

1. 2. 3. The July 11, 2024 Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kubar at 7:05 p.m. at the Community Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Clerk Johansen called the roll with Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho and Metzger present. Trustee Murphy was absent.

**4. Old Business - Presentation and Discussion for Action:**

*a. Presentation by Tim Morgan, Prototype for All Wheel Show Trophies:* Tim Morgan showed the All Wheel Show trophy he had made. He stated he took the original flyer and made the trophy from that. The Board expressed the Township's thanks to Tim.

**5. New Business - Presentation and Discussion for Action:**

*a. Summery and Thank You from Girl Scouts, Emily Varsho:* Emily Varsho stated she is here speaking for the River Valley Day Camp. They are outdoor focused and have 225 campers of all ages. They have been in business for 35 years, have 50 volunteers, and they work on skills such as cooking and safety. They were concerned about traffic at their event so they had the Campton Hills Police Department over to help. There were 300 people there including two guests from Friends of the Fox River. Most critters found in the creek were at Gray Willows. They found an illegal bait trap there that they removed. They accumulated 150 service hours, purchased the materials for six picnic tables, and put them together for \$1,000, five hundred of which was donated. Emily gave out patches for River Valley Day Camp 2024, and gave Board members Girl Scout cookies.

**6. Reports:**

*Highway Commissioner - Sam Gallucci:* Commissioner Gallucci's report stated:

**The Highway District performed the following tasks in Campton Township and the Village of Campton Hills:**

- Culvert repairs completed on Hastings, Hemlock. And Somerset Drives including ditch work, seed, and straw blankets.
- Culvert cleanout on Ridgeline road.
- Ditch work completed on Brierwood, and Willowbrook Drives, Gopher Court and Tuttle Place.

- Dirt and seed restoration on Brierwood and Willowbrook Drives.
- Downed trees removed on Denker Road, White Oak and Blue Larkspur Lanes, Meadow Ridge Circle, Venetian Way, and Knollwood and Arbor Creek Drives.
- Tree storm cleanup on Denker, Beith, and Bolcum Roads, Pine Hills, Venetian Way, South Grand Monde Drive, and Retreat Court.
- Dura Patching completed in Oak Openings and Cheval De Selle subdivisions and Whirlaway Drive.
- Soil and seed work completed on multiple roads within Campton Hills.
- Rip-Rap added to Mare Lane.
- Gravel clean up completed on Beith and Conners Roads.
- Wing Mowing completed on McDonald, Town Hall, Campton Hills, and Anderson Roads

**The Highway District performed the following tasks according to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Campton Hills and Plato Township:**

- Wing Mowing completed on 6/6/24

**The Highway District also performed the following tasks:**

- Checked stop signs throughout Campton Township and the Village of Campton Hills on a weekly basis.
- Assessed roadways for potential drainage and pothole issues.
- Checked for damaged or missing signs weekly; several replaced due to storm damage.
- Checked for issuance of culvert permits throughout Campton Township and the Village of Campton Hills.
- Performed ongoing maintenance in-house on Township vehicles and equipment.

*Assessor - Alan D. Rottmann:* Assessor Rottmann stated he is gathering data for Burlington School District about growth to help them know how many kids will be coming into their school district. He turned in the assessment books to the County on June 13th. Campton Township has over one billion in assessed value.

*Solid Waste District - Steven Cartwright, President:* Solid Waste President Cartwright stated starting July 1st Bryan Kerwin will be the new President of the Solid Waste District Board. There will be an extension of the existing contract with LRS waste haulers.

*Financial Report - Rebekah Flakus, Finance Director:* Finance Director Flakus said:

## **Town Fund**

### ***Administration***

Revenues:

- Total Revenues for the Town Fund this month are \$378,720.48. The primary revenue source for the Town Fund is the Property Tax Revenue. The Township received the second Property Tax installment from Kane County in the amount of \$363,794.06 on June 20, 2024.
- Annual Field Fees were received this month from Wasco Baseball & Softball teams totaling \$13,432 in GL #1-4080.

## Road District Fund

### *Administration*

#### Revenues:

- Total revenues for the Road Fund this month are \$679,751.56. The Road District received the second Property Tax installment from Kane County in the amount of \$672,645.03 on June 20, 2024.

### *Maintenance*

#### Expenditures:

- The annual purchase of Oil and Power Fluid in #3-35570 - Lube Oil for \$4,174.08 exceeded budget due to an increase in cost.

## Open Space Fund

### *Administration*

#### Revenues:

- Total revenues for the Open Space Fund this month are \$1,729,768.21. Open Space received the second Property Tax instalment from Kane County in the amount of \$1,716,907.67 on June 20, 2024.

