

Wauconda Township Decennial Committee Meeting

September 20, 2023

Call to Order/ Roll Call Wauconda Township: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m for For roll call, answering present Supervisor Knight, Clerk Rose, Trustee McKernan, Trustee Santi, Trustee Whitehead, Trustee Lochmayer, Highway Commissioner Weisbruch, Business Manager Lupe Magallanes, Committee Member Karen Stiller and Committee Member Mike Rodgers.

Approve Meeting Minutes: Trustee Whitehead motioned, and Trustee McKernan seconded. Roll Call was taken. All were in favor. Motion passed

Report: NAME OF TOWNSHIP: WAUCONDA TOWNSHIP

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).

- I. Information about our Township
 - A. We are located in Lake County. There are 18 townships in our county.
 - B. The population of our Township is 23,628, as of the 2020 census.
 - C. We have 5 Town employees and 3 Assessor employees (not including elected officials)
 - D. We have 4 employees in our Road District (not including elected officials)
 - E. Our annual budget for 2023 is \$2,686,677.00 for the Town fund and \$1,710,717.00 for the Road District.
 - F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$915,157,248.00.

II. Information about our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor, Chairman: Lincoln Knight

Township Trustee: Kevin McKernan

Township Trustee: Mary Beth Santi

Township Trustee: Jim Whitehead

Township Trustee: Ed Lochmayer

Township Highway Commissioner: Soctt Weisbruch

Township Clerk: Danielle Rose

Township Business Manager: Lupe Magallanes

Township Resident: Karen Stiller

Township Resident:

Mike Rodgers

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): May 17, 2023

Second Meeting: September 20, 2023

Third Meeting:

III. Programs and Services Offered by our Township.

- General Assistance
- Emergency Assistance
- LiHeap
- Diaper & Incontinence Program
- Nicor Sharing
- Safelink Phone
- NorthShore Gas Sharing
- Snap and Medicaid Application Assistance
- Benefit Access
- License Plate Renewal
- Medical Lending Closet
- Senior Transportation
- Temporary Disabled Parking Placard
- Coast to Coast Drug Card
- RTA Applications
- Vehicle Stickers (No Charge)
- Water Testing Kits
- Textile Recycling
- Shoe Recycling
- Notary Services
- Back-to-School Backpack Program
- Holiday Gift Basket Program
- Recycling & Shredding (2) Events

- DMV Events
- Salvation Army
- Senior Outings and Educational Events
- Senior Bingo
- SHIP Counselor for Medicare and drug plans

(Other services/programs we could possibly provide: Passports, Mental Health Assistance, Veterans programs)

IV. Social Service Agreements

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

<u>Entity:</u>	<u>Services Provided:</u>
A Safe Place	Aid residents with Domestic Violence/ Human trafficking
Erie Family Health	Provide medical, dental and mental health services
Lake County Extension Foundation	Education and life skills training
Little City	Developmental training and recreation
NiCasa	Substance Abuse Prevention
NiCasa Teen Court	Teen court for Youth Substance Abuse
Nisra	Recreation for Special Needs Residents
Pads	Provide shelter and training for homeless residents
St. Vincent De Paul	Provide assistance for housing, utilities and general needs
Zacharius Sexual Abuse Center	Provide aid with Sexual Abuse Victims and families
Mothers Trust Foundation	Provide immediate assistance to families in-need

B. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in many ways, including counseling services, providing shelter, helping children, and protecting families.

V. Intergovernmental Agreements

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

<u>Entity:</u>	<u>Services Offered:</u>
Wauconda School District 118	Lease of Cook House/ Historical Society
Wauconda/Island Lake Food Pantry	Groceries for those in need
Wauconda Township Historical Society	Preserving Township History
Wauconda Park District	Co-Hosting several senior events annually
Wauconda Library	Co-Hosting several senior events annually
County of Lake	Removing blighted homes in township

B. Our township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following ways:

- Cost savings to our residents
- Eliminating duplicate services

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 of 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 ILCS140/3.5 (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 ILCS420/4A-101.5)
- Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109))
- Our intergovernmental agreements
- Our Social Service Agreements or Contracts
- Our budget and financial documents
- State Ethic Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-1)
- 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?

