

1.2.3. The January 11, 2024 Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kupa at 7:05 p.m. at the Community Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Clerk Johansen called the roll with Supervisor Kupa and Trustees Varsho, Murphy, and Metzger present.

4. Reports:

Highway Commissioner – Sam Gallucci: Commissioner Gallucci’s report stated roadways were salted on December 31st throughout Campton Township, the Village of Campton Hills, and Campton Hills in Plato Township. Road crew team members attended a sexual harassment prevention training program on Friday December 1, 2023. Garbage was picked up on Beith, Bolcum, Brundige, Swanberg, and Welter Roads. Gravel recovery was completed on Garfield, Hidden Oaks, LaFox, McDonald, and Burlington Roads, and Phar Lap Drive. The road crew trimmed over-hanging trees along plow routes throughout Campton Township and the Village of Campton Hills; repaired potholes with cold patch throughout the Township and Village; assessed roadways for potential drainage and pothole issues; checked stop signs throughout the Township and Village on a weekly basis and replaced damaged or missing signs; and checked for the issuance of culvert permits throughout the Township and Village. Ongoing maintenance was performed in house on Township vehicles and equipment.

Assessor – Alan D. Rottmann: Assessor Rottmann stated we are getting the rest of the 2023 housing sales recorded so we will be able to see where we are in 2024. Half the home sales are coming in higher than list price. The majority of listed houses are sold in one week, and builders are building like crazy. We will see if high growth continues.

Solid Waste District – Steven Cartwright, President: Solid Waste District President Cartwright stated waste hauler LRS had problems picking up garbage because of snow. They will move 134 homes from Friday pick-up to Wednesday, and another group, including Nancy Lane and Burlington Road, from Thursday pick-up to Tuesday pick-up.

Financial Report – Rebekah Flakus, Finance Director: Finance Director Flakus stated:

Town Fund

Administration

Revenues:

- Total Revenues for the Town Fund are at 102.80% of the total revenues budgeted. Revenues have exceeded their budget due to the conservative amount budgeted for property tax revenue.

Expenditures:

- Auditing service - #5210 is over budget due to an increase in the Annual Audit fees. An unbudgeted Government Audit reporting mandate had to be implemented which caused the increase.
- Legal Service - #5220 is also over budget. Updating the Township's Employee Handbook requires legal review and these costs are expensed in this account.
- Maintenance – Buildings - #5580 includes rewiring lights at Town Hall that wasn't planned or budgeted.
- Meeting Expenses - #5630 includes \$500 for the Township meeting in December, but this will be reimbursed by the Campton Township Open Space Foundation. The reimbursement will be recorded in revenue account #4143 once it is received.

Road District Fund

Revenues:

- Revenues received for the Road & Bridge Tax per the IGA with the Village of Campton Hills is currently at 100.02% of the total budgeted. The last invoice was paid this month for \$133,687.37.
- Total revenues for the Road Fund are at 95.07% of the total revenues budgeted.

Expenditures:

- **Administration** – Computer software subscriptions #5325 includes Microsoft 365 and malware for computers that weren't budgeted.

Open Space Fund

Administration

Revenues:

- Total revenues for Open Space Fund are at 148.44% of the total revenues budgeted. The revenues exceed the budgeted amount due to the Grant proceeds received that were used to purchase Goldenstein West property last month and Goldenstein East property this month.

Expenditures:

- Auditing and Legal Services expenses are split between Town and Open Space Funds. These both are over budget for the reasons mentioned until the Town Fund details.

Maintenance

Expenditures:

- *Office Supplies* - #5650 is significantly over budget for the Fiscal Year. Additional costs for payable check stock, window envelopes, and parts to repair servers and hard drives were incurred this year that weren't budgeted.

