

**SOMER TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL
COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT
(Township & Road District Joint Report)**

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: SOMER TOWNSHIP & ROAD DISTRICT

II. Information about our Township

- A. We are located in Champaign County. There are 30 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 988, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 0 employees of the Township (not including elected officials).
- D. We have (2-3) Part-Time employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- E. Our annual budget for the 2023 Tax Year is: \$396,648.00 (Town & Road Funds Combined)
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 Tax Year is: \$47,613,996

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor:	Evan Barnhart
Township Highway Commissioner:	Rick Wolken
Township Trustee:	Kyle Windler
Township Trustee:	Mike Conerty
Township Trustee:	Mark Weckel
Township Trustee:	Kyle Hammel
Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment):	Elizabeth Solava
Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment):	Derek Wolken
Township Resident (Highway Comm. Appointment):	Ken Mathis

- B. Dates that our Committee Met (50 ILCS 70/20)
- First (Organizational) Meeting June 6th, 2023
- Second Meeting: September 10th, 2024
- Third Meeting: October 8th, 2024

EACH OF THESE SECTIONS ARE TO BE COMPLETED SEPARATLEY BY THE ROAD DISTRICT AND THE TOWNSHIP AND INCLUDED AS TWO PARTS OF THE SUBMITTED REPORT

IV. Programs Offered by our Township:

A. Our Township offers the following services and programs:
GENERAL ASSITANCE

- B. Other services/programs we could possibly provide:
- i. Recycling Day
 - ii. Yard waste pick-up

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>
1. URBANA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION	Softball facilities
2. CHAMPAIGN COUNTY	Voting polling place
3. YEARSLEY CEMETARY BOARD	Access to meeting space
4. LOCAL WOMENS AUXILLARY	Access to meeting space
5. LOCAL HAM RADIO CLUB	Access to meeting space

B. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in the following ways:
For decades, kids have utilized the Ford Harris Park Baseball/Softball Field for spring/summer youth leagues. Our youth have benefited greatly from having access to a safe place to have recreation.

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:

1. Our road crews have been heavily complemented over the year for our quick response times to snow or other weather events that would influence road conditions. Our crew prides themselves on keeping our roads clear and safe for not only our constituents, but those passing through our township.

VII. Intergovernmental Agreements

A. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments:

Entity:	Services Offered:
1. Ogden-Stanton Multi-TWP Assessor	Multi-Township Assessor (Beginning Stages)
2. Champaign County Sherrif	Provides law enforcement to the 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?

- a. While being one of the smallest townships (population wise) we have been able to provide safe roads and quality services for our residents and constituents. We have done so all while keeping budgets low with our hardworking staff and local partnerships. We are a small township (population wise) that is frugal and works hard to maximize our services to our constituents, which keeps tax levy's low.

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

- a. We previously identified that a Multi-Township Assessor could increase efficiency not only in our township, but those that we would team up with. We are

in the beginning stages of joining an already established Multi-Township Assessor group with adjacent townships.

XI. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

- a. We could increase the frequency that we communicate with our surrounding townships to coordinate and collaborate on the timing of projects, which would allow us to share program ideas that have worked in our own communities.

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:

- Remaining involved with local road commissioner peer groups to stay informed on trends or issues roads and bridges.
- Working with adjacent township supervisors to collaborate on future program ideas and overlapping services that could be combined.

XIV. Programs Offered by our **Road District:**

C. Our Township offers the following services and programs:

- i. Road maintenance
- ii. Snow clearing on roads and township right-aways.

D. Other services/programs we could possibly provide:

- i. Recycling Day
- ii. Yard waste pick-up

XV. Awards and Recognitions

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

2. Our road crews have been heavily complemented over the year for our quick response times to snow or other weather events that would influence road conditions. Our crew prides themselves on keeping our roads clear and safe for not only our constituents, but those passing through our township.

XVI. Intergovernmental Agreements

B. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments:

Entity:
IDOT

Services Offered:
Road Sharing Service

1. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way (list cost savings, avoiding duplicated services, etc.):
 - a. By coordinating road projects with the townships that surround us, we can share rental costs of specialty equipment to lower project costs and increase overall efficiency.
2. Adjacent TWP's (Compromise, Stanton, Road Equipment Rental Coordination Rantoul, Urbana)

XVII. 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)
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- 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))
- N/A IMRF Total Compensation Postings (5 ILCS 120/7.3)
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XVIII. What Have We Done Well?

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

- a. We didn't find much for inefficiencies, however we discussed the benefit of the collaboration we have with adjacent Townships, and will continue to pursue those.

XX. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

- a. We could increase the frequency that we communicate with our surrounding townships to coordinate and collaborate on the timing of projects, which would allow us to share program ideas that have worked in our own communities.

XXI. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies

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XXII. Our committee's recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:

- Remaining involved with local road commissioner peer groups to stay informed on trends or issues roads and bridges.
- Working with adjacent township supervisors to collaborate on future program ideas and overlapping services that could be combined.

Submitted by: Evan Barnhart

Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Somer Township

Date: 12/2/24