

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

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

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NAME OF TOWNSHIP: Custer

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).

II. Information about our Township

- A. We are located in Will County. There are 24 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 1367, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have no employees of the Township (not including elected officials).
- D. We have 5 Part time employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- E. Our annual budget for 2024 is: \$105,000 for the town fund. \$65,000 for General Assistance. 26
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$50,082,455 .

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

- Township Supervisor: Jon Furlan
- Township Highway Commissioner: Bill Marquardt
- Township Trustee: Diane Schaal
- Township Trustee: Kim Soto
- Township Trustee: Mary Riech
- Township Trustee: Denise Norris
- Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Tony Scott
- Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Dee Elsner
- Township Resident (Highway Comm. Appointment) Bob Ross

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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, 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 16, 2023

Second Meeting: _____ June 18, 2024

Third Meeting: _____ August 20, 2024

IV. Programs Offered by our Township.

- 1) General Assistance.
- 2) Emergency Assistance.

- 3) Holiday lighting program.
- 4) Town hall is available for use to the public.
- 5) Seminars on property tax issues and assistance in filing appeals and exemptions
- 6) The township has three cemeteries, two of which are currently active.
- 7) We have a veteran's monument with the names of all the residents who have served in the Armed Forces.
- 8) Maintain a large green space at the start of the Wauponsee Glacial Trail.

V. Social Service Agreements

A. We partner with the following not for profits to offer social services:

Entity:

Services Provided:

1. Alcoholic anonymous
2. Will county

Meets once a week in Townhall
Dial a ride

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

- 1) CPR & First aid classes
- 2) Host Senior Lunch
- 3) Informational Seminars

VI.

VII. Intergovernmental Agreements

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

Entity:

Services Offered:

- 1) Braidwood fire district

Information Marquee

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 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).

IX. What Have We Done Well

- 1) We have maintained a small levy increase every year to minimize the tax burden on our residents.
- 2) The Custer Township officials continually strive to educate ourselves by attending yearly Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) Conferences, Attend Regional educational sessions, join webinars offered on a myriad of topics of concern to Township Officials and/or to update us on changes in the Illinois State Statutes regarding Township Governance.

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

- 1) The raising cost of Maintaining three cemeteries.

XI. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently

- 1) Improve communication with our Township residents.
- 2) Improve ways to get information to residents.
- 3) Use social media to get information to residents.

XII. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies

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: Jon Furlan

Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Custer Township

Date: November 17, 2024