

Peotone Township Board

8212 W. Kennedy Road
Peotone, IL 60468

In compliance with the *Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Act (50ILCS 70)* the Township of Peotone, in the County of Will, State of Illinois, we submit these completed reports to the Will County Board.

Kent B. Heisner

Peotone Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL
COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT
Peotone Road Districts Final Report
June 19, 2023**

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: Peotone Township, Will County, State of Illinois

Note: Any local government that levies a tax, other than a municipality or county must file this report. See 50 ILCS 70/10(b-5). House Bill 4228, which was passed by the Illinois General Assembly on January 5, 2023 became Public Act 102-1136 on February 10, 2023. The new law provides that a Highway Commissioner of a township road district within a county with a population under 400,000 may form a joint committee with the Township for purposes of the Act, instead of convening separate committee meetings and preparing a separate report.

II. Information about our Township

- A. We are in Will County. There are 24 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 4007, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 5 employees of the Township (not including elected officials).
- D. We have 5 employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- E. Our annual budget for 2023 is: \$151,500.00.
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$136,873,981.

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Road Commissioner John Hack, Chairman

Township Trustee Jim Morgan

Township Trustee Ron Schubbe

Township Trustee Randy Swartz

Township Trustee Grant Heatherwick

Township Resident Cyndi Burlingame

Township Resident Dean Heisner

Township Resident Dan Younker

Township Clerk Kent Heisner

Note: Per 50 ILCS 70/10(b), the committee membership must include the elected or appointed members of the township board including the Road Commissioner as Chairperson and Trustees as well as two residents appointed by the Road Commissioner. The residents can be the Assessor, Supervisor, 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 Road Commissioner 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): April 17, 2023
 - Second Meeting: May 3, 2023
 - Third Meeting: June 19, 2023
 - Additional Meetings (List All): N/A

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.)
 - General Assistance
 - Will-Ride (Transportation to local medical facilities for senior citizens.)
 - Donations (Total of nine charities, including one local food bank.)
 - Scholarships (Dollars for Scholars local program for high school seniors.)
- B. Other services/programs we could possibly provide:
 - None currently

V. Social Service Agreements

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

<u>Entity:</u>	<u>Services Provided:</u>
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- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. None currently. | N/A |
|--------------------|-----|

- B. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in the following ways:
 - The local social service organizations that we donate to provide a variety of services to our residents. The township is provided annual reports from those organizations that list the number of Peotone residents that are benefitted.

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

- None

VI. Awards and Recognitions

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

- None

VII. Intergovernmental Agreements

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

<u>Entity:</u>	<u>Services Offered:</u>
1. Will-Ride (Partner w/ Will County)	Transportation of Seniors (medical services)
2. Washington Township	Shared road work solutions
3. Will Township	Shared road work solutions
4. Village of Peotone Public Works	Shared road work solutions

B. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way (list cost savings, avoiding duplicated services, etc.):

- The ability to provide transportation to local medical services for our Seniors by sharing costs and services through our partnering agreement with Will County. We could not offer this program on our own with our limited funding.
- The ability to share road equipment and labor for installing hard roads. This significantly saves costs across all participating entities.

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
- X 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)) – Clerk: Township & Assessor: Assessments
- ✓ 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)) – None
- N/A IMRF Total Compensation Postings (5 ILCS 120/7.3)
- ✓ Designation of Whistleblower Auditing Official (50 ILCS 105/4.1)
- ✓ All 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)) – Assessor & staff need
- ✓ Our Intergovernmental Agreements
- ✓ Our Social Service Agreements or Contracts – None currently
- ✓ 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): None

- 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.)
- Effective budget & fiscal control
 - Efficient labor cost control utilizing part-time help
 - Roads, culverts & ditches well maintained & trimmed
 - Good road signage
 - New Assessor responsive to residents
 - Residents satisfied with township services provided
 - Proper compliance with TIORMA & Risk Management
 - Three-year Road Plan created & maintained
 - Three-year Equipment Plan created & maintained
 - FOIA in compliance with timely answers
 - Township Building offered as a polling place
- X. What Inefficiencies Did We Identify/What Are our Next Steps?
- Prior Assessor (through 2021) did a poor job of assessments
- XI. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?
- Investigate upgrades to our TOI website for Peotone Township
 - Investigate bus service but this will be through increased taxes
 - Continue to update roads & equipment.
- 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:
- Continue the current form of local government through Townships, especially in low density population areas of the state. Townships are more responsive to local needs than the County or State can be. Also, the cost control of local Townships can be more effective. For example, our Township utilizes part-time labor without the burdensome cost of a pension & benefits program that is found at the County & State.

- Improve the accountability of Assessors at the County level. This recommendation is based on the poor service of our prior Assessor (through 2021) and the lack of support to improve that situation we received from Will County.

XIV. Survey of Residents

At the end of each meeting a brief survey of selected residents was verbally conducted asking for their input on matters discussed at the meeting. These residents included family members of the Decennial Committee. The Home Owners Association (HOA) of Villas at Gull Landings was also surveyed for their feedback. That group included eleven residents.

Submitted by: John Hack
 John Hack
 Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Peotone Township

Date: JUNE 19, 2023
 Note: This Report was filed with Will County no later than 18 months after our first committee meeting.

The rest of the Decennial Committee:

Jim Morgan Jim Morgan

Ron Schubbe Ron Schubbe

Randy Swartz Randy Swartz (By GENE YOUNKER)

Grant Heatherwick Grant Heatherwick

Cyndi Burlingame Cyndi Burlingame

Dean Heisner Dean A. Heisner (by Kent Heisner)

Dan Younker Dan Younker

Kent Heisner Kent Heisner