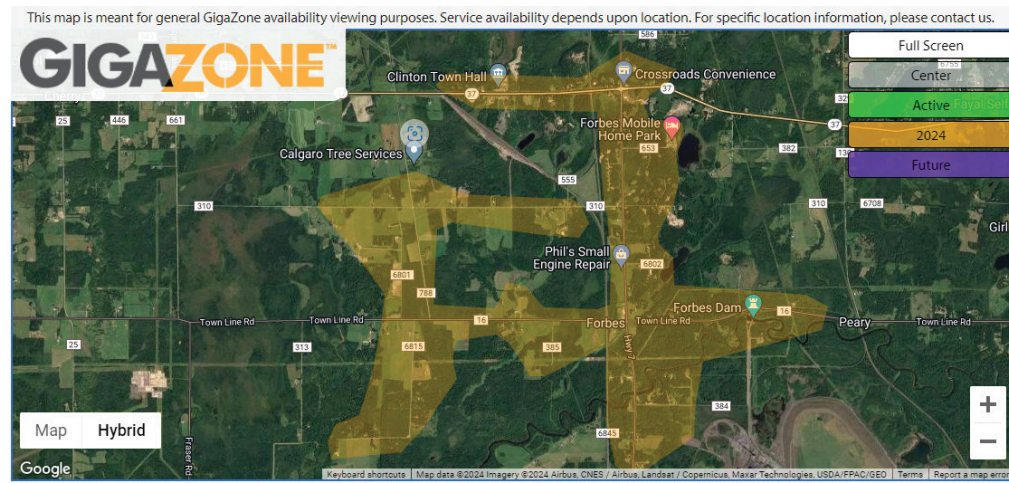


Going into 2024

“On March 5th, the CTC grant for Clinton Township was approved at the state level! Your officials, spearheaded by Supervisor Cal Warwas, have spent a good amount of time over the last two years lobbying, sending out requests for information, and hosting various officials in order to help secure this grant. Thank you especially to all of the residents who sent out letters of support and responded to requests for information. This work has paid off in a massive win for the township. The state will be spending 2.3 million dollars to help install broadband to everyone home in the community. This is matched by CTC, St. Louis County, the IRR, and the township. Incidentally, Paul Bunyan communication has also announced plans to supply broadband in the regions highlighted in the map above. In the space of four years, our township has gone from no access to high-speed internet, to having multiple providers!”



with their efforts to supply the township as well. CTC's bid was to supply all of the households in the township. There is also an unnamed third party that has expressed interest in supplying the township. Overall this will be great for our community. Please check our website and attend the monthly meetings for up to date information!

BROADBAND

We will continue work on getting broadband installed. At the time of this printing, there have been some interesting developments. Paul Bunyan has recently submitted a proposal to supply part of the town with broadband, up to around two hundred households along the Highway 37 and Highway 7 corridors. CTC is going to continue

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

We will continue to host this at the Clinton Community center. This will again be in conjunction with Cherry and McDavitt Townships. This year, we will hopefully have the full support of the St Louis County Sheriff's department. As usual, we will have a variety of food, door

prizes, and most importantly, a chance to hang out with our local volunteer and professional safety services. Check our website for up to date news.

WEBSITE

With Elaine's hard work, our website is fully up and running. Please talk to her, or one of the town board members about adding to the website. It would be great to capture moments of people in the township, moments in nature, or moments that we don't want to forget! We would love to post some of these online. Our website is www.clintontownshipmn.org.

Roads and Bridges

In 2023, we saw major spring flooding across the township, resulting in severe damage. Clinton Township received Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grants for the flood damages to township roads in the spring floods of 2023. Mayry and Santi roads were closed for several days due to culvert wash-outs in April. The township received \$9,434.89 in December to cover repair costs and mitigation costs. Mitigation costs cover expenses to prevent future road damage which include an additional culvert on Santi Road and rip-rap to be installed in 2024 on culvert ends. Clinton will also receive \$483.84 for administration costs of attending FEMA meetings and paperwork time involved in applying for the grants.

Thank you to Denzel Excavating, Jacobson Gravel Company, Santi Farms and our Town Board who worked on road repairs and posted closings to keep the roads safe to travel.

