

**Campton Township**  
**2020 Annual Town Meeting**  
**Highway Department**  
**April 13, 2021**  
**6:34 P.M.**

**1. Call to Order:** Clerk Johansen called the Annual Town Meeting of 2020 to order at 6:34 p.m. He welcomed the electors to the meeting.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Alex Rottmann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Election of Moderator:** Clerk Johansen said nominations are open for Moderator of the meeting. Al Rottmann said I nominate Barb Wojnicki for Moderator. Clerk Johansen said is there a second? Mike Carlson seconded the nomination. Clerk Johansen asked are there any other nominations? (No response.) Clerk Johansen said O.K., so somebody move to close nominations. John Kupar moved to end nominations. Mike Carlson seconded the motion. Clerk Johansen said all those in favor of closing nominations say aye. (Ayes heard.) Opposed? (No response.) Clerk Johansen said nominations are closed. All those in favor of Barb Wojnicki for Moderator say aye. (Ayes heard.) Opposed? (No response.) Clerk Johansen said Barb you're the Moderator. Come up and be sworn.

**4. Moderator's Oath:** Clerk Johansen Swore in Barb Wojnicki as Moderator.

**5. Moderator's Salary:** Moderator Wojnicki said No 5 on the agenda is to set the Moderator's salary. Al Rottmann moved to set the Moderator's salary at \$200. Moderator Wojnicki said is there a second to the motion? John Kupar seconded the motion. Moderator Wojnicki said all in favor say aye. (Ayes heard.) O.K. The salary is set. Thank you very much.

**6. Approval of 2019 Minutes:** Clerk Johansen said next is approval of minutes. Al Rottmann moved that we wave the reading of the minutes and that we approve them as they are written in the booklet. Moderator Wojnicki O.K. do we have a second on that motion? Mike Carlson seconded the motion. Moderator Wojnicki said all those in favor of approving the minutes say aye. (Ayes heard.) All opposed? (No response.) Minutes are approved.

**7. Supervisor's Annual Financial Report:** John Kupar said I was wondering if we could waive the Annual Report only because it's in the booklet, and it's two years old. Moderator Wojnicki said O.K. Al Rottmann said all the data is in the report. Clerk Johansen so that's a motion, John? John Kupar yes. Clerk

Johansen thank you. Is there a second? Al Rottmann said I will second that motion. Moderator Wojnicki said O.K., all those in favor of waiving the Annual Financial Report say aye. (Ayes heard.) Moderator Wojnicki O.K. Any comments? Al Rottmann said waving the reading of the Financial Report. John Kuper yes, thank you. Moderator Wojnicki said waiving the reading. Al Rottmann said the Financial Report still stands as written. Moderator Wojnicki said all in favor say aye. (Ayes heard.) Moderator Wojnicki said O.K. we'll waive reading the financial report. We still need a motion to approve the Financial Report; correct? Clerk Johansen yes. Al Rottmann said I make a motion to approve the Financial Report. Mike Carlson seconded the motion. Moderator Wojnicki said any comments or questions? (No response.) All in favor say aye. (Ayes heard.) Opposed? (No response.) Motion passes. Now we have comments by the Supervisor for 2020.

**8. Comments by Supervisor:** John Kuper said O.K. It's been a heck of a year, hasn't it? I know in my lifetime I've never come across anything like this, but you know what, we made it through, and I'm very proud of everybody that works in the Township, and the citizens are very appreciative of what we've done. I'll tell you the participation we've had in all the parks, there have been more people using those parks then I have ever seen in my lifetime. Even today I went by Headwaters and I counted about 22 cars there. So, they are using our facilities. They are very appreciative of all the hard work that we've done, and I'd like to thank everybody in the Township.

At the end of the Township fiscal year in March 2020 and the beginning of our next fiscal year in April 2020 **we were affected by the COVID pandemic.** During this time the Governor of Illinois issued a series of Executive Orders which restricted public meetings, workplace activities, and the use of public spaces. This Annual Town Meeting for 2020 was canceled, so it occurs now. A previous Executive Order declared all counties in Illinois as a disaster area on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Executive Order also imposed social distancing guidelines, the order to stay home except for essential operations, widespread teleworking, and the reduction of many governmental and business functions to minimum essential operations. This led to challenges with respect to meeting certain government deadlines and adhering to certain in-person and other requirements. Given the constraints placed on the Township by the Governor's Executive Orders, Township staff met the challenge to develop and execute strategies to maintain the operations of the Township and provide services to our residents. Some of these strategies included limiting staff in the offices, rotating staff, remote working from home offices, use of personal protective equipment, instituting stringent disinfecting protocols for equipment, vehicles, and offices, and social distancing for work areas.

From a **financial perspective**, the Township was successful in maintaining and operating all of our programs, which includes our parks and open space areas. This occurred by maintaining strict oversight of our budgets and financial controls. As a result of these controls, the diligence of the Township Board, and the creativity and dedication of Township staff, the Township Administration and Highway District budgets finished the year with a small surplus in each of the respective budgets. The Open Space Fund operates with budgeted deficit spending from the Open Space Maintenance and Investment Accounts. The Open Space Fund also finished the year with a small surplus.

