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Macoupin County Clerk

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

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

Depending on who you talk to there are varying opinions on the value of townships. Township governments are extremely valuable and necessary in rural communities to maintain roads, provide social services, and offer a financial safety net to residents of the township. County governments do not have the ability to maintain the roads necessary for the farmers and their equipment, nor do they have the resources to help neighbors in a time of need. According to Tim Peters with IDOT, in 2022 it was calculated there were 16,403 county road miles and 72,527 township road miles. The county roads total one quarter the number of township road miles in the state of Illinois. Townships have the ability to accomplish the daily needs of road work with fewer resources to exemplify efficiency. This confirms the need for township government. These roads could not be maintained as well as they are without township governments and our neighbors in need could not get a hand up in times of financial need.

South Otter Township has monthly meetings and anyone is welcome to attend. The dates are posted on the building so they are visible to all in the community. In this act we have been tasked with taking a good look at our township effectiveness.

I. UNIT OF GOVERNMENT SUBMITTING REPORT

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: SOUTH OTTER

II. INFORMATION ABOUT OUR TOWNSHIP

- A. We are located in Macoupin County. There are 24 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our township is 440 as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 1 part-time employee of the township.
- D. We have 3 part-time employees in our Road District.
- E. Our annual budget for 2023 is \$97,000.00
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$17,274,147.00.

III. INFORMATION ABOUT OUR COMMITTEE

A. Committee members

Supervisor	Duane Daugherty
Highway Commissioner	Mark Murphy
Trustee	Gary Allen
Trustee	David Buckman
Trustee	Mary Ryan
Trustee	Jason Kessinger
Supervisor Appointed residents-	
	Nancy Lange
	Stacey Thompson
Highway Commissioner Appointed resident-	
	Gary Murphy

B. DATES OUR COMMITTEE MET:

Organizational meeting	May 15 th , 2023
Second meeting	Nov 20 th , 2023

Third meeting
Final meeting

Feb 19th, 2024
July 15th, 2024

IV. PROGRAMS OFFERED BY OUR TOWNSHIP

- A. General assistance for residents in need and emergency assistance.
- B. The township provides scholarship assistance for any high school senior's essay about the Township by applying for the Township of Illinois (TOI) \$2000.00 scholarship.

V. PROGRAMS OFFERED BY OUR ROAD DISTRICT

- A. Tire removal program.
- B. Hazardous tree and limb removal.
- C. Snow removal.
- D. Road oiling and chipping.
- E. Chipping the roads that are bleeding oil.
- F. Install new culverts for residents at cost of material.
- G. Replacing worn out culverts at no charge to the residents.

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
- Illinois Open Meeting Act
- Policy on public comments
- Designation of OMA officer (Township Supervisor)
- Schedule of all Township regular meetings for fiscal year
- Illinois Freedom of Information Act
- Designation of FOIA officer (Township Supervisor)

- FOIA Officer training
- Computation and Retention of FOIA request
- Posting other required FOIA information
- List of types or categories of FOIA records under Township control
- Periodic meeting to review closed meeting minutes
- All elected officials have filed statement of economic interests
- Sexual harassment training

VII. WHAT HAVE WE DONE WELL?

- A. Our Road District has been able to complete needed projects more efficiently than our County because of its ability to get the project completed quickly and without delay.
- B. Our Highway commissioner stays aware of pending weather-related issues and if they occur, they are handled in a timely manner.

VIII. WHAT INEFFICIENCIES DID OUR COMMITTEE IDENTIFY?

- A. Our committee feels there is nothing of significance needing attention.

Submitted by Duane Daugherty, Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of South Otter Township.

July 15th, 2024