

**St. Joseph Township & Road District
2024 Decennial Report Combined
St. Joseph, IL 61873**

St. Joseph Township is in Champaign County, Illinois with 29 Townships in our County.

The Population of our Township is 5,597, as of the 2020 Census.

St. Joseph Township has zero employees (not including elected officials).

St. Joseph Road District employees 5 part-time employees, working as needed (not including elected officials).

The annual budget for 2023 is:

Township - \$550,191

Road District - \$313,649

St. Joseph Township's equalized assessed valuation (EAV) for 2023 is \$156,082,572.

Decennial Committee Members:

Todd R Hitt – Township Supervisor

Brian Buss – Township Road Commissioner

Township Trustee – David Barcus

Township Trustee – Todd Albers

Township Trustee – David Kibler

Township Trustee – Gregory Smith

Township Resident – Craig Dilley (Supervisor Appointment)

Township Resident – Jessie Parsons (Supervisor Appointment)

Township Resident – Rodney Maddock (Road Commissioner Appointment)

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Aaron Ammons
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CLERK

Decennial Committee Meeting Dates:

Organizational meeting: May 9, 2023

2nd meeting: Aug 15, 2023

3rd meeting: November 14, 2023

Our Township is proud to offer and/or facilitate the following programs to our residents.

- **General Assistance (GA) - required by law**
 - 2024 Levy lowered to reduce residential tax burden to our property owners due to the low need of General Assistance in our Township. The balance carried in our General Assistance Fund is sufficient to cover any GA need that may arise.
- **Lease agreement with Pavlov Media to provide location of a fiber hub, allowing for fiber internet to be installed throughout the entire Village of St. Joseph as well as the surrounding subdivision located in the Township. This forward thinking has provided our residents with available reliable, cost-effective and fast internet access for residents and businesses. As a benefit to the Township, Pavlov Media provides internet services for free to both of our Township buildings. This eliminates the need of the Township to purchase internet services.**
- **St. Joseph Township Library provides the following:**
 - Monthly programs on Alzheimer's & dementia for the public provided by Brookvale Living.
 - Bi-weekly story times for children September-March.
 - COVID Shot Clinics in 2020
 - Working with Illinois Human Performance Project on providing information for children on the importance of sleep, awareness and prevention of drug abuse and mental health wellness.
 - Hosted the University of Illinois Wits program
 - Provide large print and audio books for visually impaired.
 - Provide access to the Talking Book and Braille service program for the visually impaired.
 - Senior Citizen Bingo for social and mental stimulation
 - Quilting and Yarncraft meet-ups

- Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a)) - Township Clerk
- All elected officials have completed OMA training
- Schedule of all Township regular meetings for the fiscal year – Township Clerk
- Illinois Freedom of Information Act – FOIA Officer – Township Clerk
- FOIA Officer training – Supervisor-Clerk
- Retention of FOIA requests – Supervisor-Clerk
- IMRF total compensation postings – annual Supervisor Financial Report
- Filing of annual Statement of Economic Interest – Clerk
- Sexual Harassment prevention training – all employees including elected
- Budget and Financial documents – Supervisor

What have we done well?

The Trustees, Supervisor and Road District Commissioner strongly believe in being financially stable while also being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. The Township continually tries to improve our efficiency on an ongoing basis. To date, we have not identified any inefficiencies that need improved.

- Our Road District Commissioner, along with 5 part-time (as needed employees), effectively and efficiently maintain every mile of the 55 miles of Township roads. This includes oil & chipping, replacing with asphalt as appropriate, snow removal, ice treatment, shoulder maintenance, bridge maintenance, weed control, tree removal, debris pickup, sign maintenance & replacement, culvert installs and repairs and much more. Township Road Commissioners are responsive to the needs of maintaining safe passages for those traveling across their Township and are an asset to those living in our rural areas.
- The low utilization of the General Assistance program funding has allowed us to reduce this tax levy.
- We have historically not exceeded our tax caps.
- When at all possible, reply to FOIA requests immediately and provide the requested information (within the limits of the law) as soon as possible.
- Forward thinking and proactive on the needs of residents of our Township.
- Open to considering requests for MOU-IGA as it relates to efficiency and cost saving.
- Open to public input and being available to address issues in a timely manner.
- Provide our meeting area to various groups that need meeting space. Boy Scouts, crafting groups.

- Provide proctor services for students required to have proctored exams.
- Provide Deputy Registrar services.
- Offer free tax advice programs during tax season.
- St. Joseph Township financially supports, through annually budgeted funding, the St. Joseph sports complex located in the Village of St. Joseph. This sports complex funded by the Village of St. Joseph via general corporate funds. There is no tax levy to support the upkeep and operation of the complex. St. Joseph Township recognizes that this complex is also used by residents outside of the village limits and understands the need to financially assist with this complex.
- St. Joseph Townships has also committed to financially support, through annually budgeted funding, the building of/operation of a new Community Building. The Community Building will be built adjacent to the sports complex, within the corporate limits of St. Joseph and on Village of St. Joseph owned property. A future intergovernmental agreement (IGA) will commit ongoing funding for this much needed addition to the St. Joseph area.

St. Joseph Township recognizes working together with other agencies provides better resource management, ultimately resulting in lower costs and potentially better service. The following are IGA's are in effect for St. Joseph Township:

- Village of St. Joseph – Memorandum of Understanding – Public Works asset sharing.
- Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) - Statewide public works aid assets to be activated during times of emergency needs (natural disasters/storms).
- Village of St. Joseph – Financial support for the future Community Building located within the corporate limits and owned by the Village of St. Joseph.

Our Township's efficiency has increased tremendously through intergovernmental cooperation by the cost savings by not duplicating equipment purchases and providing manpower assistance when requested. Limited finances prohibit large employee pools and equipment that may be needed throughout the year. The sharing of these items provides good use of taxpayer monies.

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.

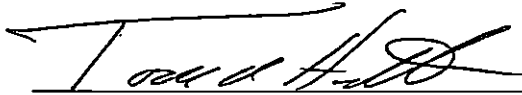
- State laws applicable to Townships, including, but not limited to the Township Code (60 ILCS). Our Township attorney is progressive in advising on these issues.
- Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120) - Annual training through TOI
- Policy on Public Comment – provided at all open meetings

- Provided support to the County Clerk when our facility was a polling location. Unfortunately, our Township facility has been removed as a polling location by the County Clerk.

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. This ratio allows our Townships to be more responsive to the needs of our residents.
- Most townships in Illinois have no bonded indebtedness, and this is also true for St. Joseph Township. 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.

This report respectfully submitted by:



Todd R Hitt

Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee

St. Joseph Township

Date: July 9, 2024