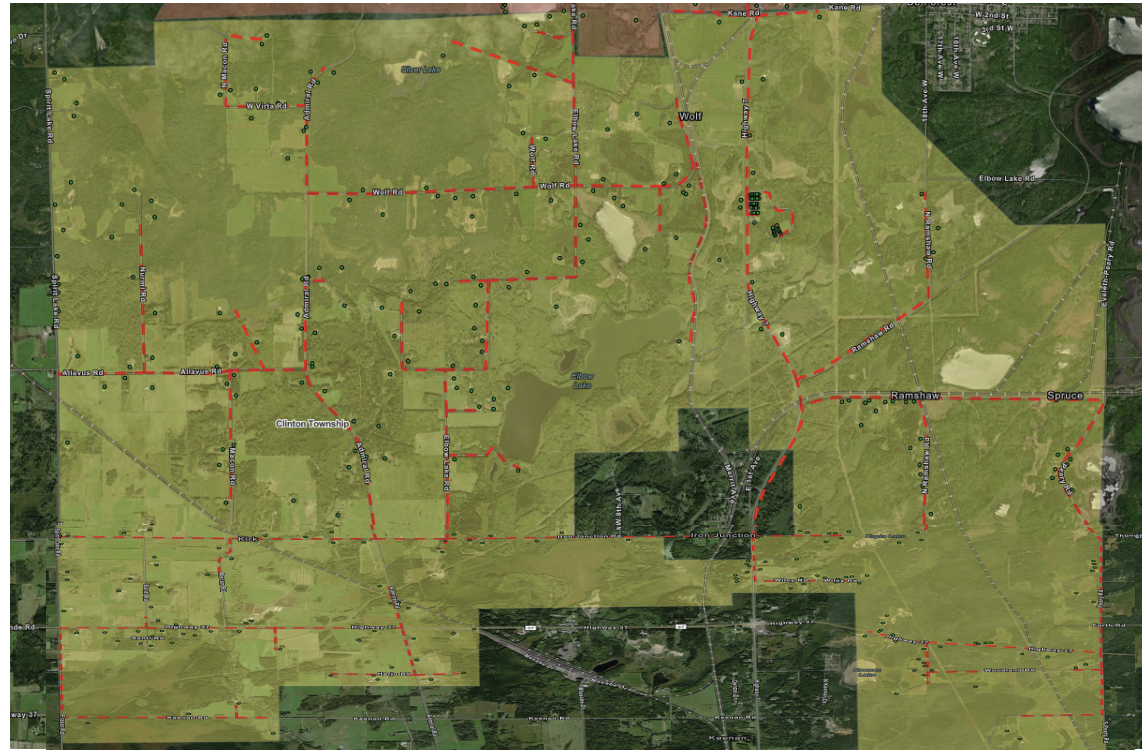


Looking to 2025

BROADBAND

Going into 2025, we will expect to see more construction on the broadband network throughout the township. You can see the routing of the fiber and area served by CTC. Discussing with Mr. Joe Buttweiler of CTC, he stated that a letter was mailed in February to residents of the township in the proposed areas. He encouraged me as well that it is very advantageous to sign up for services if desired now to avoid any later construction fees.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This has become something of a yearly tradition that generates good support throughout the township and neighboring areas of Cherry and McDavitt as well. As usual, we will have a variety of food, door prizes, and the opportunity to meet your local volunteer

and professional services. Check out our website for up-to-date information.

GRANTS

In 2025, it is our intent to pursue grants along two avenues for the township. The first will focus on energy for the community building and firehall. We will be looking

to potentially upgrade or replace our HVAC system with something more energy efficient. We have been in discussions with the IRR looking at different funding options that might be available from the state and federal government. Our second avenue will be attempting to tap into the IRR's culture fund. The

goal of this grant would be to secure funds to replace the ice-skating arena. The current structure is showing signs of aging and will need replacement soon. This cycle opens in July of 2025, so construction would not start until 2026.