Additional Updates

Work with Sikich, LLC on the fiscal year 2023 Annual Audit continues this month. Additional audit work is required for leases due to a change in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

GASB 87 requires this additional accounting to be implemented beginning with Fiscal Year 2023. The change order was signed this week and the work on that is being completed now. Once finished, I will receive any final adjustment entries and can reconcile the trial balances to what the audit shows. That final review should happen within the next couple weeks. Once finalized, I will work with the auditors to prepare the necessary documents for the year 2023 Audit reports.

Corron Farm Preservation Society update – Laurel Garza, President: Absent.

Operations Manager – Tom Serewicz: Operations Manager Serewicz stated:

At Anderson Park he met with Wasco Boys baseball about the batting cage complex, pruned and hauled branches away, and cleaned the culverts in the park.

At Whitney Park he checked the heat in the main house (it was ok), bleed the radiators in the main house to relieve air lock, and took down Christmas decorations.

At the Community Center installed LED lights, and put ice control on the sidewalks.

At Gray Willows checked the heat in the main house (it was ok), rodded out the sewer line in the main house, installed a new A.D.A. toilet in the main house, repaired a leaky faucet/drain, cleaned the maintenance shop, and repaired the shop door lock.

At Corron Farm applied ice control on the sidewalks, applied insulate and gravel cement on the west side of the big tool shed, moved the port-o-let around for the kids camp and installed heaters, installed a radiator in the big tool shed, ordered a new 200 amp electrical service from Com-Ed for the big tool shed, repaired the shake roof on the porch, and took down Christmas decorations.

At Town Hall applied ice control on the sidewalks.

At Lily Lake Blue Park applied ice control to the sidewalks.

At the Headwaters Conservation Area cleaned the storage barn and arranged equipment for winter storage, inspected the trails for damage and downed trees, Bull Run is spreading manure at Motze's corn field.

Poyner Park closed for the season.

Brown Road Meadows closed for the year.

Harley Woods no report.

General Notes: office staff, Open Space Outreach Staff, and Open Space Natural Resources Staff were all Assisted, the Open Space Foundation meeting was attended, the carriage and sleigh was moved from the Nevele farm to the Gray Willows barn, a safety meeting was held, a truck and trailer inspection was done (passed), washed all trucks, the Bobcat UTV was serviced, and the dumpster emptied and returned to the shop.

Open Space Ecologist – Carter Dell: Open Space Ecologist Dell stated:

Natural Resources:

- Callery Pear worked on at Corron Farm.
- Constructed anti-mouse screens for seed drying racks.

- Cleaned up first level of Gray Willows barn.
- Working with Girl Scouts for bronze and silver awards to open Childrens' Prairie at Gray Willows:
 - Bronze – plant trees, install birdhouses and signs.
 - Silver – play elements, such as balance/low climbing objects like logs and boulders:
 - Will take notes from Hickory Knolls Discovery Center and other similar nature playgrounds.
 - Potential alternative: signage posts throughout our parks like the recent Eagle Scout project at Gray Willows.
- Creating independent research opportunity in collaboration with Loyola University Chicago for undergraduate environmental Science students to implement integrated Monarch monitoring program at Gray Willows Farm.

Professional Development:

- Nick Overstreet accepted seasonal restoration technician position:
 - Term: January – May. Potentially returning to work here in fall.
- Sarah Williams, future full time restoration technician, will be visiting our sites and becoming acquainted with our workstyle while she is visiting home from college.
- Signed up for Illinois Association of Conservation Districts Conference in February.
- Requested attendance in NWCG prescribed fire class and looking for a chainsaw class.

Outreach Program Manager – Cheryl Smith: Outreach Program Manager Smith stated:

Programs/Events:

12/19 – Preschool Pals: Canceled because lot of people sick.

12/20 – Nature and Wildlife Detectives Club: 10 registrations. Lesson plan was all about tracks. We grabbed our flashlights and looked for tracks. We dove deep into why tracking is important and what it would tell us about animals. We learned where to look for resources if we want to become a serious tracker. We made our own track magnets to take home.

