



Effingham County Board
101 N. 4th Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL
217.342.4990

ACTIONS OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

At the Effingham County Board regular board meeting of December 16, 2024, the following action was taken:

Approve St. Francis Township Decennial Report

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____.

Roll call vote taken with voting as follows: Aye, Nay, Abstain.
Motion carried/not carried.

ATTEST:

Michelle Kollmann
Effingham County Clerk

Joshua Douthit
Chairman Effingham County Board

**SAMPLE TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL
COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT
(For Townships Only)**

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

f
NAME OF TOWNSHIP: ST. FRANCIS

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. There are _____ townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 1164, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 0 employees of the Township (not including elected officials).
- D. We have 2 part time employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- E. Our annual budget for 2023 is: \$ 88,593, town \$104,828, Road + Bridge
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$ 38,911,199.

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor Dennis Miller
Township Trustee John Miller
Township Trustee Bernard Vahling
Township Trustee Chris Hartke
Township Trustee Alex Hartke
Township Resident Joe Thaeler

Township Resident Steve Browning

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): Jan 30th, 2023
- Second Meeting: June 26th, 2023
- Third Meeting: Dec 18th, 2023
- Additional Meetings (List All): June 24th, 2023

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). General Assistance

B. Other services/programs we could possibly provide: mowing ditches (Township)

V. Social Service Agreements

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

Entity:

Services Provided:

1. N/A
- 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).

VII. Intergovernmental Agreements

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

N/A

Entity:

Services Offered:

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

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.

- State laws applicable to Townships, including, but not limited to the Township Code (60 ILCS)
- Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120)
- Policy on public comment
- Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a))
- All 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 140/3.5(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 only raise the Levy when our cost go up.

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

XI. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently? We could combine St Francis with Teutopolis Township and be more efficient. Teutopolis Township is only 1/2 a Township to begin with and the village of Teutopolis is within its boundaries.

XII. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies we could combine 3 taxing districts into one St Francis/Teutopolis MTAD, St Francis & Teutopolis.

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.

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

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

Submitted by: Donis Miller
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of St. Francis Township

Date: 11-25-24