The township has maintained a balanced budget while planning for expected and unexpected improvements and has not raised our tax levy for many years. We take pride in the fact that we are the closest form of government to the residents. We help our residents in time of need

with rent or mortgage assistance, utilities, transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, etc.

Wauconda Township partners with other local, county and state organizations to save taxpayers money and not duplicate services. We offer our community hall to not-for-profit organizations for meetings and events. In addition, we host recycling and shredding events and have an IGA with SWALCO for textile and shoe recycling to help our community “stay green”. Additionally, we host Blood Drives and driver’s license programs with the Secretary of State.

We also have a Back-to-School backpack program annually that provides school items that are essential for our youth. During the holidays we work with other local groups to provide gift cards and food (turkeys/ hams) to those in need. Our partnership with the Wauconda/Island Lake Food Pantry which uses part of our building serves hundreds of residents monthly.

Our Assessor’s Office has worked for many years with all entities of government that are involved with the tax cycle. The Assessor’s Office participates in the Lake County

Township Assessor’s Association which promotes communication between local offices as well as the County. The Assessor’s Office works together with Lake County Chief County Assessor’s Office, who has taken a leadership role providing the necessary computer software to facilitate creating assessments. The use of common software equates to better assessments especially when certain areas are located in multiple Townships. Our Assessors have maintained relationships with the County’s Map Department, Recorder’s Office, Tax Extensions and Treasurer’s Office which helps our residents with continuous professional services.

VIII. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our communication with our residents. We have recently updated our website and made it more user-friendly. We have an e-newsletter that goes out every two weeks and we also mail a hard-copy newsletter semi-annually. In addition, our staff mails out monthly calendar of events that we are either hosting, participating in or providing the transportation to and from. However, we understand that many do not have computers and are looking for other ways to communicate with them.

IX. Studies on Government 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:

- Continue to build on our strengths and successes.

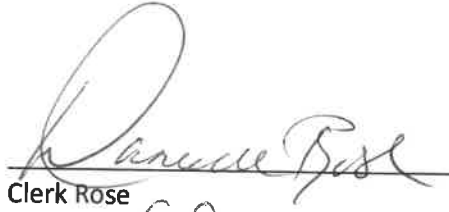
Note: This report must be filed with your County no later than 18 months after your first committee meeting.

Public Comment: None

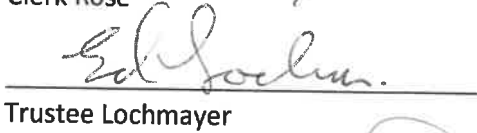
Adjourn: At 6:43 pm the meeting was adjourned. Trustee Whitehead motioned, Trustee Lochmayer seconded.

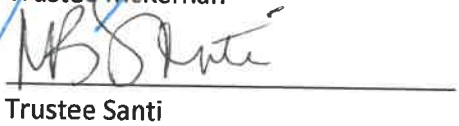
Submitted this 18th day of October 2023.


Supervisor Knight

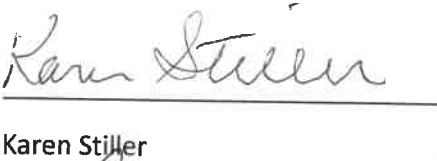

Clerk Rose


Trustee McKernan

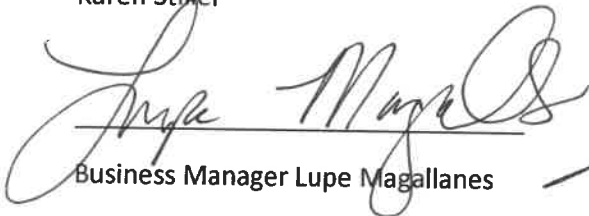

Trustee Lochmayer


Trustee Santi


Trustee Whitehead


Karen Stiller


Mike Rodgers


Business Manager Lupe Magallanes


Highway Commissioner Weisbruch