12/23 – Campton Hills breakfast and Christmas Parade – Outreach (Kaitlyn and I) attended the breakfast and participated in the parade. We saw many familiar faces along the route of kids and families that have attended our programs and events. People were genuinely happy to see our logo and we received some double thumbs up and kids were yelling our names. Spoke to many folks in the community about our programs at the breakfast.

1/3 – 1/5 – Winter Critter Camp – 17 campers (5 campers cancelled and are transferring their registrations to Summer Critter Camp). Camp was held at the historic Corron Farm tool shed.

Planning Ahead:

1/14 – Girl Scouts Workshop – Snow Adventure – moved to February 17th as we are hoping for some snow!

1/16 Preschool Pals will be all about tracks (story time, craft and adventure looking for tracks).

1/17 Nature and Wildlife Detectives Club will be all about outdoor safety and survival in emergency situations. (what to do if you get lost, using a compass, how to call for help, what to do to stay warm, etc). We will also be doing a night hike.

We are planning programs and dates for 2024. Four to five weeks of summer **Critter Camp, Maple Fest** (March 16th), **All Wheel Show** (September 22nd), etc.

Summer Critter Camp Dates have been released as follows: (Registration will open in February).

June 3-6, June 10-13, June 17-20, June 24-27 and if we fill all four weeks then possibly adding July 1-3.

Planning Commission Report – Jesse Varsho, Chairman: Chairman Varsho stated nothing to report.

Supervisor Report – John Kupar: Supervisor Kupar stated:

- On December 29th, 2023 I signed the grant agreement for the LAWCON Grant #LWCF #17-01021. We are awaiting a fully executed copy back from the State. We are working on a strategy to recover the carrying costs incurred by the Township over the two-year period it took to receive the grant.
- As I mentioned during the last Board meeting, IDNR (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) is reviewing Campton Township's Application for the 2024 OSLAD grant. The IDNR indicated at that time that they will announce Grant winners on December 15th. On December 22nd, 2023 I received the following email from Patrick Davis, who is the chief Accountability Officer for the State of Illinois
- *"We had a goal of announcing the awardees by December 15th and we missed that date so we wanted to update you on your FY 2024 OSLAD grant application.*
- *Your application has been finalized and has been ranked. We have also presented Director Finnie with the recommendations for her review and approval. Once that is in our hands, we will send out notices both in letter form and via email. Grant agreements will follow in late January.*
- *We in the office of Grants Management want to thank you for all your hard work and dedication to your community.*
- Ruth Rottmann has finished working on our Campton Township Employee Handbook. It was reviewed and edited by the Township's labor attorneys. I will be sending the Trustees a copy of the Handbook for your review, comment, and approval at our next meeting.
- I learned yesterday that Art Gustafson passed away last week. Art was a big supporter of the Township. Art and his wife Karen were very generous in allowing the Township to purchase the Whitney Farmstead property at an extremely fair price. For those who are interested, visitation will be held on Saturday, January 13th 2024, 9:00 am to 10:00 am at Chapel Street Church, South Campus, in Geneva. Art developed the blister pack, and had 93 patents.
- Finally, I want to wish everyone a safe, great New Year!

5. Approval of Minutes:

a. Board Meeting December 13, 2023: E. Murphy moved the Board approve the minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2023. J. Varsho seconded the motion. In a voice vote Supervisor Kupar and Trustees Varsho, Murphy, and Metzger voted aye. The motion passed.

6. Citizens Comments: (comments to be kept to a maximum of 3 minutes): **Samantha Varsho, Summer, Kiephm, Maddie, Carter, Aliea, Madlyn, Hunter, Jemma, Silas, and Halah** presented the Board with the following comments.

Hello Campton Township,

We wanted to say Thank You for having Critter Camp. We always have a lot of fun at camp and learn so much. Ms. Cheryl and Ms. Caitlyn always plan so much for us like the amazing speakers, fun activities, crafts, and just being out in nature. We love the speakers that come and talk to us like Koda the Police Dog, Wings and Talons, Friends of the Fox River and C.A.R.E. to name just a few. We learn so much while forming new friendships with kids that we don't get to see anywhere else but camp. Some of our favorite activities are making yummy things for the birds and other small animals to eat, taking nature walks through the woods with scavenger hunts and always having time to color and journal in our little nature books we always get.

