

WESLEY TOWNSHIP AND ROAD DISTRICT JOINT REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT

I. Unit of government submitting this report: Wesley Township

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 2118, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 0 employees of the Township (not including elected officials).
- D. We have 3 employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- E. Our combined annual budget for 2023 is: \$ 546,122.36.
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$63,852,047.

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor: Mike Medlin

Township Highway Commissioner: Leonard McCubbin

Township Trustee: Michael Beccue

Township Trustee: Kathleen Kennedy

Township Trustee: David Stowe

Township Trustee: Carol Treadman

Township Clerk: Sherry Yakima

Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment): Sandy Marshall

Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment): Karin Wilson

Township Resident (Highway Comm. Appointment): Vicky Henke

RECEIVED
OCT 24 2024
Will County Board

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 Meeting (50 ILCS 70/20)

First (Organizational) Meeting November 14, 2023

Second Meeting: September 10, 2024

Third Meeting: October 8, 2024

IV. Programs Offered by our Township

A. Our Township offers the following services and programs:

- Assessor Assistance
- General Assistance
- Park

V. Social Service Agreements

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

Entity:

Services Provided:

1. Kuzma Cottage

Community Food Service

B. Our residents have benefitted from this agreement in the following way:

Wesley Township residents who need food can go to Kuzma Cottage and receive food at no charge.

C. We have not considered offering additional social services or additional potential Partnerships currently.

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:

Entity:

Services Offered:

1. Troy Township

Salt Storage

B. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way Wesley Township Road District received salt as payment of storing salt for Troy Township.

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).

IX. What Have We Done Well?

Wesley Township has done quite well after reviewing the above documents. We are a small township with limited funds. We strive to keep taxes at a minimum therefore we have added only the minimum to our budget from our tax base. Our levy has been kept at the minimum to not create a hardship to our citizens. Wesley Township began to donate monies to Kuzma Cottage Food Pantry during the COVID-19 epidemic as well as annually. Our hope is that our citizens in need will use this program. Our FOIA compliance has received our utmost attention over the past five years. We strive to answer all FOIA requests within statute requirements. It is our primary goal to be transparent with the public. The township assessor has informed and assisted citizens with applying for reduction or tax freeze programs based on eligibility. We strive to keep the Wesley Township Officials informed of laws and duties. We educate ourselves with materials provided by county, state and Township Officials of Illinois. Our officials also have attended classes for grants, monthly meetings provided online and in person, as well as converse with local townships. We are always sensitive to the needs of our constituents and encourage them to bring their concerns to our attention.

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

In reviewing the policies, it was found that the closed meetings have not been reviewed in a timely manner (5ILCS 120/2.06(d)). We will review the meetings at an upcoming monthly meeting.

Also, we acknowledge that although the supervisor was designated as the OMA Officer and the clerk was designated as the FOIA Officer it was not communicated to

the Public Access Counselor in the Attorney General's office. We reappointed these positions at the October 8, 2024, Monthly Meeting and will notify PAC as required.

XI. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

Wesley Township can look into joining forces with the City of Wilmington in order to save monies on upcoming projects and purchasing supplies.

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:

To address concerns found in this report and continue to build on our strengths.

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

Submitted by: Mike Medlin, Supervisor
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Wesley Township

Date: October 8, 2024