills. She explained there would be various transfers from certain line items, to Town Programs.

A Motion was made by Trustee Clarke to approve the budget transfers as described by Supervisor Wilt in the attached Budgetary Transfer of Appropriations, dated February 10, 2026.

MOTION: Trustee Clarke

SECOND: Trustee Navarro

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

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Wilt presented her report to the Board.

- 1) Nurse's Closet

Supervisor Wilt reported that the nurse's closet has had a great deal of activity lately, loans, returns, and donations.

2) Food Pantry

Supervisor Wilt reported that the food pantry activity has slowed a bit but is still steady with regular recipients. She noted that the extreme cold likely kept people at home, especially as some of clients do not have regular transportation and walk to the office.

3) Broadview Food Pantry

Supervisor Wilt reported that the Landmark Newspaper had a story last week indicating that the Broadview Food Pantry has moved into the Riverside Presbyterian Church. The Broadview Pantry was already affiliated with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, so this nearby food pantry will have the benefit of donated food from there. They are only open one day mid-day and one evening per week. Clients can come to that pantry twice per month.

4) Serena Sturm Architects, Ltd.

Supervisor Wilt reported that she met with David Dankert from Serena Sturm Architects, Ltd. to review their drawings for updating and upgrading the restrooms in the Town Hall. He followed up with electronic versions which were sent to the board. Since they have a construction branch, she reached out, but had not heard back for estimates of the cost of the project. She also noted that the selection of finishes would make a big difference in numbers, and that the project would have to go out for bids. She expressed interest in wanting to pursue grants to complete the project. She expected that there would be some grant availability for a project that would achieve accessibility. She had not heard back yet from Marty Serena.

5) Budget

Supervisor Wilt noted that she was still working on the budget, hopeful that tax revenues will be more accessible this year. She noted that the delays have impacted Township reserves, and reduced income due to lack of interest earnings that the Township should have had, had the County met its statutory deadlines. Supervisor Wilt was hopeful that the Township would be able to make some building improvements, but much depended on how tax money is received. Since the first installment for 2025 taxes won't be due until April 1, she did not expect to receive all budgeted taxes within this 2025-26 fiscal year, so on paper the current budget will probably not look as good as planned by year end. She noted that she was in receipt of the Assessor's Budget, and waiting for the Mental Health Board's budget to plug in to the rest of the document.

6) Budgetary Transfer Ordinance

Supervisor Wilt reminded the Board that there is a Budgetary Transfer Ordinance on the agenda to move funds especially to the Programs line to fund partnership applications at this meeting.

She noted that the Board reduced that line based on recent years, but the Township had more requests than anticipated.

7) Township Assessor

Supervisor Wilt noted that related to the financials, the salaries line would be higher than usual because of the ordinance to adjust Assessor remuneration to the same day as her staff at the

end of the month, instead of with the other elected officials halfway through the next month. She noted that there are 3 different payroll groups, so the change would not impact anything except that in January there was overlap in the Assessor remuneration. She noted that next month it will look normal.

8) American 250 Commemoration

Supervisor Wilt informed the Board that she was working to make progress on connecting with the groups discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting, intending to meet the Radio Players when the opportunity arises.

9) Service Window to Township Office

Supervisor Wilt reported that the new service window in the office is starting to take hold, and the finishing touches should be finished within the next few weeks. She noted that they would also have some electrical items being taken care of.

Trustee Navarro inquired about how the new food pantry would affect the Township. Supervisor Wilt explained that they served Broadview and was unsure how traffic would be impacted.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Assessor Mary Jo Miller reported that the Cook County Treasurer sent out a news release indicating there was still a problem with the tax bill. Assessor Miller hoped that at least those bills would be posted digitally. She also noted that refunds haven't been issued, and some residents had not yet received a tax bill for the second installment of last year.

Trustee Heilenbach asked what caused the problems and Assessor Miller explained that the introduction of a new process caused the problems, along with coding, and other fundamental issues. She noted that tax bills are still due on April 1st.

Trustee Decosola asked about the refunds. Assessor Miller explained that Certificates of Error would prompt refunds and include reductions in billing, but some were issued last July but not added to those future installments.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Clarke reported that the exercise classes were going well. She also noted that she would have a Senior Lunch around St. Patrick's day.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD'S REPORT

Trustee Heilenbach reported that the Mental Health Board met at the Way Back Inn group and would meet next at Community Support Services in Brookfield. He noted an upcoming event on Saturday February 21st, at 1:00 pm in the auditorium. The "Kids Aren't Okay" event, partnered with the Village, would have flyers posted with more information. He noted there was much turmoil in the community but that there was help and solutions with the partnerships that the Mental Health Board supports.

He also reported that he would request a room reservation for CIT, Crisis Intervention Training, at the Township. He noted that pursuant to Illinois law, all police officers were obligated to complete CIT training and so the Township has offered the training to Township partners.

COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Reyes reported that there were several communications, including:

- A thank you note from BEDS Plus for the \$5,000 contribution from the Township.
- A thank you note from Aging Care Connections for the \$5,000 contribution from the Township.
- A Certificate of Appreciation from the Lions Club for supporting their Candy Day event.
- A correspondence from the MTA, Metropolitan Township Association, requesting membership for the Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion of 2026-2027 Township Budget

FYI

A. Deadline to Request Agenda Item(s) for Annual Town Meeting - March 1st

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Trustee Decosola moved to authorize and ratify payment of the bills identified on the General Warrant for February 2026 in the amount of \$25,565.39.

MOTION: Trustee Decosola

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

ROLL CALL: Clarke – Yes; Decosola – Yes; Heilenbach – Yes; Navarro – 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 \$2,555.68; Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$18,417.63; Health Warrant in the amount of \$3,722.00; General Assistance Warrant in the amount of \$10,229.89; Township Radio Players Warrant in the amount of \$180.00 and the Food Pantry Warrant in the amount of \$505.63.

MOTION: Trustee Decosola

SECOND: Trustee Navarro

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact, Trustee Navarro moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Navarro

SECOND: Trustee Clarke

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

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

Vera A. Wilt, Township Supervisor

Jay Reyes, Township Clerk

2-10-2026