Clinton Township 2024 Supervisor's Review

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and community building repair. We may receive grants for these, but those are not a guarantee. Another thought to ponder is what direction to take our recreation area. We only have intermittent use of our baseball fields now, our hockey rink needs repair, and in general people's recreation activities have changed over the years. A last and lighter question perhaps is the landscaping

of the community building. The current trees and shrubs have root systems that are likely on their way to damaging the pavement and concrete. We will be removing them in 2025, and I'd love to hear some ideas on how to replace them, or perhaps even someone willing to take on the project!

Lastly, please remember at this meeting, and throughout the year, that we are all neighbors. We

may have different thoughts on the path to get there, but in the end, I believe that we all want a thriving and safe community for ourselves and families! Please be respectful of other's positions and have an open mind. When you have the time this year, go out and meet your neighbors in the township!

Bobby Butler,
Township Supervisor



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

www.clintontownshipmn.org clintontownshipmn@gmail.com

Clinton Township 2024 Supervisor's Review

Hello and welcome to our annual newsletter for Clinton Township! We had a productive 2024 in the township, with many long-term projects either being completed or starting. During the summer, we were able to complete the parking lot re-pavement thanks in part to an IRR grant. Pete Ramfjord was instrumental in seeing this project completed, including making some modifications when it was discovered that the area on the south side of the community building needed substantial subsoil work. The broadband project also began in earnest with both Paul Bunyan communications and CTC beginning their township connections. This will continue into 2025.

In 2024, we also lost our longest standing Supervisor, Cal Warwas, who was elected to the position of state representative for our district. Cal had served for nearly five years, and it is fair to say the highlight of his service was the broadband project, which would not have happened without his initiative. We would like to thank Cal for his service, and we wish him the best of luck in his new role, especially in finding ways to support local government! We also witnessed the retirement of two long serving volunteers in the fire department. Michelle Mayry served 15 years and

took a very important part in ensuring the relief association is on the right track to provide for future firefighters along with updating our file records at the fire hall. Todd Lauer, who also served 15 years, played a key role in securing our grant for the newest fire truck as well as helping teach at the college. Their combined 30 years of service will be missed indeed! If you see these three individuals out and about, please join me again in thanking them for their service to the community.

Our town meeting is set for March 11th this year. Elections will be held for two supervisor positions and a treasurer. I would like to highlight that this is the town meeting, which means that the entirety of the township has their most direct say at this meeting. This is your time to bring your thoughts, opinions, and ultimately your vote for the direction of our township. I would like to highlight some thoughts for everyone to ponder ahead of time. Firstly, our level of taxation. We have increased the levy multiple times in the last several years after over a decade of no change. We achieved a balanced budget last year, but there are several looming expenses, such as firefighter gear, hockey rink repair,

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IMPORTANT DATES

March 11th

Election for two supervisor positions and treasurer. Polling location at Clinton Community Building

March 11th.

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

March 31st.

Dead for community baseball sign up. Visit cherrybaseballsoftball.com or call Jay Asuma at (218) 929-9745 for information.

May 11th.

Board of equalization for property taxes at 4 PM. Clinton Town Hall.

August 5th.

National Night Out, hosted at Clinton Community Building

Clinton Town Hall
8907 MN-37
Iron Junction, MN 55751



PROPERTY VALUATION FAQ

Each year, the town board serves as the LBAE, or Local Board of Assessment and Equalization, in order to provide a forum for disputes on your property's valuation. What we are hoping to provide here are answers to questions we commonly receive.

MY PROPERTY VALUATION WENT UP WITHOUT ANY CHANGES AND BY X AMOUNT! HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

By law, all properties must be assessed every five years. Clinton is due for a formal assessment in 2026 for 2027 valuation. However, the assessors also use a tool called the Sales Ratio Study. This measures recent sales against the current value. For instance, if a house was valued at \$100,000, but sold for \$120,000, this means it had a sales ratio of 120%. By law, the value should be between 90%-105%. If there are six such sales in a year that are outside the ratio that will trigger an automatic change in valuation.

MY VALUATION WENT UP THIS YEAR! HOW MUCH ARE MY TAXES GOING TO INCREASE?

An increase in valuation does not equal a change in taxation. In general, taxes are set by the county board, town board, and school district. The taxes are set at a certain levy across all properties, regardless of valuation. What the valuation can affect is your share of the levy. This is why it is so critical to be fair to everyone. If we were to drop your property value without just cause, this just means your neighbors will have to pay disproportionately more to satisfy the levy requirements. Tax questions should be directed at the St. Louis County auditor's office, and not the assessor's office.