We are thankful we were able to have camp at Corron Farm but we hope that next camp we are back at Gray Willows. We miss the white house with the plumbing and wood floors. It's been really difficult using the porta potties because its so cold. We really liked how cozy the house felt and how it felt like we were surrounded completely by nature with the big window where you can see so much outside. We also really enjoy all the different walking trails and the animals that we see there.

Thank you again for everything you do for the kids in Campton Township. We can't wait for our next camp.

Carter Gallucci presented the Board with his comments which follow:

Hi my name is Carter Gallucci and I am 10 years old.

I have attended several weeks of summer critter camps in 2022 and 2023, many nature and wildlife detective clubs and the fall and winter critter camps. Each camp has offered new experiences, exposure, and opportunities. I am very thankful Campton Township offers this camp! Some of my favorite memories at camp include nature hikes, visitor talks, our leaders Ms. Cheryl and Ms. Kaitlyn, new friendships, bread on a stick, wagon rides, and the leaf hunt where we all found the perfect leaf to create our own tree.

We were recently moved to the Corron Farm location and while the Corron Farm Tool Shed is a great place it lacks many opportunities Gray Willow farm has to offer. Here is what makes Gray Willow farm the best location for critter camp.

- Plumbing and running water
- Large windows to see nature while indoors
- Surrounded by forests which are directly out the front door
- Trails close to the white house & big hill to play.

I really enjoy my time at Critter camp and hope we can be back at Gray Willow Farm for our next camp.

Trustee Murphy stated the white house at Gray Willows is not publicly usable because of radon, lead, and it is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. Supervisor Kubar stated it will take grants, state funds, etc. to restore the Gray Willows house to usable condition for the public.

Trustee Murphy stated if we had a Park District, we could do things we cannot do now but the Board cannot create a Park District. Supervisor Kuper stated citizens could create a referendum to create a Park District but not Township Board members. The public has to get involved to accomplish this.

7. Old Business – Presentation and Discussion for Action: None.

8. New Business – Presentation and Discussion for Action: None.

9. Claims and Demands Authorized for Payment:

a. Town Fund \$8,919.88: J. Varsho moved the Board approve the claims and demands on the Town Fund in the amount of \$8,919.88. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kuper and Trustees Varsho, Murphy, and Metzger voted aye. The motion passed.

b. Road & Bridge Fund \$23,991.36: E. Murphy moved the Board approve the claims and demands on the Road and Bridge Fund in the amount of \$23,991.36. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kuper and Trustees Varsho, Murphy, and Metzger voted aye. The motion passed.

c. Capital Improvement Fund: \$0

d. Open Space Fund \$13,495.66: M. Metzger moved the Board approve the claims and demands on the Open Space Fund in the amount of \$13,495.66. J. Varsho seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kuper and Trustees Varsho, Murphy, and Metzger voted aye. The motion passed.

10. Executive Session – Review Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2023; Land Acquisition; Personnel issues; Legal Issues: M. Metzger moved the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing Executive Session minutes of December 13, 2023, and personnel issues. J. Varsho seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kuper and Trustees Varsho, Murphy, and Metzger voted aye. The motion passed and Executive Session began at 8:00 p.m.

11. New Business Continued: Supervisor Kuper reconvened the regular session at 8:25 p.m.

aa. Review and Act Upon Whether to Approve Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2023: E. Murphy moved the Board approve the Executive Session minutes of December 13, 2023. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kuper and Trustees Varsho, Murphy, and Metzger voted aye. The motion passed.

12. Adjournment: M. Metzger moved the Board adjourn the meeting. J. Varsho seconded the motion. In a voice vote Supervisor Kuper and Trustees Varsho, Murphy, and Metzger voted aye. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Johansen

Clerk