Bids will be open to supply the township with grading and road work. Please attend a monthly meeting by May to submit a bid. In news relating to the county road work, there was discussion over possible RR crossing closures. Your town officials attended a public meeting during the fall of 2023 to discuss any closures affecting the township. As of now, no crossing closures are planned. We will continue to ensure the best possible emergency services access for the township while working with the county in the interest of public safety.



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

www.clintontownshipmn.org

clintontownshipmn@gmail.com

Clinton Township 2023 Supervisor's Review

Hello! I hope that you all had a fantastic 2023, and if not, 2024 will be your year! As for the township, we had mixed success in 2023. We were able to accomplish some of our goals, including the installation of new doors at the firehall through an IRR grant. This will reduce our energy expenditure, saving money for the township while keeping our equipment warm and ready for use when needed. We also had a great event with the National Night Out. This was well attended and was a combined effort along with Cherry and McDavitt townships.

Unfortunately, we were unable to secure our broadband funding in 2023, and our parking lot paving was delayed due to contractor availability. Thankfully, both are looking to come back to life in 2024! Cal Warwas has been instrumental in securing outside funding for broadband access. We are currently waiting on state funding, with other sources secured. A big thanks to everyone who wrote letters of support for this project! Pete Ramfjord has been heading up our efforts to keep the community building and surrounding facility in good shape. He will be overseeing the parking lot pavement in 2024.

Going into 2024, we do face some challenges as well. Rural fire, ambulance, and EMT services continue to be difficult to fund, staff,

and manage. This will be detailed in our financial report, along with our Fire Chief's report some of the successes and challenges our department has had, including our support for McDavitt Township. The reality is, operating these services are growing more and more expensive every year due to state and federal regulations along with the need to keep our volunteers safe while protecting the township from liability. I urge you to attend our township yearly meeting on March 12th to discuss these issues as a community!

Being a major election year, I'd like to remind everyone that we are all neighbors, and our differences we have are overshadowed by the fact that in the end, we have the same basic wants and needs in a community. We want a safe and friendly town in which to raise our families that helps provides an opportunity for the future for everyone. Great countries start with great communities, and I believe Clinton township continues to be a home for us. Together we can keep it that way! Go out and meet your neighbors!

Bobby Butler,
Township Supervisor

IMPORTANT DATES

March 12th

Election for Supervisor and Clerk. Polling Location at Clinton Community Building.

March 12th

Township yearly meeting. Election results to be verified with levy to be set.

March 31st

Deadline for community baseball sign up.

May 7th

Board of equalization for property taxes 4 PM, Clinton Town Hall

August 6th

National Night Out, hosted at Clinton Community Building

November 5th

General Elections, Polling location is the Clinton Community Building



TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS



**BRIAN MAYRY
CLERK**

Elected in 2022, Brian is up for re-election in 2024. Brian has an educational background in accounting and currently works for the city of Eveleth. In 2023, Brian worked with organizing the national

night out, overseeing the administration of the township, and continued his service on the fire department. Brian continues to be the source of knowledge and experience in local government.



**CAL WARWAS
SUPERVISOR**

Re-elected in 2023, Cal Warwas continued his career of over 25 years with US Steel, currently as a maintenance planner. Cal continues to be the voice of the township with RAMS, which is a group that lobbys

on behalf of local government on the Iron Range at the state capitol building. Cal has been tirelessly working with multiple parties to try to secure our broadband funding. The amount of work he has put into this project is considerable but will hopefully bear fruit in the coming years.



**BOB BUTLER
SUPERVISOR**

Bob was elected in 2021 and is up for re-election in 2024. Bob served as board chairman for the township in 2023. His educational and professional background is in business management. He

currently works with US Steel as the manager of the Agglomerators. In 2023, Bob was able to implement IRR funds to install new fire department doors, and work through the administrative red tape to ensure we continue to have access to these funds in 2024. Bob will continue the push to help our EMS department and financially plan for the future of the township.



**ELAINE SANTI
TREASURER**

Re-elected in 2023, Elaine has an educational background in Agricultural Business from the University of Minnesota, with many years of financial experience from her past roles on

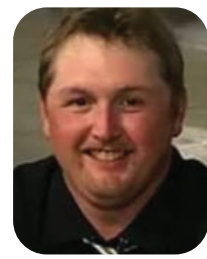
financial committees. In 2023, Elaine did fantastic work in securing federal aid money following the flooding that damaged all of the township roads. In addition, she continues to attend training to keep the township up to date on rules and regulations governing townships. She also does a great job at keeping our website updated.