MY CARPORT IS NOT A PERMANENT STRUCTURE. HOW CAN THIS BE VALUED AS PART OF MY PROPERTY?

Any structure that brings potential value to the property is assessed for its value, regardless of its use or perceived permanence. A travel camper for instance is on wheels, but without a current registration, would be considered part of the property.

MY HOUSE IS VERY OUTDATED, THE INTERIOR IS IN BAD SHAPE, MY LAND IS ALL WETLANDS, MY SHED BURNED DOWN ETC. CAN YOU LOWER MY VALUATION?

Any adjustment that would benefit the owner should be backed up with proof of change. The assessor may also request a visit to the property to verify the change. If you deny the assessor access to the property, including the interior, we may not make an adjustment. Be prepared for verification!

YOU HAVE NOT ANSWERED MY QUESTION, WHO CAN I REACH OUT TO BEFORE THE MEETING?

Assessment questions should be directed to the St. Louis County Assessor's office. Their number is (218) 471-7147. They also have great information on the county website, stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/assessor.

New to the Township!



Instead of featuring your town official biographies, I wanted to start doing featuring new residents to the township and a little about their story. This year, we are going to feature the Hamiltons!

The Hamilton Family was on the hunt for a rural home with acreage for their homestead dreams when they found the perfect place in Clinton Township. Tom is the General Manager of Hill Wood Products in Cook, and Karen is the owner of Beyond Nuts, a roasted nut business, but she also teaches about horses in her other endeavor, Hamilton Horsemanship. Their son, Tanner is a 5th grader at Cherry School, and daughter Frankie is in 3rd grade.

Outdoors is where it's at for the Hamilton's, hunting, fishing, boating, camping, downhill skiing, snowmobiles and four wheeling are things they enjoy when they aren't working on improvements on the homestead for their horses, cattle, pigs and chickens! The kids love being active in sports and have made a bunch of friends since enrolling at Cherry.

"We love our location, so perfectly private, yet not far from town. But our truly favorite part of this area is our wonderful neighbors and how welcoming everyone in the community has been!"

State of the Clinton FD Address 2025

Hello, and welcome to another year in review for the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department. My name is Jim Theodore and I am the Fire Chief of the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department. I follow a long line of hard-working Fire Chiefs that have served before me. Like them, I'm doing my best to keep the organization running smoothly. Just like the world around us, everything is more expensive, more complicated, and more legally challenging. We stand out in areas like safety. Having completed a courtesy OSHA inspection in 2021 to ensure we are operating properly with the highest standards of safety. Our OSHA policies have been approved and are operational.

When I first started writing these annual updates, I had mixed feelings. But now after a handful of years I have seen the benefit of openness and accountability in government and more importantly by the Fire Department. By that I mean, every taxpayer in Clinton Township should know about their township's spending and the current ability of their Fire Department to protect their lives and property.

Fire Departments can be judged by several components, such as the volume of runs, the number of activities ongoing, the number of projects being completed, and most importantly by staff changes. In all these above areas, the Clinton Fire Department has seen active growth and positive change, indicating to me that we are on the right path. Here are just a few of these identifiers.

FIRST: RUN VOLUME As stated in previous newsletters, for decades our annual run volumes have been stable with slightly more than 30 Fire runs per year with a similar number of EMS runs. Then in 2022 we saw a 25% increase in our emergency calls. Many of these calls are in neighboring communities as we all embrace an increased demand for service for emergencies and less availability of our volunteers. This change has been noted in all of our

area Fire Departments including the career Fire Departments in Virginia, Hibbing and Cloquet. This impact has hit home by increasing our operational costs and time spent in training. The time commitment involved on these runs has also increased from an hour or two per event to some calls lasting 8 or 10 hours or more. In 2023 we responded to 34 Fires and 41 EMS calls for a combination of 75 calls. The next year, in 2024, we responded to 132 emergency calls - 53 Fire / Rescue and 79 EMS.

