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WILL COUNTY CLERK  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**I. Unit of government submitting this report:**

**Fossil Ridge Public Library District**  
386 West Kennedy Road.  
Braidwood, IL 60408  
<https://fossilridge.org/>

**II. Information about our Library**

- A. We are located in Will County. There are seven libraries in our County, with a population of 697,252.
- B. The population of the territory in which our Library is located is 14,254 (as of 2020 census).
- C. We have 14 employees of the Library (not including board members).
- D. Our annual budget for FY 2023 is \$1,090,250.
- E. Our Library's equalized assessed valuation (EAV) for 2023 is \$852,147,732.

**III. Information about Our Committee**

**A. Committee Members:**

**Board President** - Sandra Bauter

**Trustee** - Alvin Stockdale

**Trustee** - Teri Jones

**Trustee** - Danell Morrison

**Trustee** - LuAnn Bolatto

**Trustee** - Susan Trimby

**Trustee** - Kathleen Price

**Executive Director** - Rene Leyva (Committee Chairperson)

**Library Resident** - Sue Erickson

**Library Resident** - Sarah Hopf

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

First Meeting: May 15, 2023 5:30 p.m.

Second Meeting: September 18, 2023 5:30 p.m.

Third Meeting: October 16, 2023 5:30 p.m.

Additional Meetings (List All, if any): \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. Core Programs or Services Offered by our Library

**Mission Statement:** We enrich lives by providing educational, recreational, and literary needs for everyone in our community by striving for excellent service that provides access to the world of social and cultural ideas.

##### A. Our Library offers the following core services and programs:

- **Services:** Fax, copies, scan, laminating, license plate stickers, notary, public computers, Interlibrary loan, tax forms, room reservations
- **Circulation:** Books, movies, music, games
- **Programming:** Children's, Pre-teen, Teen, and Homeschool programs.
- **E-Circulation:** e-books, movies, music, e-workshops, e-audiobooks
- **Museum Adventure pass:** discounts to popular museums and local NFPS.
- **Other:** Grab-n-go kits for children, Book clubs, tech sessions

##### B. Other core services/programs we could possibly provide:

- Hunting/Fishing Licenses
- Library of Things
- Passports
- Off-site programs for in-district communities

#### V. Awards and Recognitions

Our Library has received the following awards, distinctions, and recognitions:

- **Grundy County:** For hosting Xmas toy drive and winter coat drive (kids)
- **Melissa's Closet:** For helping with the annual setup.
- **\$5,000 Grant:** Homeschool book purchases
- **\$20,000 ARPA Grant:** Bridge the digital divide, purchased book lockers.
- **Braidwood Area Coalition:** Youth mental health books
- **\$3,973.75 Grant Community Foundation of Grundy County:** Veteran and teen programming

#### VI. Intergovernmental Agreements

We partner with or have Intergovernmental Agreements with the following other governments Entity: **Services Offered:**

- **RAILS** (Reaching Across Illinois Libraries): Library System, Training, discounts, special offers, forum, support
- **SAILS** (Supporting Administrators in Libraries): Support and collaboration
- **Prairie Cat:** Integrated library automation system (Consortium)
- **Illinois Library Presents:** Provides premier online events at equitable prices for participating member libraries of all sizes and budgets.
- **Diamond I-55 Corridor TIF District:** TIF
- **Gardner TIF District I:** TIF
- **LIMRiCC:** The Library Insurance Management and Risk Control Combination - Insurance
- **FAIRCOM:** a trust of local governments dedicated to maintaining fair and equitable assessments and taxation of electric generating stations throughout Illinois. (FAIRCOM successfully secured the passage of Public Act 90-562, which assured continued financial stability for local taxing bodies).

Our Library's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the



following ways (list cost savings, avoiding duplicated services, etc.):

**VII. Community Partnerships**

- **We partner with the following organizations (including services offered):**
- **DMV:** License plate stickers, ID correction, Real ID
- **IL Treasury:** I-Cash program
- **Catholic Charities:** Senior programs, bingo, and easy workouts
- **IL Comptroller:** Senior safety online
- **4-H extension:** Photography, survival skills and gardening
- **CVS:** COVID pop-up at the library (COVID and flu vaccines)
- **1000 Books Before Kindergarten:** Reading program for children
- **Versiti:** Community blood drives
- **AARP:** Senior driving discount workshops
- **LIHEAP:** Subsidized payments for heating and air.
- **Trunk or Treat:** Offering free publicity opportunities to 15+ local organizations and businesses. 400+ guests visit the library on one day to celebrate Halloween.
- **Hotspot rentals:** Braidwood Police Department, BBSA
- **Movies on the Green:** Partnership with the Braidwood Police Department
- **Summer Fest:** library presence through parade and booth.
- **National Night Out:** Youth activities provided by our local police department

