

LIBRARY REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT

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LORI GUMMOW

I. Unit of Government Submitting this Report:

- a. Name of Library: Talcott Free Library District
- b. Address of Main Library Office: 101 E Main St, Rockton, IL 61072

II. Information about our Library

- a. We are located in Winnebago County. There are thirteen libraries/branches in our County.
- b. The population of the territory in which our Library is located is 11,060 (as of 2020 census).
- c. We have 14 employees (not including board members).
- d. Our annual budget for FY24 is \$738,056.
- e. Our Library's equalized assessed valuation (EAV) for 2023 is \$264,300,815.

III. Information about Our Committee

- a. Committee Members:
 - i. Executive Director: Megan Gove
 - ii. Board President: Gary Kovanda
 - iii. Board Treasurer: Terrie Garlow
 - iv. Board VP: Bob Geddeis
 - v. Board Secretary: Loren Floto
 - vi. Board Trustee: Alicia Ragaller
 - vii. Board Trustee: Dan Garlow
 - viii. Board Trustee: Aimee Floto
 - ix. Library Resident: Nina Herzer
 - x. Library Resident: Cheryl Butler
- b. Dates that our Committee Met (50 ILCS 70/20)
 - i. First Meeting: May 15, 2023
 - ii. Second Meeting: August, 2024
 - iii. Third Meeting: September, 2024

IV. Core Programs or Services Offered by our Library

Our Library offers the following core services and programs:

- Physical and digital book/audiobook/TV/movie checkouts.
- Computer and printing access, free Wi-Fi, and cloud printing.
- Programs of all kinds for all ages.
- Study rooms and large program room availability for community use.

Other core services/programs we could possibly provide:

- Small computer classes

V. Awards and Recognitions

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

- Pride of the Stateline, 2019 Stateline Chamber of Commerce

VI. Intergovernmental Agreements

We partner with or have Intergovernmental Agreements with the following other governments:

Entity:

Services Offered:

Rockton District 140 & Village of Rockton

StoryWalk

RAILS

Library system services

PrairieCat

Library consortium services

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

____N/A____

VII. Community Partnerships

We partner with the following organizations:

Organization:

Services Offered:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Rockton District 140 | Field trips, library visits |
| • Village of Rockton | Rockton River Market |
| • Many Rockton businesses | Summer Reading Program |
| • Friends of Talcott Library | Fundraising book sales |

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 in order to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing should be amended.

___x___ State laws applicable to Libraries

___x___ Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.)

___x___ Policy on public comment

___x___ Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a))

___x___ All Board Members have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05(b))

___x___ Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Library Board (5 ILCS 120/2.03)

___x___ Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.)

___x___ 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 Library 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 et seq.)
- ☒ All applicable officials have filed statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5 et seq.)
- ☒ Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(C))
- ☒ 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.)
- ☒ 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);
- ☐ Others (List Below or Attach):

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.)

- Completed renovation and additions to add study rooms, a teen space, and a playroom
- Timely FOIA compliance/responsiveness to the public by the director
- Close to 500 uses of the study rooms in the first year they opened to the public, almost 1200 in the past fiscal year
- Added more new library card holders in the past fiscal year than any year in the past decade.

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

- Need to start the strategic planning process to identify inefficiencies
- Need to complete a Capital Assessment Plan

- XI.** What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?
- Marketing our spaces and current services

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.

- XIII.** Our Committee's Recommendations Regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:
- Continue to work with community partners and develop new strategies for serving the community.
 - Begin the strategic planning process to identify inefficiencies and services.
 - Continue spreadsheet creation of capital assets and their end-of-life dates to help in creation of capital asset plan.