

**GRISHAM TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL  
COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT  
(For Townships and Road District JOINT REPORT Only)**

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: ~~X~~ Grisham

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 Montgomery County. There are 18 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 578, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have   0   employees of the Township (not including elected officials).
- D. We have   0   employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- E. Our annual budget for 2023 is: Road District \$151,600 and Town \$60,475.
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$10,720,000.

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

- Township Supervisor Phyllis Volkmar
- Township Highway Commissioner Joseph Rowdy Luck
- Township Clerk Donna Luck
- Township Trustee Jim Carroll
- Township Trustee Mike Laughlin
- Township Trustee Trent Laughlin
- Township Trustee Charles Logsdon
- Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Nathan Robinson
- Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Jerad Volkmar
- Township Resident (Highway Comm. Appointment) Brenda Logsdon

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, 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): April 13, 2023

Second Meeting: June 1 ,2024

Third Meeting: July 8 ,2024

Additional Meetings (List All): None

IV. Programs Offered by our Township.

A. Our Township offers the following services and programs: General Assistance, road maintenance and property assessment.

B. Other services/programs we could possibly provide: township polling place and recycling electronic device drives.

V. Intergovernmental Agreements

A. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments:

Entity: Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency  
Services Offered: mutual aid

B. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way: Cost savings, avoiding duplicated services and usage of purchase agreements when possible.

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)
- 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); 5 ILCS 140/4(b))
- List of Types or Categories of FOIA Records under Township's Control (5 ILCS 140/5)
- Periodic Meetings to Review Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d))
- IMRF Total Compensation Postings (5 ILCS 120/7.3)
- Designation of Whistleblower Auditing Official (50 ILCS 105/4.1)
- 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))
- 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)

Our budget and financial documents

VII. What Have We Done Well?

The elected officials of Grisham Township have not increased levies in the past 10 years. We have simply worked with property and replacement taxes plus MFT funds received.

In conjunction with these taxes, a new tractor and mower were obtained in 2022 with a purchase agreement, trade-in and a check. No loans(s) were needed. In addition, 2 ½ lots were purchased by check in the Village of Panama where the future site of a townhall and additional storage for township equipment will be erected.

Updates to the existing township property were performed.

Past needed maintenance and tires were purchased for the 2 well aged dump trucks.

Renken Road leading to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery had been untouched for decades. In 2022 the road was re-opened by replacing a new culvert and rocked.

In the past 3 ½ years, multiple culverts were replaced as well as ditches cleaned. Flat Bottom Trail was a dirt road. The road was rocked to the flood plain. Lowe Lane, which was almost impassible, was repaired as well as oil and chipped. All township roads (24.4 miles) have been oiled and chipped at least once. Messmore Bridge deck was cleaned to allow for drainage. Heady Bridge has concrete poured around the culverts. Tree trimming and weed spraying have been performed, which was greatly needed. Thistle and long thorn locust trees are now non-existent.

Numerous dumpsters have been filled with trash not only along the roads but at the township equipment shed.

All these countless efforts have been achieved in the past 3 ½ years making all township roads and properties in excellent condition.

VIII. What Inefficiencies Did We Identify/What Are our Next Steps?

Grisham Township was founded in April 1864. As the supervisor, I have read the 3 books that contain all township meetings and activities.

I found in reading these 3 books that the township has never had an official town hall building since inception. Meetings were held in schools, residences and rented buildings.

In June 2023, the township purchased 2 ½ lots in the Village of Panama. At this property, a townhall building along with additional storage for road equipment is planned on being built.

All filing cabinets are at my personal residence. Currently our meetings are held at the Nu-Way Deli in Panama on evenings when the business is closed.

It is imperative that a town hall facility be built. I have contacted 2 local grant writers with no success; however, I will continue this mission!

IX. 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 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:

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

Submitted by:   
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Grisham Township

Date: 9/3/24