**JIM THEODORE
FIRE CHIEF**

Jim was appointed by the townboard in 2020 as fire chief and brings over 45 years of firefighting and EMS experience to the township. He has spent the last several years bringing

our fire department up to standards that reflect regulations imposed by the state and federal government. He has been a voice for our volunteers in keeping them safe by providing the latest training, securing grants for new equipment, and developing procedures to limit their risk.



**PETE RAMFJORD
SUPERVISOR**

Pete was elected in 2022 and will be the board chairman for 2024. Pete's background is in maintenance planning and supervision, recently taking a position with Lakehead Constructors in 2024, breaking US Steel's monopoly on the town board.

Pete continues to be the first supervisor to respond to issues presented in the day to day maintenance of the township. He will be leading the repavement project, and will continue to leverage his network and knowledge to keep our facilities in great shape.

Clinton Fire Department 2023 Review

Hello! We are approaching spring, but this time we are saying good-by to a very unusual winter. In the same manner the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department is preparing for an early spring and for a significant wildfire season according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Your "Clinton Volunteer Fire Department" has had another active and progressive year, as we remain one of our region's most progressive rural Fire Departments. From fire apparatus, to PPE, to safety equipment, to training, to grant writing, to policies and cleanliness - the list goes on. Our pride, ownership and strength lie in the 23 members of this department. Without them and their families selfless sacrifice we wouldn't have a fire department. Please keep in mind, this is all done without hourly compensation.

Our department responded to eighty Fire and EMS calls in 2023. This was a significant increase over previous years. Of course, there are many reasons for this call increase but one of them was the collapse of the neighboring McDavitt Fire Department. In our situation the three surrounding fire departments, including Clinton, stepped up and provided fire protection starting December 31st, 2023, for the residents of McDavitt until they can reorganize.

Clinton's Fire Department's membership has been at all-time high for the past few years. This has built strength and resiliency into our organization. This is largely due to our active training programs, as well as the fact that our membership is built on second and third generation firefighting families, including husband and wife teams.

Our grant program has been very successful. Over the last couple of decades, we have received \$675,961.00 from FEMA alone with a 5% township match.

This year, we received several grants. We were awarded four AED's, or "Automated External Defibrillators". This award will greatly

aid our First Responders providing care in emergency situations as well as providing additional safety for our Fire Fighters during intensely stressful firefighting situations.

We also received a DNR grant which was used for pump and tank for a refurbished 2009 Ford F550 utility box vehicle which replaced an older truck. This truck was refurbished in house by members volunteering their time. It is a versatile piece of equipment.

We received a multi thousand-dollar grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to purchase a specialized drier for our PPE. This drier is designed to hang our freshly laundered firefighting protective equipment and blow warm air through the arms, legs and body. As you can imagine, our PPE tends to get wet while fighting fires! Clinton Fire Department also received a pallet of drinking water from the Anheuser Busch Foundation for "Wildland Fire Fighters" providing us with fresh drinking water for our folks on emergency scenes.

During the past year our department has either participated in wildfire suppression activities. This is paid for by the DNR and provides experience for our volunteers. The Clinton Fire Department is the only volunteer fire department in our region that has a live burn training facility. This past year our fire fighters modified and improved our existing live burn chambers into a multi room facility that gives us a more realistic experience. When we do use this facility, we are able to recover costs as the township invoices either the Minnesota North College or the Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education.

One of our bigger events through the past years has been the "National Night Out held in August the past few years. This major endeavor has involved the Cherry and McDavitt Fire Departments as well as St. Louis County Sheriff, the St. Louis County Sheriffs Rescue Squad, the respective

town boards, Life Link Helicopter not to mention the assistance of dozens of citizens and fire fighters. These National Night Outs have been attended by hundreds of residents of our area.

During Fire Prevention Week in October, Clinton Firefighters were seen at the Cherry School providing demonstrations for the school kids. This is usually an extensive project with spin offs that branch into several off-campus activities as well as yearlong Public Safety displays.