Here is a breakdown of time spent in the Fire Department activities including emergency responses and training in 2024. The total time spent on "Emergency Fire / Rescue Calls" was 664.61-man hours with an average of 5.6-responders per call. When combined with our time spent in recorded training programs of 824-man hours for a total of 1492.61-recorded man hours in both emergency response and training. These are volunteer hours committed without hourly compensation. (Note that a retirement pension is received based on accrued years of service).

SECOND: GRANT WRITING We continue to seek out and apply for grants that would help us support our operational needs. This is a time-consuming effort that without a doubt saves our Township valuable dollars in today's economy. In 2024 our staff wrote multiple grants that are still in waiting or are being processed. These grants come from a variety of sources, including the DNR, FEMA/AFG, Nutella, Walmart, and Fire Dex. Over the last twenty years we have secured more than \$700,000 in federal, state, and private grant dollars. These dollars have funded personal protective equipment, breathing air compressor, and apparatus.

THIRD: THE NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES. One of our more prominent activities is hosting basic firefighting training. This training consists of a 153-hour certified course conducted to NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards.

This ongoing training provides our new firefighters with the ability to complete their required training at home, as opposed to traveling a number of miles to get it done. It has proven to be economical from a cost standpoint and incredibly valuable as a regional resource.

We also commit a great deal of staff time during the National Night Out activities in August. Additionally, we participate in Fire Prevention activities at the Cherry School, and individual tours of the Fire Department. These activities are valuable public relations assets.

FOURTH: OPERATIONAL COST In my 50-year career as a Fire Fighter, one of the most common public comments I have been asked are questions regarding the operational cost of the Fire / EMS Departments. Without a doubt, providing a high level of service isn't cheap. Here at the Clinton Fire Department, I am very proud to identify our operational budget. According to official township records our total spend for the Fire / Rescue side of the department in 2024 was \$63,071.71. We were able to recover \$36,175.50 in state reimbursements, contracts and grants. That's 57% of our operational cost that was recovered in 2024 and returned to the township. That's pretty amazing.

As you may know, the Fire department operates an EMS or First Responder operation as well. The operational cost of our First Responder group was \$8,136.36 in 2024.

Allow me to conclude this annual review by saying the past year has been an amazing year of progress, training and emergency responses. None of this would have been possible without the support of our volunteer firefighters and their families as well as the continued support of Clinton Township and its residents.

Thank You
Jim Theodore,
Fire Chief

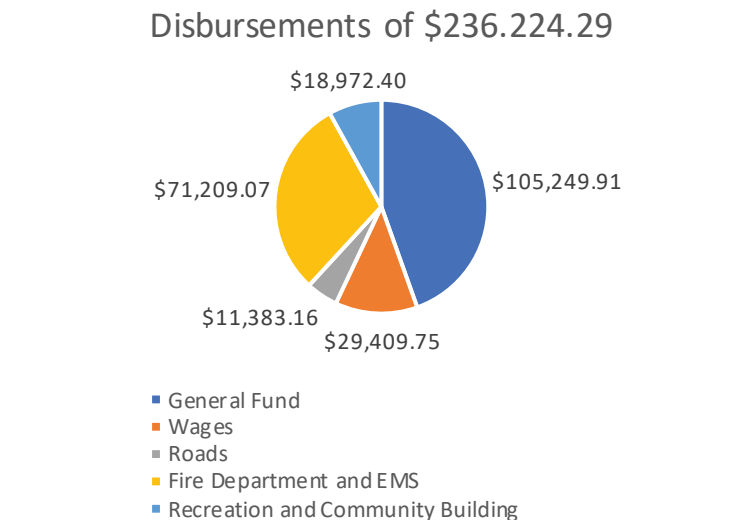
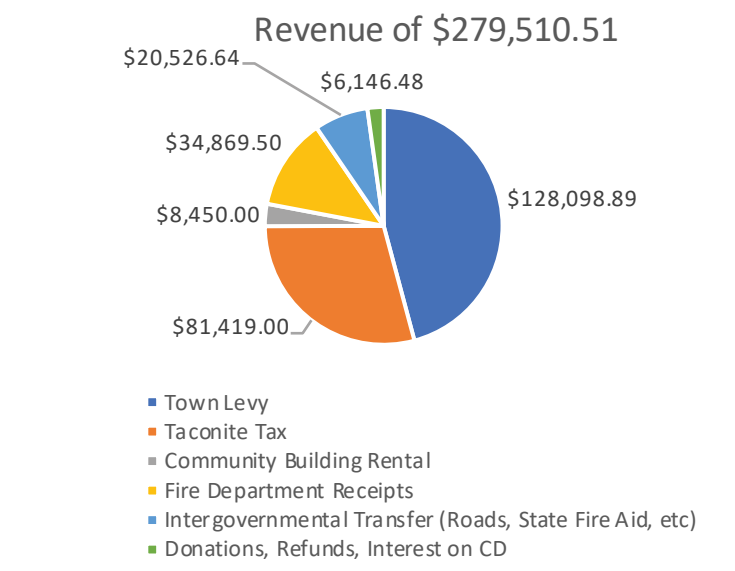
Clinton Township Financial Report

