

Watson Township and Road & Bridge District Joint, Effingham County, Illinois, Report for Compliance with Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act.

Unit of government submitting this report:

Watson Township, Effingham County, Illinois

I. Information about our Township:

- A. We are located in Effingham County. There are 15 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our township is 3,200 residents, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 4 trustees on the Board of Trustees for the township.
- D. We have 2 employee (contracted) for the township (Assessor and GA Assistance)
- E. Our annual budget for 2024 will be :
Road and Bridge \$394,603 - Town Fund \$51,515
- F. Our township equalized assessed valuation is:
Road & Bridge and Town Fund = \$68,721,434

II. Information about our Committee:

- A. Committee members: Fred Percival, Steve Bergfeld, Judy Bergfeld, Vickie Bushur, Diane Arnold, Sheila Percival, Billy Genaust, Jesse Ketteman, and Rob Arnold.

Township supervisor: Fred Percival
Township Road Commissioner: Steve Bergfeld
Road Commissioner appointee: Judy Bergfeld
Township Trustee: Diane Arnold
Township Trustee: Sheila Percival
Township Trustee: Billy Genaust
Township Trustee: Jesse Ketteman
Township at Large member: Vickie Bushur
Township at Large member: Rob Arnold

B. Dates that our Committee Met:

First Organizational Meeting - May 10, 2023
Second Meeting - July 10, 2023
Third Meeting - August 14, 2023
Fourth Meeting - September 11, 2023
Fifth Meeting - October 9, 2023
Sixth Meeting - November 13, 2023

Seventh and last Meeting - December 11, 2023

III. Programs Offered by our Township:

- A. Our Township offers the following services and programs:
General Assistance
- B. Other services / programs we could possibly provide:

IV. Social Service Agreements

V. Awards and Recognitions

VI. Intergovernmental Agreements

VII. Review of Laws, Township Policies, Township Rules and Procedures,

Township Training Materials, and other Documents

- State laws applicable to Township, including, but not limited to the Township code (60 ILCS 1)
- Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120)
- Policy on public comment
- Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05[a])
- Designation of Elected Officials have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05[b])
- Schedule of All Township Regular Meetings for Calendar or Fiscal Year (5 ILCS 120/2.03)
- Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140)
- Designation of FOIA officer (5 ILCS 140/3.05[a])
- FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5[b])
- Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.05[a])
- Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4[a]; 5 ILCS 140/4[b])
- List of types of 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])
- 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)
- Our Social Services Agreements or Contracts(GA processing)
- Our budget and financial documents
- State Ethics Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employee Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-1)

VIII. What Have We Done Well?

We froze our Levy for the last three years.

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

The Road Commissioner created maps of our roads showing what roads have been oiled for the last three years. Also created a map of culverts in the Watson

Township and if they have been repaired, replaced, or need attention. In addition, we are in the process of creating a Watson Township website. This will improve the transparency to our constituents.

X. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

We need to do better documentation of maintenance logs for all equipment in shop.

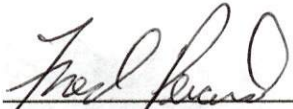
XI. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies - None

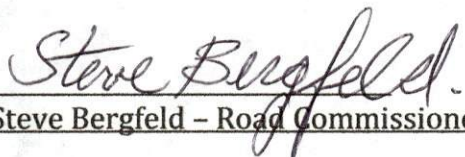
XII. Our Committee's Recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:

Create Maps for Oiling and Culvert tracking

Create a Township Website

Submitted January 11, 2024:


Fred Percival - Supervisor


Steve Bergfeld - Road Commissioner

FILED

JAN 23 2023


COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
EFFINGHAM COUNTY, ILLINOIS