The Clinton Fire Department has a strong partnership with the Minnesota North College to provide training at our facility, for our department members, as well as other mutual aid departments. This provides us access to high end training props and the ability to invoice the state services. To help support this training operation four of our department members are Certified Fire Instructors.

Being a Volunteer Fire Fighter or a Volunteer Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) anywhere, is challenging. Our lives are typically much busier than decades earlier and the amount of time it takes become a Volunteer Fire Fighter or EMR has only increased. The training is longer, the testing is tougher, but the rewards are just as great. The Clinton Fire / EMS Department actively provides this training internally for us as well as several of our neighboring departments.

We would welcome any requests information and if any of our readers are interested in learning more about becoming a member or participating in our training feel free to contact any department member or find us at clintontownshipmn.com.

Thank You
Jim Theodore,
Fire Chief

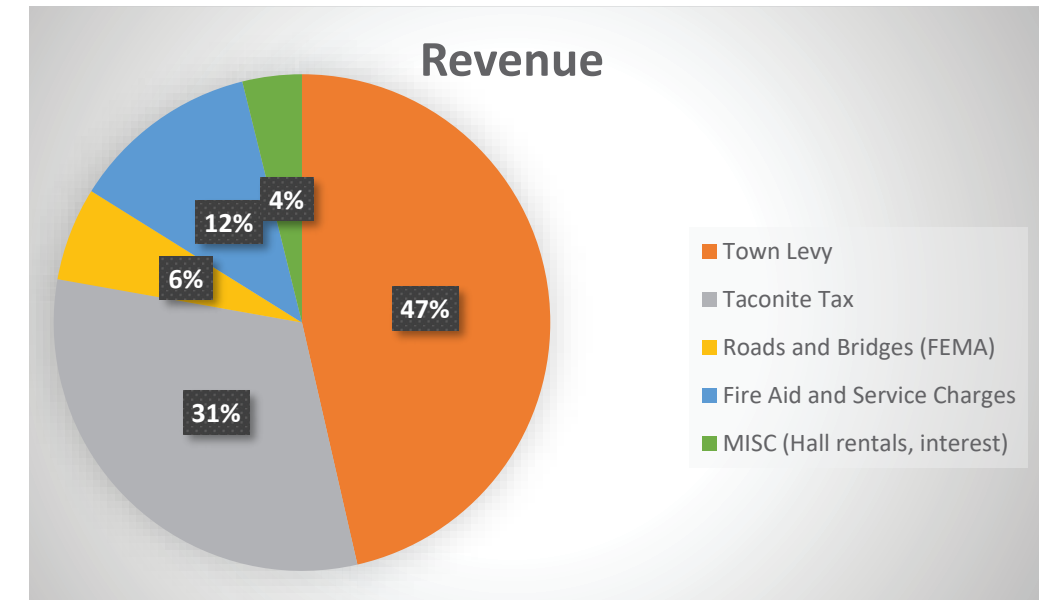
Clinton Fire Department Financial Report

The townships total cash and investment assets in 2023 decreased to \$245,990.35 from a start of \$351,961.94. In 2023, the township had receipts totaling \$238,139.68. The majority of our revenue comes from the town levy which was \$110,532 and our share of the taconite production tax, which was \$74,728.76. Road receipts were \$14,490.14, and this included FEMA money of \$7257.61 to repair washout from this last spring's storms. We had \$29,185.94 in receipts for fire aid and revenue from charging other departments (mostly the DNR) for fire services. We had \$9202.05 in miscellaneous revenue, mostly from renting the town hall and interest on investments.

Our expenses totaled \$344,561.34. Of this, \$40,500 was capital expenditures. This was for new doors at the firehall, of which half will be covered by an IRR grant in 2024, and for a new pickup truck with firefighting apparatus, of which \$2500 was covered by a state grant. Our biggest expenditure was the Fire and EMS department, which saw expenses of \$202,877.77. Excluding the capital projects, this department had expenses of \$162,377.88. Road expenses were exceptionally high this year, costing \$44,265.06, mainly due to incredible spring flooding. General government, which covers the cost of elections, township employees, the town board, insurance, and maintenance of the town hall, was \$84,713.18. Recreation covers the cost of maintaining the skating rink, baseball fields, and playground, which cost \$12,705.33.

