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JUL 17 2024

Aaron Ammons
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CLERK

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT – TOWN

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

(For Townships Only)

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: SOUTH HOMER TOWNSHIP & ROAD DISTRICT

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 Champaign County. There are 30 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 1,492, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 1 Multi-Township Assessor for the Ayers, Raymond, South Homer Township.
- D. We have 1 part-time janitorial employee of the township.
- E. We utilize as many as 6-8 part-time employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- F. We maintain 34 miles of road in our township.
- G. We have 5 Township Funds and 4 Road District Funds.
- H. Our annual budget for fiscal year 2024 Township Funds: \$82,975
General Fund, \$3,750 Insurance Fund, \$5,000 Social Security Fund,
\$7,200 General Assistance (GA) Fund, \$11,000 for the Cemetery Fund
- I. Our annual budget for fiscal year 2024 Road District Funds: \$79,965
General Road Fund, \$86,070 Permanent Road Fund, \$11,000 Joint
Bridge Fund, \$17,395 Building & Equipment Fund.

J. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for Tax Year 2022 is:
\$40,688,869.

III. Information about our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor:	Matt Dillon
Township Road Commissioner:	Roy Woodmansee, II
Township Clerk:	Sharon Jeffers
Township Trustee	Terry Brewer
Township Trustee	Mark Baird
Township Trustee	Skip James
Township Trustee	Dave Umbarger
Township Resident	Did not attend mtg (x3)
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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, Highway Commissioner, 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
(must occur prior to June 10, 2023): JUNE 7, 2023

Second Meeting: AUGUST 2, 2023

Third Meeting: OCTOBER 4, 2023

IV. Programs Offered by our Township

Our Township offers the following services and programs:

GENERAL ASSISTANCE
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
RECYCLING PROGRAM
CEMETERIES (2) (OLD HOMER AND LOST GROVE)
COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM
ASSESSOR SERVICES – MULTI-TOWNSHIP
GENERAL INFORMATION

V. Social Service Agreements

A. We partner with the following not for profits to offer social services.

Entity:

1. VILLAGE OF HOMER
2. VILLAGE OF HOMER
3. VILLAGE OF HOMER
4. HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
5. VILLAGE OF HOMER
6. VILLAGE OF HOMER

Services Provided:

RECYCLING PROGRAM
WATER UTILITY ASSISTANCE
RECREATION
HISTORY
COMMUNITY PARADE
USE OF MANPOWER, USE OF
EQUIPMENT, HELP WITH MAJOR STORM CLEANUP, BRUSH PILE MANAGEMENT, OTHER

B. Our residents have benefited from these agreements in the following ways: Providing residents with assistance when qualified, preserving history for residents to be Township/Hometown proud, aiding in major storm cleanup helps expedite access to roads and properties that needed major cleanup.

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

Township is considering future CPR/AED classes and Blood drives

Township is considering aiding Homer Illinois Food Pantry

Township is considering CRIS Healthy Aging Center for senior well being

VI. 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) SEE TOWNSHIP HANDBOOK

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)) YEARLY PER LAW

Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a)) CLERK

Posting other required FOIA information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS (140/4(b))

- Periodic meetings to review closed meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d))
- Designation of Whistleblower Auditing Official (50 ILCS 105/4.1)
- Whistleblower annual policy review YEARLY AS REQUIRED
- 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)) YEARLY AS REQUIRED
- 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)

VII. What have we done well? SOUTH HOMER TOWNSHIP does most things very well considering our demographics and available resources. We pride ourselves in being the closest form of government that helps our Township residents with food, utilities, rent or mortgage, offer advice on where residents can go for further help and do our best to help them solve immediate problems. We are stewards of the tax revenues our Township provides. We set budgets and hold ourselves accountable with Trustee oversight. Our Road Commissioner and part-time road crew pride themselves on having some of the best maintained roads (34 miles in our Township). Our Road Commissioner communicates regularly with our residents about any potential road and/or sign issues, and even debris issues, or possibly carcasses on the road. We are very well monitored, with a former Township Supervisor as a Trustee, and multiple elected officials who have been Trustees with other governmental units in conjunction with our Township. We strive to stay aware of statute changes and to comply with all mandated legislation such as the Sexual Harassment Policy with yearly training, adopted the Ethics ordinance, and other required programs. The Township provides timely FOIA compliance and follows all

FOIA guidelines. We are very responsive to our Township residents and try to help make our residents lives less stressful.

The South Homer Township officials have educated ourselves by attending Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) Conferences, attend Regional educational sessions concerning Township Officials and/or to update us on changes in the Illinois State Statutes regarding Township Governance.

VIII. What inefficiencies did we identify/What are our next steps?

In reviewing all policies, it was found that although the Clerk is a trained OMA/FOIA person, we need to officially appoint her as the OMA/FOIA Officer and communicate to the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Attorney General's office as such. At the October 4, 2023 meeting, we re-appointed the Clerk (Sharon Jeffers) as the OMA and also FOIA officer and sent this information to the PAC as required.

IX. What can we do better or more efficiently?

Improve communication with our Township residents.

Attend more training and regional conferences offered by TOI.

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.

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

To address concerns found in this report and continue to build on our strengths.

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

Submitted by: Matt Dillon, Supervisor

Chair, Town Decennial Efficiency Committee of SOUTH HOMER TOWNSHIP

Date: October 4, 2023