

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT – TOWNSHIP AND ROAD DISTRICT

**JOINT TOWNSHIP AND ROAD DISTRICT REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH
DECENNIAL COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT**

I. Unit of Government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: BRUSHY MOUND TOWNSHIP

NAME OF ROAD DISTRICT: BRUSHY MOUND ROAD & BRIDGE

Note: Any local government that levies a tax, other than a municipality or county must file this report. For Road district 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 & Road District

A. We are located in Macoupin County. There are 26 townships in our county.

B. The population of our Township is 663.

C. We have 0 employees in our Township (not including elected officials)

D. We have occasional PT employees in our Road District (not including elected officials)

E. Our Township annual budget for 2023-24 is \$43,470 Town Fund & \$20,460 General Assistance Fund

F. Our Road District annual budget for 2023-24 is \$248,850 Road & Bridge Fund \$36,700 Road Oil Fund \$2,400 Bldg&Equipment Fund \$32,000 Special Bridge Fund

G. Our Township's total equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$26,363,938

III. Information about our Committee

Committee Members:

Township Supervisor Joanne Albert

Township Commissioner Dwight Behme

Township Trustee James Hopper

Township Trustee David Greenwalt

Township Trustee Brent Rosentreter

Township Trustee Julie Leefers

Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment Laura Naugle

Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment David Slightom

Township Resident (Highway Comm. Appointment Eric Doyle

FILED
APR 08 2024

Macoupin County Clerk

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): 4/6/23
Second Meeting: 11/30/23
Third meeting: 3/26/24

TOWNSHIP

IV. Programs offered by our Township

Our Township offers the following services and programs:

General Assistance
Emergency Assistance

V. Social Service Agreement

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

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Services Provided</u>
1. Gillespie-Benld Ambulance Service	Ambulance services
2. Macoupin Co Health Dept	Transportation Program

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

We have an appointed township representative who sits on the Board of Directors and attends meetings to help make decisions on how to best serve the people in the ambulance service area which includes Brushy Mound Twp.

Share contact information with the Macoupin Co Health Department to eliminate barriers in accessing transportation to medical, dental, behavioral and substance use disorder services.

VI. Review of Laws, Township Policies, Township Rules and Procedures, Township Training Materials and other Documents

- √ State laws applicable to Townships, including, but not limited to the Township Code (60 ILCS 120)
- √ 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); 5ILCS 140/4(b))
- List of Types or Categories of FOIA Records under Township's Control (5 ILCS 140/5)
- All of our Elected Officials have filed statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4S-101.5)
- Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109 (c))
- Our Intergovernmental Agreements
- Our Social Service or Contracts
- Our budget and financial documents
- State Ethic Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employees Ethic Acts (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).

VII. What have we done well?

We have not levied for more funds in years, saving our tax paying township residence money, while taking care of all that needs to be done without the extra costs being passed on.

Our yearly audits done by citizens of Brushy Mound Township and the end of the term audit done by an Accountant are found complete and correct.

We went to computerized record keeping using Quickbooks, verses hand written books, in 2017 after the current officials were elected, which has proven to be more efficient record keeping.

We have a handicap accessible Town Hall with new voting booths that are handicap accessible at no cost to the tax payers in our township.

We are members of Township Officials of Illinois, which helps us keep up to date on what needs to be done and when.

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

Our Town hall is not equipped to host events, social services, rentals, etc due to lack of having to use wood heat, no cooling or plumbing. We have an outhouse for a restroom. We hope to one day when the funds are available to tear this old building down and put up a more efficient & safe Town hall.

IX. What can we do better or more efficiently?

We are always open for suggestions, but I guess we could make sure our township residents all know our contact information and send out communications asking them what they would like to see done? We are all PT elected officials who, most, have Full-time jobs and manage the Townships needs the best we can and do a great job at it with the funds we receive. We are making the best choices we can for our Township residents.

X. 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 the 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.

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

Submitted by: Joan Albee
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Brushy Mound Township

Date: 3/26/24

ROAD DISTRICT

IV. Programs offered by our Township

Our Township offers the following services and programs:

- General Assistance
- Emergency Assistance

V. Social Service Agreement

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

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Services Provided</u>
1. Gillespie-Benld Ambulance Service	Ambulance services
2. Macoupin Co Health Dept	Transportation Program
3. Multi-Township Tax Assessor	
4. Macoupin Co Commissioner Group	
5. Highway Dept	

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

We have an appointed township representative who sits on the Board of Directors and attends meetings to help make decisions on how to best serve the people in the ambulance service area which includes Brushy Mound Twp.

Share contact information with the Macoupin Co Health Department to eliminate barriers in accessing transportation to medical, dental, behavioral and substance use disorder services.

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VII. What have we done well?

We are very proud of our Road Commissioner, who has done a fantastic job maintaining the roads through continual maintenance as needed, without levying for more money since he was elected 7 years ago. Doing so with very limited part-time help and find finding resources to help save tax payers money. When residents call him with a question or concerns, he responds to them in a timely manner and if there is an issue he resolves it quickly.

The commissioner has worked with and continues to work with Local, State and Federal officials obtaining grants to help with bridge costs and for the costs of hopefully building a new Town Hall one day.

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

We need quicker responses from the State & County regards to bridge repairs that need to be done. We are at the mercy of these agencies who need to do what is necessary so we can get started on these repairs when they are needed.

Our Town Hall is a deteriorating foundation, no running water, an ancient huge wood stove for heat & and outhouse for a restroom. We are working to obtain grants to resolve these problems.

IX. What can we do better or more efficiently?

We are always open for suggestions and there is always room for improvement but I don't know how we can do anything better or more efficiently that we are now with the funds we currently receive, besides from what's mentioned above? We are all PT elected officials, most who have Full-time jobs and manage the Townships needs the best we can and do a great job at it with the funds we receive. We are making the best choices we can for our Township residents. We are very blessed to have the commissioner we have. He goes above and beyond and at times uses his own equipment taking care of the townships needs and it shows! We hear so many praises from our township residents and from other townships who wish they could duplicate him.

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

Submitted by: Joan Alder
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Brushy Mound Township

Date: 3/26/24

FILED

APR 08 2024

Patricia J. [Signature]
Macoupin County Clerk