

Margaret Shipley

Supervisor - Granite City Township
2060A Delmar Avenue
Granite City, Illinois 62040

FILED

JUN 03 2024

LINDA A. ANDREAS
MADISON COUNTY CLERK

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT-TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT (For Townships Only)

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: GRANITE CITY 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).

TOI has a separate recommended report form for a consolidated report, so do not use this form for a combined report of a township and road district. TOI also has a separate recommended report form for road districts and multi-township assessment districts.

II. Information about our Township

- A. We are located in **Madison** County. There are **24** townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is **27,549**, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have **17** 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: **Town Fund Budget: \$2,349,111, General Assistance Fund Budget: \$558,494 and Municipal Retirement Fund Budget: \$107,479.**
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is **\$460,670,635.**

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor	Margaret Shipley
Township Trustee	Mary Davis
Township Office Manager	Meghan Daily
Township Office Employee	Beth Shipley

Township Resident **Tom Schooley**

Township Resident **Chelsea Scaturro**

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 23, 2023**

Second Meeting: **September 7, 2023**

Third Meeting: **January 18, 2024**

Final Meeting: **May 23, 2024**

IV. Programs Offered by our Township.

A. Our Township offers the following services and programs: (List programs like general assistance, youth programs, senior programs, community programs, LIHEAP, etc.) (If not applicable, remove this).

- **General Assistance**
- **Emergency Assistance**
- **Senior Citizen Bus Transportation**
- **Meals on Wheels distribution**
- **Filing Benefit Access applications as well as MCT bus pass applications**
- **Annual Christmas Party for the senior citizens**
- **Monthly Trips and Activities for the Senior Citizens**
- **Weekly Activities for the Senior Citizen including Bingo and Exercise classes**
- **Free coffee and donuts for Senior Citizens daily**
- **Providing a facility to serve hot lunches from Senior Services Plus**
- **Weekly shopping trips to Walmart, Aldi, and St. Clair Square**
- **Providing a facility for Senior Social Club**
- **Arranging presentations of various organizations to come and speak to the community on a wide variety of topics**
- **Arranging food baskets, hams and fans to township residents**
- **Rental of our hall for events and meetings**

- **Heating and Cooling Shelters partnering with the City of Granite City and United Way**
- **Assessor Services, including working on ways to keep local township property taxes low**
- **Township Web Site and Social Media Pages**
- **Civic event participation, such as parades, holiday civic events, and touch a truck events.**
- **Election site for both early voting and on Election Day.**

V. Social Service Agreements

A. We partner with the following not for profits to offer social services (list all):

Entity:

Services Provided:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Senior Services Plus | Meals on Wheels program and congregate lunches for residents aged 60 and older |
| 2. Land of Lincoln | Legal help |
| 3. Collinsville Faith In Action | Medicare enrollment |
| 4. Madison County TRAIID | Presentations on various topics such as Scams |
| 5. United Way | Emergency Heating and Cooling Shelters |

B. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in the following ways: **Our seniors have been helped by providing services to help to improve their daily lives. We have presentations to keep them informed with current scams and knowledge to keep them safe. We provide our residents with safe places to go during emergencies.**

VI. Intergovernmental Agreements

A. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments (List all):

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <u>Entity:</u> | <u>Services Offered:</u> |
| 1. Madison County Transit | Bus services for residents aged 55 and older |
| 2. Nameoki Township | Reduce the dual taxation upon property owners |
| 3. City of Granite City | Partnership on Township building's dumpsters |

- B. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way (list cost savings, avoiding duplicated services, etc.):
Our Township would not be able to offer costly bus service for seniors without Madison County Transit. The intergovernmental agreement with Nameoki Township eliminates dual taxation on properties that were annexed from Granite City Township into Nameoki township and they were taxed by both City of Granite City for their property tax which partly pays for City of Granite City road and bridge maintenance as well as Nameoki Township taxes which also pays for road and bridge maintenance. The intergovernmental agreement with the City of Granite City is a partnership to share dumpsters, both trash and recyclables, with "The Mill" to help reduce costs as its shared bins between the venue and the township building.

VII. 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
- 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).

VIII. What Have We Done Well? (List any budget/levy freezes or reductions in the past decade; list new programs or services offered to residents over the past decade; list any ethics ordinances adopted; timely FOIA compliance; responsiveness to public; list any new intergovernmental agreements or social services offered; list any increase in number of township residents served, etc.)

There is plenty which we have done well. We have consistently had levy freezes over the last few years. We have donated towards many community projects and events. We continue to provide our residents with food, rental assistance, and utility assistance to those who qualify in our General Assistance and Emergency Assistance programs. We donate fans and hams to those in our community. We provide space for when emergencies happen in our community for shelter from the heat or cold temperatures. We provide a bus service to our elderly residents which is free to them through our partnership with Madison County Transit. We provide over 17,000 rides within the past year of 2023. We continue to increase our attendees to our daily activities for the senior citizens. We had over 1,000 attendees to our monthly trips and our senior movie days. The township complies with all mandated legislation such as Sexual Harassment Policy. The

Township provides timely FOIA compliance and follows all FOIA guidelines. The township also complies with all OMA compliances. The Township provides daily lunches both at the hall and by delivering for the Meals on Wheels program. The township is a member of Township Officials of Illinois, the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizen Services Committees and the Madison County TRIAD. The township donates and participates in community civic events such as various holiday parades and other holiday events, as well as things like touch a truck events. The township also partners with businesses such as Steel Workers Union and The Illinois American Water Company to provide a hall space for events for the community. The Granite City Township prides ourselves on helping our community and providing services to better the lives of our residents. The Granite City Township has also partnered with Granite City Park District to build new playgrounds at the local parks. The township has also partnered with The Granite City School District to construct a new turf field for the high school varsity soccer teams. The Granite City Township also works with the Madison County Clerk's office to provide a space for election judge trainings.

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

We recognized our website was not user friendly and therefore we changed the format and updated information on our website. We will continue to review our policies and continue to build our strengths.

X. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

Improve communications with our Township residents. We will continue to review all forms of information the Township distributes on regular basis and also continue to enhance our social media imprint. Attend more conferences and educational sessions to improve our knowledge on improving our township.

XI. 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.

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

To address concerns found in this report and continue to build on our strengths.

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

Submitted by: _____

Margaret Shipley
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of **Granite City** Township

Date: _____