#### Expenditures:

- The Township's semi-annual bond interest payments were due this month. On June 14, 2024 three bank wires were sent totaling \$185,538.50. The next bond payments are due in December for both principal and interest.

**(Note: Regarding Goldenstein East and West we are entitled to exemption for property tax. It's farm property. We paid the tax - so we get it refunded.)**

### *Maintenance*

#### Expenditures:

- Building improvements GL #8-5290 has exceeded budget this month due to Corron Farm improvements to the well and other improvements.

**(Bank of New York - Mellon is resigning as our Bond Agent)**

Additional Updates: Work with Sikich, LLC. On the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Audit starts July 8, 2024 with an audit timeline meeting.

**(Sikich went from LP to LLC)**

*Corron Farm Preservation Society update - Rhonda Acitelli, President: Absent.*

*Operations Manager - Tom Serewicz: Operations Manager Serewicz stated:*

**At Anderson Park** mowing and weed whacking was done, the parking lot herbicided, the playground slide repaired, storm damaged tree branches were removed, and softball camp was held.

**At Whitney Park** mowing and weed whacking was done, a dumpster ordered for the garage tear down, tear down to start 7/8/24.

**At the Community Center** mowing and weed whacking was done, the trees by baseball field two were pruned.

**At Gray Willows** mowing and weed whacking was done, trails were mowed, and storm damaged tree branches were cut up and hauled away.

**At Harley Woods** mowing and weed whacking was done, and trails were mowed.

**At Corron Farm** mowing and weed whacking was done, trails were mowed, hedge plants trimmed, a new porch roof was installed, the goat house and well house re-roofs were started, bathroom construction in the big tool shed is going on, trees were pruned and the branches hauled away, and weeds were herbicided.

**At Goldenstein** mowing and weed whacking was done.

**At Town Hall** mowing and weed whacking was done, and hedge plants were trimmed.

**At Brown Road Meadows** mowing and weed whacking was done, and empty plots were rototilled.

**At Lily Lake** mowing and weed whacking was done by the offices and the cemetery, and blinds were hung on office windows.

**At the Headwaters Conservation Area** mowing and weed whacking was done, trails were mowed, branches were hauled away, and storm damage to trails was repaired.

**At Poyner Park** mowing and weed whacking was done, and trails were mowed.

**In General:** Office staff, Open Space Outreach staff, and Open Space Natural Resources staff were all assisted. A safety meeting was held, tractor 5103 was repaired, the new truck is ready for delivery, the people mover was repaired again, we met with TOIRMA, and two new flag poles were picked up. We had a break-in at Gray Willows. The lights in the barn were damaged.

*Open Space Ecologist - Carter Dell: Open Space Ecologist Dell stated:*

## Natural Resources:

- Many, many days of sweet clover removal:
  - Hand tools at Poynor (low quantities).
  - Brush saws at Gray Willows, Corron, and Headwaters.
  - DR mower, Bobcat Brushhog mower, and flail mower Tractor @ Headwaters.
  - In general, sweet clover appeared in lower quantities compared to previous years.
  - Still large plot at Headwaters that is mostly taken care of.
- Sprayed Herbicide for summer forbs:
  - Crown vetch, thistle, birdsfoot trefoil, also attacked some woodies.
  - Preparing for cottonwood and callery pear treatment with basal bark treatments.
- Attended first 2 Kane County seed harvests as part of intergovernmental seed team.
- Bucked large, fallen cottonwood with chainsaws to mitigate storm damage.
  - Saved large pieces and delivered to Childrens' Prairie for upcoming Girl Scout project.

## Professional Development:

- Sarah Williams and Brooke Wise successfully attended Illinois Pesticide licenses.
  - Sarah is an Applicator and Brooke is an Operator.
- Signed Sarah up for 10-hour OSHA training for safe work practices.
- Onboarding and trainings for Sara and Brooke on large tractor + implements, skid steer + implements, and hooking up/loading/ driving trailers, brush saws, chain saws, plant ID, water tanker and pumps, driving both carts, refueling.

## Miscellaneous

- Sarah designed new Headwaters trail map in Affinity Designer as well as updated trail signage.
  - Ordered Eagle Scout project signs from Banner Up.
- Assisted with multiple days of Eagle Scout trail sign project at Headwaters.
  - Dug 15 post holes with skid steer auger implement and assisted in moving dirt, gravel, and other materials to aid in project.
- Have consistently kept Community Garden water tanks full with multiple trips each week utilizing the new tank trailer as well as pump 80 in a truck bed.
- Provided several wagon rides for Critter Camp and the Gray Willows Girl Scout camp.
- Watered dedication trees with pump 80 in truck bed during hot, dry weeks.

