

Wauconda Township Road District
Decennial Committee Meeting
May 17, 2023

Call to Order/ Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. For roll call, answering present Lincoln Knight, Danielle Rose, Kevin McKernan, Mary Beth Santi, Jim Whitehead, Ed Lochmayer, Scott Weisbruch, Lupe Magallanes, Karen Stiller and Mike Rodgers.

Highway Commissioner's Decennial Report:

Historical Background

Township government, established in Providence, Rhode Island in 1636, is the oldest existing unit of Government continuing to serve on the North American continent. Township government was in existence for 140 years prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The wording of the Declaration of Independence reflects the fact that 38 of its 56 signers had experienced the benefits of township government.

The Declaration's statement that "government should derive its just powers from the consent of the governed" is demonstrated at the Annual Town Meeting held on the second Tuesday of each April. The Annual Town Meeting is still an important function of our nation's 17,000 townships after more than 360 years. The Illinois Constitution of 1848 gave voters in each county the opportunity to adopt Township Government. By 1850, the first township governments began operation. Today, 85 of Illinois 102 counties operate under the township form of government and 1428 townships serve more than 8 million citizens.

Governing Statute and Powers- Dillon's Rule

Townships are regulated by provisions of Article VII, Sec. 8 of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, which states in part, these governments "shall have only powers granted by law". In the late 1800s, John F. Dillon, A Supreme Court Justice in Iowa, developed this legal principle, known as Dillon's Rule. In plain language it means that if no statute permits a township or road district (or official) to perform a function or service, the government or official may not carry out that function regardless of how much it is needed or wanted. If the statutes are silent (do not mention) regarding a particular power or function, it does not exist. If the power doesn't exist, the government (or official) may not perform the service.

Functions of Illinois Townships

By law Illinois townships are charged with three basic functions:

1. General Assistance for the indigent. Townships provide food, shelter, and emergency relief for those in need. Many townships operate food banks that guarantee the necessities of life for their residents.
2. The assessment of real property for the basis of local taxation. The township assessor is the only elected governmental official who must pass an approved course of instruction before standing for election to the office.
3. Maintenance of all roads and bridges outside federal, state and other local jurisdiction. Townships in Illinois maintain over 71,000 miles of roads in Illinois- a full 53 percent of all thoroughfares in the state.

- Grant Township
- Ela Township
- Nunda Township

What Have We Done Well?

Administrative – sought outside funding for projects that our department could not fund internally, created GIS asset tracking system to identify assets geospatially and track maintenance and inspections, maintain records tracking protocols to reduce chances of legal action, in-house grant writing and reporting, in-house CDL training, established overweight/oversize ordinance.

Road Maintenance – member of Lake County Municipal League, a cooperative buying group in Lake County for patching, street sweeping and crack sealing. Analyzed roads with Infrastructure Management Systems to maximize our investments in paving, offer woodchips to residents for reduce disposal costs, established IGA agreements for equipment sharing and road maintenance, utilize community service workers for roadside clean-up.

Snow Removal - Created Snow Removal and De-icing Policy that reduces the number of rounds made during snowstorm, the amount of salt use, and the amount of overtime worked by crew. Invested in equipment that reduces the amount of salt used, including improved plow edges for better scraping, automatic controllers for distribution, increased de-icing liquid capabilities. Adjusted plow routes for maximum efficiency for time and fuel.

FREE Mulch- Is available to Township residents.

Brush Pickup -To increase the efficiency of our department, brush pickup is done on the second Monday of each month May – October to Unincorporated Wauconda Township residents only.

Maintenance – In-house mechanic and fabricator allows our department to maintain vehicles and equipment for a longer useful life.

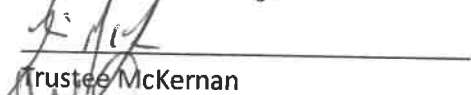
Staffing – Training to further develop skill set, allowing our department to do tree removals, prescribed burns, erosion control inspections and storm sewer installations that would otherwise need to be hired out.

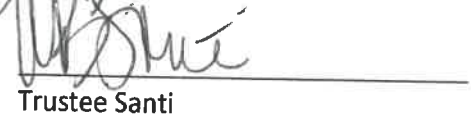
Public Comment: None

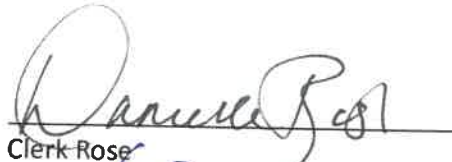
Adjourn: At 7:04 pm meeting adjourned

Submitted this 20th day of September 2023.


Supervisor Knight


Trustee McKernan


Trustee Santi


Clerk Rose


Trustee Lochmayer


Trustee Whitehead

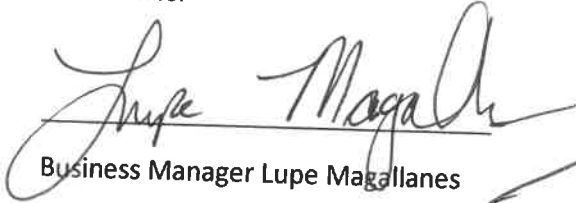




Karen Stiller



Mike Rodgers



Business Manager Lupe Magallanes



Highway Commissioner Weisbruch

Information about our Township

Wauconda Township is in southwest Lake County and includes the Village of Wauconda and portions of Volo, Lakemoor, Island Lake, Lake Barrington and Port Barrington.

Wauconda Township and its communities offer cultural and economic diversity, a great mix of housing, quality schools, excellent community facilities and a strong quality of life blending the appeal of suburban living and is situated alongside several Forest Preserves.

The 2020 population census has a total population of 23,628.

- Education – 39.6% of our residents have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Housing Units – 9,310
- Families and Living Arrangements- 8,631

Committee Members Township

- Township Highway Commissioner Scott Weisbruch
- Township Supervisor Lincoln Knight
- Township Trustee Kevin McKernan
- Township Trustee Mary Beth Santi
- Township Trustee Jim Whitehead
- Township Trustee Ed Lochmayer
- Township Business Manager Lupe Magallanes
- Township Clerk Danielle Rose
- Township Resident Karen Stiller
- Township Resident Mike Rodgers

Responsibilities of the Wauconda Township Highway Department

The Wauconda Township Highway Department is responsible for maintaining 31.4 miles of road in unincorporated Wauconda Township. Within these unincorporated areas the Highway Department is responsible for the Right of Way. The Right of Way includes the road, ditches, driveway aprons, and some drainage easements. Right of Way widths vary and are measured from the center of the road outward to the property line.

Services include snowplowing and de-icing, pavement maintenance including patching, crack filling, shouldering, and striping, paving, maintaining drainage ditches, storm sewer, right of way maintenance, litter pickup, removal of dead animals, street sign compliance, streetlights, mailbox repair, road bond and right of way permit issuance.

Our plowing crew includes 4 full-time highway employees and the highway commissioner. Our department runs a fleet of 6 plow trucks.

Because of limited budget dollars and to efficiently expend taxpayer dollars, the highway department has intergovernmental agreements with Lake County, local municipalities, and other local townships for purchasing power, equipment sharing, shared equipment purchases, and road maintenance swap to be closer to network of roads and emergency aid.

We have intergovernmental agreements with:

- Village of Wauconda
- Village of Island Lake
- Village of Lakemoor
- Fremont Township