

**TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL COMMITTEES ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT
(For Townships and Road District JOINT REPORT Only)**

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

f

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: WEST

Note: Any local government that levies a tax, other than a municipality or county must file this report. For Road Districts in counties with populations of less than 400,000 the highway commissioner may form a joint committee to prepare one combined report. See 50 ILCS 70/10(b-5).

TOI has a separate recommended report form for a consolidated report, so do not use this form for a combined report of a township and road district. TOI also has a separate recommended report form for road districts and multi-township assessment districts.

II. Information about our Township

- A. We are located in Effingham County.
- B. There are FIFTEEN townships in our county.
- C. The population of our Township is 444, as of the 2020 census.
- D. We have NO employees of the Township (not including elected officials).
- E. We have SIX PART-TIME employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- F. Our annual budget for 2023 is: \$313,657.00 (Town \$91,492/ Road District \$222,165).
- G. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2022 is \$13,773,165.00.

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor Scott Beal

Township Highway Commissioner Melvin Stuemke

Township Trustee Wendell Alwardt

Township Trustee Mark Holland

Township Trustee Michael Runge

Township Trustee Bradley Suckow

Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Rick Sigrist

Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Jill Moomaw

Township Resident (Highway Comm. Appointment) Joyce Schumacher

Note: Per 50 ILCS 70/10(b), the committee membership must include all the elected or appointed members of the township board (Supervisor and Trustees) and two residents appointed by the Supervisor. The residents can be the Assessor, Highway Commissioner, Clerk or Collector, if you have one, or other residents of the Township, but these officials are not required to be on this Committee. The Supervisor may appoint more than two residents if deemed appropriate.

B. Dates that our Committee Met (50 ILCS 70/20)

First (Organizational) Meeting
(Must occur prior to June 10, 2023): May 9, _____, 2023

Second Meeting: June 13, _____, 2023

Third Meeting: August 8 _____, 2023

Additional Meetings (List All): _____, 2023

TOWNSHIP SECTION

IV. Programs Offered by our Township.

- A. Our Township offers the following services and programs: (List programs like general assistance, youth programs, senior programs, community programs, LIHEAP, etc.) (If not applicable, remove this).

We have a General Assistance fund and capability, as outlined by Illinois law.

- B. Other services/programs we could possibly provide:

Our town hall is available for township residents to rent for private functions, at a discounted price.

The hall would also be available in times of emergency as a warming or cooling center, for residents affected by weather or environmental emergencies.

V. Social Service Agreements

- A. We partner with the following not for profits to offer social services (list all):

We have no social service agreements with other entities. Therefore, the rest of Section V. is not completed.

Entity:

Services Provided:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

- B. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in the following ways:

- C. We have considered possibly offering the following social services or the following additional potential partnerships:

VI. Awards and Recognitions

Our Township has received the following awards, distinctions, and recognitions: (List all).

NONE

VII. Intergovernmental Agreements

NONE

A. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments (List all):

Entity: Services Offered:

B. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way (list cost savings, avoiding duplicated services, etc.):

VIII. Review of Laws, Township Policies, Township Rules and Procedures, Township Training Materials, and other Documents

We have reviewed the following, non-exhaustive list of laws, policies, training materials, and other documents applicable to the Township to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing should be amended.

X State laws applicable to Townships, including, but not limited to the Township Code (60 ILCS)

X Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120)

X Policy on public comment

X Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a))

X All of Elected Officials have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05(b))

X Schedule of All Township Regular Meetings for Calendar or Fiscal Year (5 ILCS 120/2.03)

X Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140)

X Designation of FOIA officer (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))

- FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5(b))
- Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS 140/4(b))
- List of Types or Categories of FOIA Records under Township's Control (5 ILCS 140/5)
- Periodic Meetings to Review Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d))
- IMRF Total Compensation Postings (5 ILCS 120/7.3)
- Designation of Whistleblower Auditing Official (50 ILCS 105/4.1)
- All of our Elected Officials have filed statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5)
- Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(c))
- Our Intergovernmental Agreements
- Our Social Service Agreements or Contracts
- Our budget and financial documents
- State Ethics Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-1)
- Our budget and financial documents
- Reports on government efficiency, including "Local Government Efficiency and Size in Illinois: Counting Tax Revenues, Not Governments" by Wendell Cox (2016); "Local Democracy and Townships in the Chicagoland Area," by Wendell Cox, (January 2012).
- Others (List Below or Attach):

- IX. What Have We Done Well? (List any budget/levy freezes or reductions in the past decade; list new programs or services offered to residents over the past decade; list any ethics ordinances adopted; timely FOIA compliance; responsiveness to public; list any new intergovernmental agreements or social services offered; list any increase in number of township residents served, etc.)
- *We have constructed a new building in 2019, which was paid off six years early.
 - *The township keeps expenses low by having no employees.
 - *The township is debt free and has a modest surplus (as of this writing) to prepare for emergency, and have on hand to loan to the road district in emergency situations.
 - *The town tax rate has DECREASED from 2008 tax year to 2021 tax year from 0.58174 dollars per \$100 EAV, to 0.43121 dollars per \$100 EAV. What that means is the township COULD levy more taxes, but it does not. The township tax levy is prepared in such a way to obtain necessary operating funds without placing an unnecessary burden on tax payers.

