

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

BROWN TOWNSHIP & BROWN TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT

Brown Township and Brown Township Road District are located in the northwest corner of Champaign County.

The township and road district serve approximately 2000 residents which include the villages of Fisher, Fooseland and Lotus.

Brown Township employs one additional person for maintenance of our township cemetery. All other matters of the township are handled by the board of trustees, clerk, assessor and supervisor.

Brown Township Road District employs 4-6 additional workers at certain times of the year in aid to the highway commissioner. The number of extra help varies due to specific needs. During oiling & chipping roads we will hire people to drive trucks hauling to the oiler and operate our end loader for loading chips. In the winter months, depending on snowfall totals and the amount of wind we receive at that time, we will employ enough manpower to assure the roads are cleared in a timely fashion.

Our 2023-2024 Brown Township budget is \$77,132.85. This includes money for the general town fund, assessor needs, cemetery maintenance, audit fund, social security funds and to cover emergency general assistance needs.

The 2023-2024 Brown Township Road District budget is \$204,011.00. This money is used for road and bridge, permanent road, building and equipment, joint bridge and insurance funds.

Brown Township's EAV for 2023 is \$36,043,831.00

Brown Township and Brown Township Road District Decennial Committee members are:

- John Keith, Township Supervisor
- David Stalter, Highway Commissioner
- David Bright, Township Trustee
- Fred Kaiser, Township Trustee
- Christie Delaney, Township Trustee
- Todd Weitekamp, Township Trustee
- Diana Wilkinson, Township Resident Appointed by Supervisor
- Ron Hoffman, Township Resident Appointed by Supervisor
- Harold Meece, Township Resident Appointed by Highway Commissioner

FILED

AUG 16 2024

Jason Ammons
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CLERK

Our first Decennial Committee meeting was held on March 14th, 2023 to select the committee members as well as to give an overview of the purpose and expectations of the committee.

The second meeting was held on March 12th, 2024. At this meeting we continued to gather information and collaborate on ideas for improving the township moving forward.

At the third meeting of the committee, which was held August 13th, 2024, we reviewed the report that the supervisor had put together to be approved by the committee members.

Our township has in the past and continues to be involved in our community in many ways. We have participated in various parades (Christmas and Homecoming), provided space for some of our local high school classes to construct homecoming floats, we have offered help with cleanup and other tasks as well as providing equipment for use at the Fisher Community Fair. We have given time and materials to help in maintaining parking lots at the local schools and our Amvets Post #52. We provide emergency general assistance to those in need within our township. Brown Township is licensed through the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations to maintain and operate a public cemetery in which all burials are recorded with the State of Illinois. In addition we have generously donated to our local food pantry.

Each summer, when we oil and chip roads, we partner with neighboring townships to share manpower and equipment. We also cooperate with the village of Fisher in "swapping" equipment and personnel whenever we can help each other out. Our ability to work with these neighbors have greatly improved our efficiency as well as the efficiency of their government units. We also receive monies from the county to our permanent road fund to aid with maintaining roads as well as a shared cost for bridge replacement.

We use the Township Officials of Illinois Rules and Duties handbook as a guide for operating within our township. We have passed numerous ordinances and follow the open meetings act, FOIA training, FOIA officer, public comments time at our regularly scheduled monthly meetings, whistleblower act, statements of economic interests and adhere to strict sexual harassment policy.

Our township and road district budgets, levies, annual financial reports and ordinances are posted for public review at the township office.

Brown Township Road District has many responsibilities within our township. By hiring only part time employees, we keep our labor costs to a bare minimum. The highway commissioner maintains 51 miles of roads, inspects 21 bridges, mows at every cross road, maintains and repairs all stop signs and regulatory signs. He also responds to road flooding during heavy rain events by setting up warning signs and barricades for public safety.

Our township provides service to two school districts which requires coordination with the superintendents at both districts when the weather and road conditions are hazardous. We have had great cooperation between these districts and the highway commissioner to keep roads open and clear for getting our children home safely.

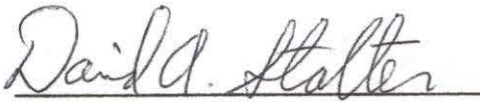
It is our belief that Brown Township and Brown Township Road District operate in a very efficient manner. In this time of out of control government spending Brown Township and Brown Township Road District have not raised our Tax Levies by much more than the increase in the cost of stamps for over 25 years. It is the lowest level of government units that hold the line on spending and efficiencies more than any other. All of our rural townships are neighbors serving neighbors and our opinion is that we do that very well.

We will continue to work with other local units to provide the most efficient, cost saving services to the tax payers in Brown Township and Brown Township Road District as we possibly can. After all, we too are the tax payers of Brown Township.

Respectfully submitted by:

John R. Keith, Brown Township Decennial Committee Chairman

August 13, 2024



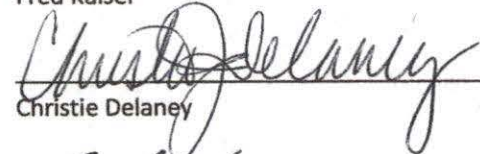
David Stalter



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Christie Delaney



Todd Weitekamp



Diana Wilkinson



Ronald Hoffman



Harold Meece