

# LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Lockport Township Highway Department  
Decennial Committee Report  
August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Table of Contents**

Cover Letter.....3  
Township Road District Overview .....4  
Committee Members .....5  
Committee Meetings .....5  
Agreements .....6  
Review of Laws, Road District Policies, Rules and Procedures.....7  
Findings .....9

## Cover Letter

August 13, 2024

Will County Board  
302 N. Chicago St.  
Joliet, IL 60432

Dear County Board Members,

I am pleased to present the Decennial Committee Report of the Lockport Township Road District.

This report includes the committee members, our meeting schedule, the topics we reviewed, and our resulting recommendations. We have put a lot of effort into this report, reflecting our commitment to our constituents.

If you wish to discuss this report or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (815) 726-6056 or [ltld@lockporttownship.com](mailto:ltld@lockporttownship.com).

Sincerely,

**James Louch Jr.**

Lockport Township Highway Commissioner

Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of the Lockport Township  
Road District

## Township Road District Overview

Lockport Township Highway Department is located in Will County Illinois. Will County is comprised of 25 townships. Lockport Township has a population of 60,088 residents pursuant to the 2020 census. Lockport Township Highway Department employs 7 individuals as of this time.

The total annual budget for Lockport Township Highway Department for 2024-2025 was \$1,882,823. The Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2024 was \$2,290,502,604.

Below is a basic map of Lockport Township along with its boundaries.

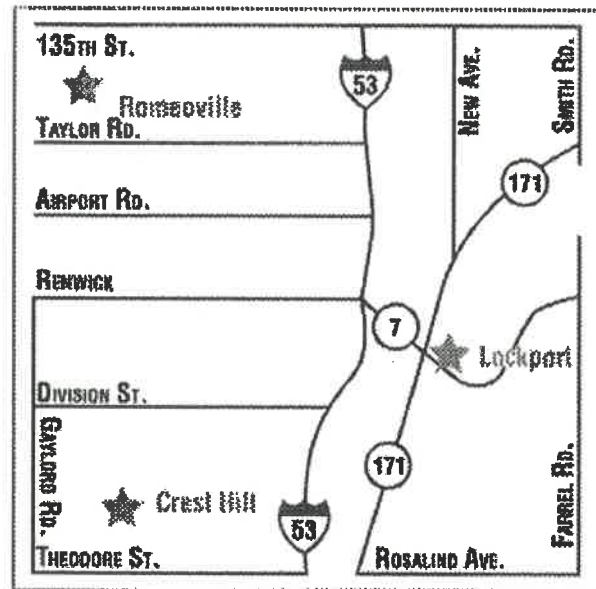
### Boundaries:

North – 135th Street

East – Farrell Rd + Smith Rd

South – Theodore St + Rosalind Ave

West – Gaylord Rd



Map of Lockport Township

## Committee Members

### Committee Chairman:

- James Louch – Highway Commissioner

### Governing Board Members:

- Dean Morelli – Trustee
- Gregg Bickus – Trustee
- Karen Johnson – Trustee
- Denise Salvino – Trustee

### Township Residents:

- Dionne Wright
- Timothy Sellars

## Committee Meetings

### Decennial Committee meetings are as follows:

- May 9, 2023 – Committee formation meeting
- August 13, 2024 – Submission and review of report
- September 10, 2024 – Approval of report and dissolving of committee

## Agreements

The Lockport Township Road District has entered into the following intergovernmental agreements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year:

- 1) An agreement with the City of Lockport and the Homer Township Road District to construct the Smith Ave bridge (see attached agreement); and,
- 2) An agreement with Will County and Bonnie Brae Sanitary District to address flooding issues (see attached agreement); and,
- 3) Two agreements with the State of Illinois to help fund the reconstruction of the roads in the Fairmont area (see attached agreement)

The above agreements (1 and 2) were executed because of joint jurisdiction and shared financial responsibilities. Agreement 3 is two grants from the State of Illinois authorized by legislation and administered through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. All of the agreements lessened the financial impact on Lockport Township taxpayers and allowed for increased efficiency in completing the projects.

## Review of Laws, Road District Policies, Rules and Procedures

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 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/Fiscal Year
- 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
- 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
- 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 (5 ILCS 430/1-1)

- 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).



## Findings

The Lockport Township Road District has strived to be efficient in providing service to our residents and being responsive to any and all requests and inquiries. Specifically, we have purchased a portable electronic speed monitor which we move around upon the request of residents who identify unincorporated areas where drivers have been observed speeding. We eliminated any inaccurately shared identification documents and procedures with the Township government to enable increased eligibility for Federal grants (i.e. EIN numbers, Federal and State grant account overlap, employee manuals), and we participated in seasonal community events such as Halloween, Independence Day and Canal Days (a local event commemorating I & M Canal history). We have also proposed and passed an ordinance to allow the Township Road District to ticket absentee landowners for any foliage over 6" high on vacant lots in the unincorporated areas; this is in order to prevent hazards to children, to provide prevention towards criminal activities and for general community beautification. Weeds that are not cut by the landowner may be cut by the Road District and charged to the absentee landowner.

We are in the process of selecting an electrical efficiency audit company to examine our electricity usage to determine whether we are eligible for grants or subsidies for LEEDS certified fixtures and/or lower utility costs.

We have monthly luncheons with the staff to freely discuss what we can do better and to discuss problems that have occurred in the previous month that we can avoid in the future. Urgent problems are addressed as they occur.

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.

Keep up the good work.

**James Louch**

Lockport Township Highway Commissioner

Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of the Lockport Township Road District

August 13, 2024