- X. What Inefficiencies Did We Identify/What Are our Next Steps?
Our committee did not identify inefficiencies.

- XI. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?
Continue to operate as we have for at least the last decade, while keeping tax rates at a minimum.

- XII. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies

We have not outsourced a formal study. This report has been compiled and approved by this Decennial Committee, which has had input from three township residents, in addition to that of township elected officials.

However, in preparing this report, we reviewed several studies on local government efficiency. These studies show that:

- The average local government in Illinois serves 1800 residents compared to the national median of 2850 individuals
- Most townships in Illinois have no bonded indebtedness. Together with road districts they are an integral element of local democracy. Township expenditures have grown at a lower rate than those of any other level of government since 1992.
- Townships have lower labor costs and employ mostly part time employees.

ROAD DISTRICT SECTION

XIII. Programs Offered by our Township.

C. Our Township offers the following services and programs: (List programs like general assistance, youth programs, senior programs, community programs, LIHEAP, etc.) (If not applicable, remove this).

NOT APPLICABLE FOR ROAD DISTRICT

D. Other services/programs we could possibly provide:

XIV. Social Service Agreements

NOT APPLICABLE FOR ROAD DISTRICT

XV.

D. We partner with the following not for profits to offer social services (list all):

Entity:

Services Provided:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

E. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in the following ways:

F. We have considered possibly offering the following social services or the following additional potential partnerships:

XVI. Awards and Recognitions

Our Township has received the following awards, distinctions, and recognitions: (List all).

NONE

XVII. Intergovernmental Agreements

C. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments (List all):

Entity:	Services Offered:
<u>Union Township:</u>	<u>Exchange equipment and materials</u>
<u>Mound Township:</u>	<u>Exchange equipment and materials</u>
<u>Douglas Township:</u>	<u>Exchange equipment and materials</u>
<u>Effingham County:</u>	<u>Exchange equipment and materials</u>

D. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way (list cost savings, avoiding duplicated services, etc.):
These agreements help us avoid having to purchase more equipment and other services that would be necessary to accomplish these tasks

XVIII. Review of Laws, Township Policies, Township Rules and Procedures, Township Training Materials, and other Documents

We have reviewed the following, non-exhaustive list of laws, policies, training materials, and other documents applicable to the Township to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing should be amended.

SEE TOWNSHIP SECTION for coverage of this subject.

XIX. What Have We Done Well? (List any budget/levy freezes or reductions in the past decade; list new programs or services offered to residents over the past decade; list any ethics ordinances adopted; timely FOIA compliance; responsiveness to public; list any new intergovernmental agreements or social services offered; list any increase in number of township residents served, etc.)

*We have constructed a new building in 2019.

*The road district has no full time employees.

*As of this writing, the road district has \$93,000 in debt, which is scheduled to be paid no later than 2027.

*The road district tax rate has DECREASED from 2008 tax year to 2021 tax year from 0.92177 dollars per \$100 EAV, to 0.78307 dollars per \$100 EAV. What that means is the road district COULD levy more taxes, but it does not. The road district tax levy is prepared in such a way to obtain necessary funds to maintain township roads without placing an unnecessary burden on tax payers.

*The road district has upgraded most of its equipment in the last decade, including multiple trucks and a road grader.

XX. What Inefficiencies Did We Identify/What Are our Next Steps?

We did not identify any inefficiencies.

XXI. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

Continue to function as we have.

XXII. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies

We have not outsourced a formal study. This report has been compiled and approved by this Decennial Committee, which has had input from three township residents, in addition to that of township elected officials.

In preparing this report, we reviewed several studies on local government efficiency. These studies show that:


- The average local government in Illinois serves 1800 residents compared to the national median of 2850 individuals
- Most townships in Illinois have no bonded indebtedness. Together with road districts they are an integral element of local democracy. Township expenditures have grown at a lower rate than those of any other level of government since 1992.
- Townships have lower labor costs and employ mostly part time employees.

XXIII. Our committee's recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:

The committee has determined that both West Township and the West Township Road District operate efficiently and provide significant value for residents' tax dollars. Factors such as a minimum number of employees, little, if any, debt, a four-year-old building, and upgraded road district equipment, all while tax rates have decreased, indicate West Township officials make consistent efforts to serve township residents as efficiently as possible.

Note: This Report must be filed with your County no later than 18 months after your first committee meeting.

Submitted by:



Scott A. Beal
West Township Supervisor;
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of West Township, Effingham County
3347 E. 300th Ave.
Mason, IL 62443

Date: August 8, 2023