- Leveled out ground leading to bridges in back of Gray Willows to make available for z-turn mowers and other equipment.
- Repaired broken handle and other pieces on DR push mower.
- General repair and maintenance of saws, herbicide packs, hand tools, etc.
- Purchased new valves and working on new spraying option for new tanker trailer.
- Got more pallets from LaFox Fields to store herbicide pumps better.

*Outreach Program Manager - Cheryl Smith:* Outreach Program Manager Smith stated:

**Monthly Newsletter:** Went out on 7/1/24.

**Outreach - Summer Critter Camps:** 2024 Summer Critter Camps ended on 7/3/24. We had successful camp year. We ended with over \$23,000.00 in revenue from summer camps alone. Outreach to date has generated over \$30,000.00 in revenue with camps and programs/events for this fiscal year. I will get a full report to the Board soon on my review of the 2024 Summer Camp and vision for the future.

**Just Some of Our Critter Camp Happenings:**

- > We focused on Conservation, Kindness, and Working Together.
- > We made nest boxes for KARE's rehab squirrels.
- > We made enrichment for Turkey Vultures, Hawks, and Owls at Wings and Talons.
- > We made nest boxes for Screech Owls for our Open Space properties.
- > We participated in Citizen Science projects each week with trail cameras and Hawk Count.org to work with real scientists for our Birds of Prey.
- > We spent much time in games that had us working together on different group dynamics.
- > We learned all about plant life in our prairies together using our apps to identify.
- > We learned about aquatic life in our creeks and why they are important.
- > We made paracord bracelets each week (550 lb. cord).
- > We learn from our peers (I encourage our community youth to have a voice and teach each other). We have taught some of these kids in our Nature and Wildlife Detectives Club, and now we encourage them to teach their peers. It is so amazing to watch them grow in their skills with public speaking and confidence. Their peers are receptive to learning from someone their age.

We had wait lists each week. Parents were asking to get their kids in with many at camp asking to add weeks in July and August. I am confident we could add weeks next year and fill all weeks. To do that there needs to be further discussion on some topics.

I sent out a parent survey for all camp weeks. The participation is never what I would like to see, but once I have the surveys back, I will send a report to the Board. The in-person comments were very complimentary and appreciated. Hearing parents say their children have a new love for nature and the outdoors, or that they have had a hard time making friends but made them at our camps, that they stepped away from the video games and asked to go outside and explore at home, these are why I love what I do.

**6/19 - Nature and Wildlife Detectives - 8 Registrations**

We headed over to Gray Willows after camp at Corron Farm to meet our detectives. We hiked the wooded/prairie trails. We stopped to take a break at the campground. We explored plant life along the trail, we played in the creek and looked for aquatic life, we talked about our summer fun and Critter Camp was a top contender as their best summer fun!

Booked a wedding at historic Corron Farm for September 21st.

Met with, toured, and soft booked a graduation party at historic Corron Farm for August 3rd.

Regarding the gardens, there have been occasions where people planted in the wrong garden. We need to mark the gardens with number stakes or spray paint next year. We emailed and handed out maps. We left two at the gardens.

The aviary under the barn will be going to a new home next month.

Working with Finance Director Flakus and Supervisor Kubar we need to get software that sets limits on registrations. That will make a more user friendly site that saves time.

Gathered materials for Joe at CTOSF (Campton Township Open Space Foundation) for an upcoming meeting with a woman's group to benefit Campton Township.

#### **UPCOMING:**

Finishing camp clean up. Our Department is spread out between Town Hall, Whitney, and Corron Farm. Reorganizing for efficiency. The tool shed and top of barn at Gray Willows were cleared out completely by 7/5.

**Nature and Wildlife Detectives - 7/17** will be held at Gray Willows barn. We will be exploring the world of Lichen!

**Bingo!** - Our next one will be on July 24th from 6 - 8 p.m. at Gray Willows Farm.

**Night Star Party:** August 14th - Fox Valley Astronomical Society to bring telescopes.

**Prairie Fest:** August 17th.

Most signage is up by this Board meeting. Working on raffle items. Have been keeping Joni Kubar updated.

**All Wheel Show:** September 22nd - Working on details.

**Fall/Winter Critter Camps:** Tentative pricing and dates - \$175 R/\$185 NR

**Fall:** November 25 - 27th

**Winter (2weeks)**

December 23, 26, & 27

December 30, 2 & 3

*Planning Commission Report - Jesse Varsho, Chairman:* Chairman Varsho said Plan Commission met in June, they canceled the July meeting, but will meet in August.

