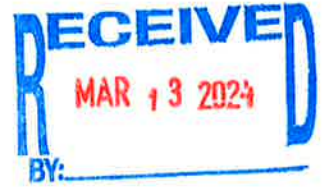


**TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL COMMITTEES ON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT  
Townships**



I. Unit of government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: Winnebago Township

Note: 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 Winnebago County. There are 14 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 4984, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 3 employees of the Township (not including elected officials).
- D. We have 6 employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- E. Our annual budget for 2023 is: \$722,150 (general) \$922,500 (Road District).
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is 128,416,487.

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

- Township Supervisor: Greg Hodges
- Township Highway Commissioner: Aaron Rowley
- Township Trustee: Barry Palm
- Township Trustee: Dennis Cross
- Township Trustee: Craig McClure
- Township Trustee: Ray Heeren
- Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment): Joyce King
- Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment): Jim King
- Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment): Sue Jansen
- Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment): Molly Brauer
- Township Resident (Highway Comm. Appointment): Kyle Bolen

Note: 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 Met (50 ILCS 70/20)

First (Organizational) Meeting: May 9, 2023  
Second Meeting: July 11, 2023  
Third Meeting: August 8, 2023  
Additional Meetings (List All): March 12, 2024

IV. Programs Offered by our Township.

A. Our Township offers the following services and programs:

Snow removal  
Sealcoating Roads  
Paving Roads  
Tree Trimming  
Ditch Cleaning  
Shoulder repair and Maintenance  
Bridge repair  
Culvert replacement  
Mowing

B. Other services/programs we could possibly provide:

With additional funding it would be nice to widen some of our higher ADT roads.

V. Social Service Agreements

A. We partner with the following not for profits

Entity:

Services Provided:

1. Boy Scout Troup 705	Road Cleanup
2. Adopt a Road	Road clean up
3. Winnebago Historical Society	
4. Winnebago Cemetery	Clean-up, Tree removal
5. NWIHCA	Education and training
6. Township Officials of Winnebago County	Legislative issues

B. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in the following ways:

Cooperation has led to greater efficiency, service, and education to all agencies and organizations.

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

VI. Awards and Recognitions

Our Township has received the following awards, distinctions, and recognitions: (List all)

VII. Intergovernmental Agreements

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

Entity:	Services Offered:
1. Winnebago County Highway	Engineering, bidding
2. Seward Township	Road repair, Snow removal
3. Rockford Township	Equipment share, Purchasing
4. Burritt Township	Equipment Purchasing
5. Harrison Township	Equipment purchasing
6. Pecatonica Township	Road maintenance
7. Winnebago County Board	Local issues, Constituents concerns
8. Winnebago County Sheriff	Emergency response
9. State Police	Emergency response
10. Village of Winnebago	Building and equipment share

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

1. Increase labor efficiency
2. Avoid duplicating services
3. Increase buying power
4. Utilize different expertise
5. Equipment savings
6. Cost savings
7. Lower engineering costs

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))

- X: Schedule of All Township Regular Meetings for Calendar or Fiscal Year (5 ILCS 120/2.03)
- X: Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140)
- X: Designation of FOIA officer (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- X: FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5(b))
- X: Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- X: Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS 140/4(b))
- X: List of Types or Categories of FOIA Records under Township's Control (5 ILCS 140/5)
- X: Periodic Meetings to Review Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d))
- N/A: IMRF Total Compensation Postings (5 ILCS 120/7.3)
- X: All of our Elected Officials have filed statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5)
- X: Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(c))
- X: Our Intergovernmental Agreements
- X: Our Social Service Agreements or Contracts
- X: State Ethics Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-1)
- X: Our budget and financial documents
- X: 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?

1. Operated on balanced budget
2. Timely snow removal and salting
3. Timely response to our constituents needs
4. Road maintenance
5. Updating fleet
6. Strict inhouse equipment maintenance program
7. Work well with other municipalities

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

Could be more involved at State and Federal levels involving Highway issues and funding.

XI. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

Could take a more active role in State and Federal issues to make sure funding comes back to local government and our constituents.

Be more active in seeking grants for our roads.

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:

Being the government closest to the people, Winnebago Township prides itself on providing timely services to its constituents. Strive to keep providing this.

Maintain our current policy of a balanced budget.

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

Submitted by: Gregory M. Hodges   
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Winnebago Township

Date: March 12, , 2024