Receipts

Town Levy	\$ 128,098.89
Taconite Tax	\$ 81,419.00
Community Building Rental	\$ 8,450.00
Fire Department Receipts	\$ 34,869.50
Intergovernmental Transfer (Roads, State Fire Aid, etc)	\$ 20,526.64
Donations, Refunds, Interest on CD	\$ 6,146.48
Total Receipts	\$ 279,510.51

Disbursements

General Fund	\$ 105,249.91
Wages	\$ 29,409.75
Roads	\$ 11,383.16
Fire Department and EMS	\$ 71,209.07
Recreation and Community Building	\$ 18,972.40



The townships total cash and investment assets in 2023 increased to \$690,080.87 from a start of \$245,990.35. However, a large portion of this amount is a dedicated grant from the state for broadband funding, \$400,000. As you may notice, this was not included on the pie chart as it would skew the rest of the information. A better way to look at it is that we have \$290,080.87 in cash and investments, which is a significant improvement from 2023's ending balance. The largest drivers of this improvement were lower costs at the firehall and road maintenance, which dropped by \$91,168.81 and \$32,881.90 respectively and increased revenue driven by an increased in fire service fees by \$21,035.94 and an increase of the town levy by \$17,557.10.

Total revenue, minus grants, in 2024 were \$279,510.51. Most of the normal funding was our town levy at \$128,098.89 and our share of the taconite production tax, which was \$81,419.00. The fire department also saw increased revenue in 2024 compared to 2023, mostly from providing McDavitt township and Iron Junction with fire protection for a fee, which ended up being \$34,869.50. Intragovernmental funding amounted to \$20,526.64, which includes our portion for roads and state fire aid. Finally, between community building rentals, donations, refunds, and interest on our CD equaled \$14,596.48

Our expenses totaled \$236,224.29 The two main sources of expense were general government at \$105,249.91 which covers a variety of expenses, such as utilities for the fire hall and community building, elections, insurance, and maintenance costs. \$25,428.23 of this is also the township's contribution to the firefighter's retirement fund. The second was the fire department and EMS, which saw a significant drop in expenses, coming in at

\$71,209.07. The third largest expense was a combination of expenses which covered road maintenance, recreation expenses, and town hall deposit refunds. This came in at \$30,355.56. The last expense were wages of township officials, firehall administration, and township employees, which totaled \$29,409.75.

This year, we received two large grants. One grant is for broadband funding from the state, which totaled \$400,000. This did not require a match. This is still on our books, waiting for disbursement. The second grant was from the IRR for \$64,183.52, which was matched in equal amount by the township. This was to repave the parking lot along with some smaller repairs at the firehall.

In 2025, our projected revenues are \$275,000. This reflects an increased levy of \$140,000, while considering we will be losing the revenue from providing fire protection for McDavitt Township. Our projected expenses are \$250,000, with the potential to increase to \$275,000. This reflects the potential for repairs with the community building heating system. Overall, we believe we will either balance or have a surplus for 2025.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

BRIAN MAYRY
CLERK

BOB BUTLER
SUPERVISOR

ELAINE SANTI
TREASURER

JIM THEODORE
FIRE CHIEF

PETE RAMFJORD
SUPERVISOR