Now I'd like to mention **three Eagle Scouts** that completed their projects during the last fiscal year. **Kyle Schermerhorn, Troop 13**, did habitat improvements at Gray Willows that included constructing osprey nesting platforms, leading 40 hours of seed harvesting, clearing two acres of invasive species, and building five seed drying racks. **Owen Mruk, Troop 13**, again in 2019, at multiple locations constructed 30 Leapold style trail benches for many of our sites. And then **Mason Peterson, Troop 13**, constructed a foot bridge across the creek to the group campground at Gray Willows Farm. Since 1992, over 39 Eagle Scout projects have been completed in the Township. So, on behalf of the Township, I'd like to thank all the Eagle Scouts who have completed projects for the benefit of Campton Township residents.

**In August 2019 Campton Township purchased the Whitney Family Farmstead, including the 1890 Daniel Whitney residence, and agricultural outbuildings. This purchase was made possible by a generous donation by Art and Karen Gustafson.** The acquisition will allow the Township to preserve all the structures on this site for future generations to enjoy. The Whitney Schoolhouse was built in 1852. We purchased the schoolhouse from Art and Karen for a dollar and now it can be restored in its original location. We were going to move it to Gray Willows before because the Gustafsons were going to sell the property, and they had it listed for over one million. We were actually able to purchase it for \$300,000. It was a great gift from the Gustafsons. The other benefit is that we don't have to move the schoolhouse. We actually built a new foundation, put the schoolhouse back on that, and now we're going to restore it where it's been since 1852. We have received a grant from the Thornapple Questors to aid in the restoration.

The Construction of the Gray Willows wetland **mitigation bank** was completed in 2019. At Headwaters we had three sales for \$316,000. At Gray Willows, a couple smaller ones for \$77,950.

Moderator Wojnicki said thank you John. Moving along we have the Assessor's report.

## **9. Presentations:**

*Assessor's Report* – Assessor Rottmann said the Campton Assessor's office added \$19,357,999 in new value in 2019. This represents construction of residences and improvements to existing homes. 21 permits were issued for new single-family residences, three more than in 2018, and 199 permits were issued for other types of construction such as additions, garages, decks, pools, etc. There were 416 property sales in 2019, down from 418 in 2018. Of those sales, 312 were single-family residences and 40 were sales of buildable lots. There were sales of 46 farm parcels and 13 commercial properties. Five sales were properties that were or are currently exempt. The average sale price in 2019 for a single-family home in Campton Township was \$407,482. This is a slight decrease from the average home price of \$411,125 in 2018 and a decrease from \$412,345 in 2017. As of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, there are a total of 7,224 parcels in Campton Township represented by 6,379 residential parcels, 488 farm parcels, and 177 commercial and/or industrial parcels. 200 parcels are exempt properties.

Moderator Wojnicki Any questions? O.K. We'll move onto the Highway Commissioner's report.

*Highway Commissioner's Report* – Moderator Wojnicki said the Highway Commissioner is not here this evening. Clerk Johansen said his report is on page 29.

*Open Space Update* – Moderator Wojnicki said we'll move onto Open Space Update, our Restoration Ecologist Josh Nelson. Josh said we saw a lot of growth in the program mentioned in the highlights by John. I'll have some additional reporting on that in the following meeting, but we'll leave it for that for now. Moderator Wojnicki said all right. Thank you, Josh. Short and sweet, that's good. Now, comments by electors.

**10. Comments by Electors:** Joe Garbarski said he was at the first annual Township meeting in 1989. And I sat next to Sam, and we were the only two people that were allowed into our ball games, baseball, and softball, and we were booed out of the building. Al Rottman said if I could say something, you also had mentioned who got all those people out of office and got what you needed. Joe Garbarski said that's correct.

## **11. New Business:**

*Campton Township Open Space Foundation Presentation* – Moderator Wojnicki said all right, we'll move onto new business, Campton Township Open Space Foundation Presentation, and that's Joe Garbarski. Joe Garbarski said we were unable to make a donation two years ago. We typically like to make donations every year, but with the pandemic that hit, we were not able to do so

during that time. Moderator Wojnicki said O.K. Joe Garbarski said that's it. Moderator Wojnicki said thank you Joe. Now we have to set the Annual Meeting Date for 2021.

**12. Annual Meeting – Set Date:** John Kupa moved we set the Annual Town Meeting for April 13 2021. Clerk Johansen said he just moved April 13<sup>th</sup> 2021. That's tonight. Moderator Wojnicki said yeah. Clerk Johansen said is there a second. Al Rottmann said I'll second that. I think it's a good day to hold a meeting. Moderator Wojnicki said all those in favor say aye. (Ayes heard.) Opposed? (No response.) Motion passed. Meeting is set. Then motion to adjourn.

**13. Adjournment:** Moderator Wojnicki asked for a motion to adjourn. Joe Garbarski moved the Annual Town Meeting of 2020 be adjourned. Katy Bolger seconded the motion. Moderator Wojnicki said all those in favor say aye. (Ayes heard.) Opposed? (No response.) Motion passed. We are adjourned. (Off the record)

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Johansen

Clerk