Our township levy will increase to \$130,000 in 2024, and taconite tax revenue is expected to remain stable. We are projecting \$250,000 in revenue for 2024. For expenses, we are projecting \$230,000 dollars. We are projecting a one time expense of \$95,000 for re-pavement of the parking lot, and also a one time grand of \$70,000 from the IRR. This will leave us with a deficit of approximately \$5,000.

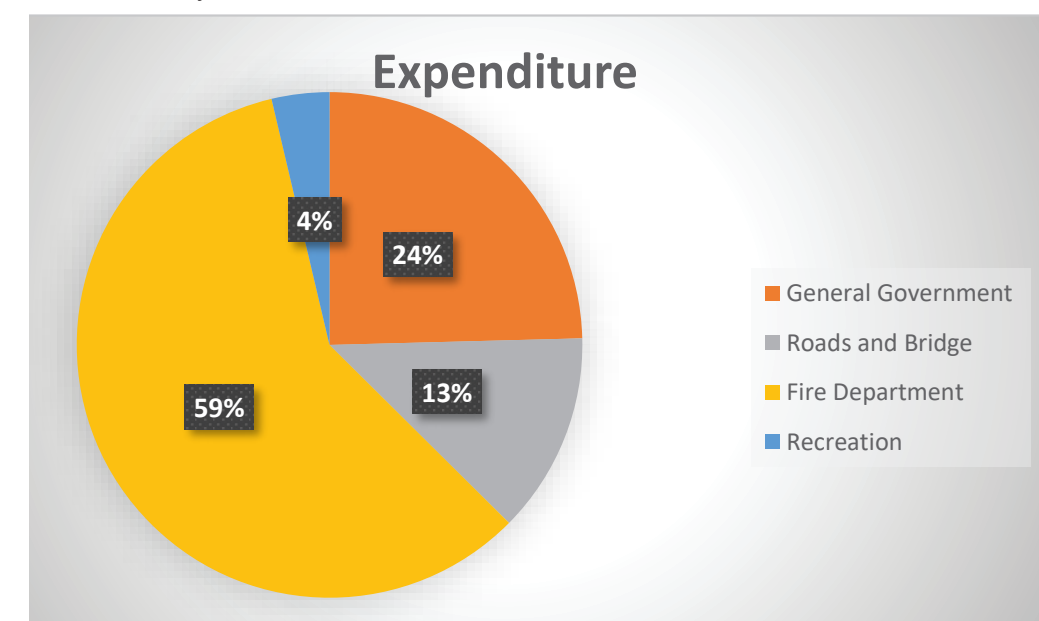
As you can clearly see, our expenses are rising without a great increase in revenue. Clearly, the fire department is our biggest expense. Much of this is driven by federal and state regulation that governs how often we must test and replace our equipment, training standards for the department, and the cost of maintenance for an aging fleet. We are far from the only community experiencing this pain. McDavitt Township had a near collapse in their fire service,



and to provide protection, they are paying neighboring townships, including ours, \$45,000 for six months of coverage. This is for a population much smaller than our own.

Township Revenue	
Town Levy	\$ 110,532.79
Taconite Tax	\$ 74,728.76
Roads and Bridges (FEMA)	\$ 14,490.14
Fire Aid and Service Charges	\$ 29,185.94
MISC (Hall rentals, interest)	\$ 9,202.05
Total Revenue	\$ 238,139.68

There is hope at the state and federal levels of increased grants and funding for rural departments, but at this point it is just hope. As a community, we must have a discussion



on what we feel is an adequate amount of protection and response. We can't continue walking the financial path we are on, as this leaves no money aside for future capital expenditures which will be needed (hockey rink, fire fighting equipment, broadband expenditure, etc). We need to be proactive at either raising revenue, cutting services, or a combination of the two. As a town, it is the community that sets the financial levy, not the town board. Please come with ideas, comments, and solutions to the town meeting!

Township Expense	
General Government	\$ 84,713.18
Roads and Bridge	\$ 44,265.06
Fire Department	\$ 202,877.77
Recreation	\$ 12,705.33
Total Cost	\$ 344,561.34