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

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

- State laws applicable to Libraries - [Click here](#)
- Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.) - [Click here](#)
- Policy on public comment - [Click here](#)
- Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a)) [Click here](#)
- All Board Members have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05(b)) – [Click here](#)
- Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Library Board (5 ILCS 120/2.03) – [Click here](#)
- Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.) – [Click here](#) - [Click here](#)
- Designation of FOIA Officer (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a)) [Click here](#)
- FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5(b)) – [Click here](#) – [Click here](#)
- Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5) [Click here](#)

Decennial Committees On  
Local Government Efficiency Act  
09/13/2023

- Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS 140/4(b)) [Click here](#)
- List of Types or Categories of FOIA Records under Library Control (5 ILCS 140/5) [Click here](#)
- Periodic Meetings to Review Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d)) [Click here](#)



- IMRF Total Compensation Postings (5 ILCS 120/7.3) - <https://tinyurl.com/4jmbf7dx>
- Designation of Whistleblower Auditing Official (50 ILCS 105/4.1 et seq.)

<https://tinyurl.com/35zyfsc> <https://tinyurl.com/bdecvv88>

"Auditing official" means any elected, appointed, or hired individual, by whatever name, in a unit of local government whose duties are similar to, but not limited to, receiving, registering, and investigating complaints and information concerning misconduct, inefficiency, and waste within the unit of local government; investigating the performance of officers, employees,

functions, and programs; and promoting economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity in the administration of the programs and operations of the municipality. If a unit of local government does not have an "auditing official", the "auditing official" shall be a State's Attorney of the county in which the unit of local government is located. States Attorney of Will County James W. Glasgow - 815) 727-8453

- All applicable officials have filed a statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5 et seq.) [Click here](#)

- Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(C) – [Click here](#) - [Click here](#)

- Our Intergovernmental Agreements

- 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 et seq.) – [Click here](#)

- Reports on government efficiency, including "Local Government Efficiency and Size in Illinois: Counting Tax Revenues, Not Governments" by Wendell Cox (2016); [Click here](#)

**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; list any increase in number of library patrons served, etc.)

- **Outreach:** Began the At-Home Delivery Service, allowing us to deliver library materials right at the patron's doorstep.
- **FAIRCOM:** Agreement with Constellation powerplant. Raising 300k over 7 years.
- **Homeschool:** Served the homeschool community through programs, curriculum, and one-on-one introductory service to homeschool parents.
- **FOIA:** The library has been compliant with all FOIA complaints.
- **E-content:** Increased e-content by providing Hoopla, Kanopy, A to Z products, and other products like Playaways, launchpads, and hotspots.
- **Material funds:** Moved most of our purchasing through Ingram, saving the library 40% of the costs associated with Amazon and booksellers.
- **Marketing:** Hired a Marketing Assistant, increased Social Media views, revamped newsletter, Evanced registration, Constant contact e-newsletter email blasts.
- **Strategic Plan:** The library board approved the strategic plan for the next three years, 2023-2025.

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- **Exterior capital improvements:** 2023 parking lot, book drop installation, book lockers, and an electronic sign. Converted all outside lighting to LED with a grant provided by ComED.
- **Interior capital improvements:**
- **Facility upgrades:** Extensive library renovation in 2017.
- **Fiscal responsibility:** Improved by closing the Grundy ICS Money Market Account with one that has a higher interest rate (PMA Financial Savings Account).

WILL COUNTY CLERK  
JESSICA L. HARRIS  
FOSSIE RIDGE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

We have made several technology upgrades including new PC's, a phone system, copy machines, a TBS self-help scanning system, and self-checkout. We have also enhanced the building in FY2022 by providing a projector screen, a new AV system, and installing a projector to the ceiling. Additionally, we rewired all the ceiling speakers to ensure proper functionality.

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

- The library owns three adjacent lots. A community survey can help understand district needs.
- The library's emergency policy manual hasn't been reviewed since 2014. Given the recent bomb threats, extreme censorship groups, and potential power plant closures in Braidwood, it might be time to revise the manual.
- Renovating the teen area by enclosing the patio and attaching it to the main building.
- Accessibility improvements by the east side of the building, researching available grants through ALA and RAILS.

**XI. 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.

**XIII. Our Committee's Recommendations Regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:**

Note: This Report must be filed with the county (or counties) no later than 18 months after the first committee meeting.

Submitted by: Sandra L. Bouter

Chairman, Decennial Committee: [Signature]

Date of Committee Approval of Report: 10/16/23