

OCT 02 2024

LORI GUMMOW

Decennial Committee Report Seward Township

Unit of government submitting this report:

Name of Township: Seward Township

Information about our Township

- A. We are located in Winnebago County. There are 14 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 864, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 0 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 \$152,038 for the Town Fund, \$15,600 for the General Assistance Fund, \$259,728 for the Road District
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$34,224,483.

Information about our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor Richard Beuth
 Township Highway Commissioner Dave Heslop
 Township Trustee John Behn
 Township Trustee Jason Klinger
 Township Trustee Primo German Fonseca
 Township Trustee Tari Woods
 Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Scott Whitney
 Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Jay Pittney
 Township Resident (Highway Comm. Appointment) Jim Johnson

B. Dates that our Committee Met:

First (Organizational) Meeting (must occur prior to June 10, 2023: June 13, 2023, Second Meeting: July 11, 2023, Third Meeting: September 5, 2023. Additional Meetings (List All): September 3, 2024

Programs Offered by our Township

- A. Our Township offers the following services and programs:
 - 1. Electrical aggregation program offering a lower electrical rate to our citizens.
 - 2. 4-H Club roadside cleanup
 - 3. General assistance funding
 - 4. Displaying Flags at the cemetery on Memorial Day
 - 5. The Annual December luminary's display
- B. Other services/programs we could possibly provide:
 - 1. Work with the Seward Park District on programs

Social Service Agreements

- A. We partner with the following not for profits to offer social services
None at this time

Awards and Recognitions

- A. The yard of the month for a resident within the town, and one that resides in the country of the township.

Intergovernmental Agreements

- A. We collaborate with all 14 townships within Winnebago County in purchasing inputs and working together on the road projects.
- B. Our township efficiency has increased through governmental cooperation in the following way:
 - 1. We save money when buying our salt supply for the winter.
 - 2. We save money when buying road district equipment.
 - 3. It saves time and money to work with Pecatonica and Winnebago Townships to put hot patch on the roads.

Review of Laws, Township Policies, Township Rules and Procedures, Township Training Materials and other Documents

What have we done well? Seward Township does most things very well. We pride ourselves in being the closest form of government that helps our Township with General Assistance and emergency help for food, utilities and rent. We offer advice on where they may go to find further help and try to help them solve immediate problems.

1. Our road crew does an outstanding job of keeping our roads plowed and safe in winter.
2. Our roads are mowed four times every season which is more than the county or most townships.
3. Our road commissioner helps pick up the trees and brush from the storms that go through our village and the rural roads.
4. The Road District works with two other townships on putting hot mix on the roads where it is needed in all three townships.
5. Our township is one of the few rural townships in our county that still offer emergency general assistance money to qualified citizens.
6. By awarding two Yard of the Month winners during the summer, it has inspired our citizens to keep their yards and landscaping looking nice.
7. By putting American Flags by all the Veterans graves in the two Cemeteries has made everyone more aware of how many Veterans are from our area.

What Inefficiencies Did We Identify?

1. The Board should review our policies once a year and have them written down.
2. We could make our meeting minutes easier for the Board to review before the next meetings.

Studies on Government 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.

What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

Improve communications with our Township residents, youth and seniors. We will review all forms of information that TOI (Township Officials of Illinois) distributes to our township.

Submitted by: Richard Beuth, Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Seward Township

Date: September 3, 2024