*Supervisor Report - John Kubar:* Supervisor Kubar stated:

- I had multiple conversations with Michele Kelly of Uplands Design regarding the next rounds of the Open Space Land Acquisition Grants. She indicated we would have a good chance in obtaining grants for one of the sites below.
  - Whitney Farmstead,
  - Property adjacent to Anderson Park, and
  - Upgrade to baseball facilities at Anderson Park
- We will have additional discussions on this subject in Executive Session.
- I had a discussion with the IDNR (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) grant administrator on the status of the release of funds for the Goldenstein West Farm property. The grant writer indicated that all the paperwork has been submitted for this property except for the final billing /accounting of cost for the acquisition. I understand from our Finance Director that this information will be submitted to the IDNR shortly. As you recall, we were awarded \$750,000.00 for this acquisition.
- I had a second conversation with the IDNR grant administrator regarding the status of LWCF funds for the Goldenstein Farm East. The Administrator was submitting the final paperwork into the NPS LWCF portal yesterday. The amount was \$910,000.00.
- We will be receiving a final check from V3 for the last sales of credits at the Gray Willows Wetlands Mitigation Bank. We are anticipating a check in the amount of \$600,000.00.
- I have spent a considerable amount of time relating to personnel issues within the Township. A preliminary draft has been completed for your review. I would like to hold a special meeting next week to discuss the draft. If you have any questions or comments on the draft report, please be prepared to discuss it at that meeting.
- Our attorney has reviewed the proposed agreement with Mitigation Investment Holdings for the development of Goldenstein Farms East and West properties for a wetland mitigation bank. I have sent the original contract and the modified contract from our attorney for your review. If you have any



comments or concerns, please have them ready to discuss at our meeting next week.

- We also had a "Report of Concern" from the Village of Campton Hills Police Department related to the playground at Headwaters Park. Tom and his team took care of the issue quickly. The playground looks great and has a new layer of mulch throughout the area.

#### **7. Approval of Minutes:**

*a. Board Meeting June 11, 2024:* J. Varsho moved the Board approve the minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2024. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a voice vote Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho and Metzger voted aye. Trustee Murphy was absent. The motion passed.

**8. Citizens Comments** (comments to be kept to a maximum of 3 minutes.): Assessor Rottmann commented he would like to know how the Board likes the new chairs. They were got on sale and with a coupon for half price. Al got plenty of good comments. They like the new chairs.

#### **9. Old Business continued - Presentation and Discussion for Action:**

*b. Discussion and Approval of Wetlands Mitigation Proposal for Goldenstein East and West farms by V3 Companies and Mitigation Investment Holdings:* J. Varsho moved the Board table this agenda item. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a voice vote Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho and Metzger voted aye. Trustee Murphy was absent. The motion passed.

*c. Review and Act Upon AED Quote:* J. Varsho asked is this item (Automated Defibrillators) in the budget? J. Kubar stated yes. They are life-saving health measures for emergencies. J. Varsho moved the Board purchase five AED units for an amount not to exceed \$13,000.00. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho and Metzger voted aye. Trustee Murphy was absent. The motion passed.

**10. New Business continued - Presentation and Discussion for Action:** None.

#### **11. Claims and Demands Authorized for Payment:**

*a. Town Fund \$6,076.92:* J. Varsho moved the Board approve the claims and demands on the Town Fund in the amount of \$6,076.92. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho and Metzger voted aye. Trustee Murphy was absent. The motion passed.

*b. Road and Bridge Fund \$45,239.37:* J. Varsho moved the Board approve the claims and demands on the Road and Bridge Fund in the amount of \$45,239.37. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho and Metzger voted aye. Trustee Murphy was absent. The motion passed.

c. *Capital Improvement Fund*: 0.

d. *Open Space Fund* \$33,345.23: J. Varsho moved the Board approve the claims and demands on the Open Space Fund in the amount of \$33,345.23. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho and Metzger voted aye. Trustee Murphy was absent. The motion passed.

**12. Executive Session - Review Executive Session minutes of June 11, 2024; Land Acquisition; Personnel Issues; Legal Issues:** J. Varsho moved the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing land acquisition, personnel issues, and legal issues. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a roll call vote Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho, and Metzger voted aye. Trustee Murphy was absent. The motion passed and Executive Session began at 8:22 p.m.

**13. New Business continued:** Supervisor Kubar reconvened the regular session at 8:35 p.m.

aa. Review and Act Upon Whether to Approve Executive Session Minutes of June 11, 2024. J. Varsho moved to remove Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 11, 2024 from this agenda. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a voice vote Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho, and Metzger voted aye. Trustee Murphy was absent. The motion passed.

**14. Adjournment:** J. Varsho moved the Board adjourn the meeting. M. Metzger seconded the motion. In a voice vote Supervisor Kubar and Trustees Varsho and Metzger voted aye. Trustee Murphy was absent. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Johansen

Clerk