

CORRECTED COPY**Belvidere Township****1975 - 1999****Compiled by
Robert L. "Bob" Turner**

In the early 1970's, the Belvidere Town Board consisted of Supervisor Stanley Patrick, Town Auditors Larry Kleber, Jim Simon, and Bernard Bahling. W. P. Leitzell was the Town Clerk, Carl Pape - Highway Commissioner and Katherine W. Quick - Assessor. The Budget appropriation ordinance for the Township on March 31, 1970 was \$59,180, General Assistance \$34,550. The total valuation of Belvidere Township was \$75,289.15. Ann Harlow was the Township Secretary and Bookkeeper, Larry Kleber was Clerk Pro-Tem. On April 1, 1971, Carl Pape, Township Highway Commissioner, retired. On April 6, 1971 John Fairgrievies was elected Highway Commissioner. On April 29, 1971 a special meeting was called for the purpose of appointing a Town Clerk. A letter of resignation was received from Town Clerk William P. Leitzell to be effective April 30, 1971. Bernard F. Bahling was nominated to fill the vacancy of town clerk. The board met on Thursday, May 6, 1971 and nominated former Highway Commissioner Carl Pape to fill the Auditor vacancy.

The first Revenue Sharing check in the amount of \$27,905 was reported received at the December 13, 1972 meeting. The funds were deposited in a Revenue Sharing Fund at the Boone State Bank. The allocation and spending of Federal Revenue Sharing Funds could be made in the following categories:

1. Public Safety
2. Public Transportation
3. Recreation
4. Social Services for the Aged
5. Social Development
6. Other

A report was due the Federal Government by March of 1974 of what these funds were allocated for. Additional revenue checks, as received, were deposited in local financial institutions.

In the April 3, 1973 election, the Belvidere Town Board of Auditors increased by one and Robert L. Turner was elected along with incumbents Auditor Carl Pape, James Simon, and Larry Kleber. Re-elected were Stanley Patrick - Supervisor, Katherine Quick - Assessor, and Bernard F. Bahling - Clerk, and John Fairgrievies was Highway Commissioner.

With the passage of the Older Americans Act, Supervisor Patrick addressed the many services that were provided through this act to meet the needs of older adults. The Boone County Council on

Aging / Keen Age Center was born in 1973 to address these issues. In early 1973 Rev. Terry Hawkins, Grace Wait, Sandy Selmo, Peggy Fair, Naomi Schultz, Sister Veronica Mary and Highland Hospital dietitian Dorothy Westlund approached the Township Board requesting revenue sharing funds for their Council on Aging Senior Citizens Program "Meals on Wheels". Township Auditor Carl Pape was also a member of this community group of volunteers. The Township provided \$31,326 in Revenue Sharing Funds for beginning the Boone County Council on Aging (Senior Citizens Center) and "Meals on Wheels" program. The Arnold Johnson building on the corner of South State and Buchanan Streets (formerly Sears) was home for the newly established Boone County Council on Aging. A contest was held to name the new Senior Activity Center and the name "Keen Age Center", submitted by Eva Byers, was chosen. These designations hold true today in 1999. Directors past and present include Sandy Selmo, Jan Smith, Debbie Wright and currently Anna Gray. Belvidere Township continues to financially support the Council on Aging.

Belvidere Township continued their leadership role in the community with financial support from their General Revenue Sharing Funds. The following are some of the "recipients" of these funds:

- Growth Dimensions
- City of Belvidere Fire Department Rescue Van and Fire Hydrant Flags
- Walk Way 76
- Doctors Recruitment Program
- Boone Volunteer Ambulance Rescue Squad (BVARs)
- Salvation Army Pantry
- Township Highway Department Road Grader
- Newburg Road Resurface and Widening
- Beloit Road at Beaver Valley Bridge Area
- Boone County Volunteer Sheriff's Patrol Mobile Command Vehicle
- Infant Monitors for St. Joseph and Highland Hospitals
- Crimestoppers (another program initiated by Belvidere Township Board for Boone County)
- Tennis Courts in Belvidere Park and Spencer Park Areas
- Bleachers and the Little League Fields for Belvidere Youth Baseball at the Fairgrounds
- Belvidere Cemetery Association and Orth Cemetery Blacktop Roadway Systems & Fencing
- Belvidere Township Annex (currently office of Belvidere Township on Leonard Court extension in Doty Park, legal address 251 W. Locust Street, Belvidere)
- Garage and Housing for the BVARs, Keen Age Center Vans and Buses and the Boone County Sheriff Patrol Mobile Command Unit
- Highland Hospital Lifeline Program
- Big Brothers-Big Sisters
- Belvidere Softball Association
- Boone County Health Department Children's Clinic
- Boone County Sesquicentennial Celebration
- Belvidere Township Road and Bridge Fund
- Walkway 76 Lighting
- Monitors and Emergency Medical Training for BVARs
- Subdivisions Upgrade
- Boone County Historical Society (Furnaces)
- Epileptic Center
- Parkside Manor Blacktop
- Belvidere Police Department Calendars
- Jane McMahon House Next Door
- Belvidere Police Department Panic Buttons
- First Step Day Care Center
- Association for Retarded Citizens
- Highland Hospital Phase Program
and
- Growth Enterprises

There were probably more recipients but the fire of June 13, 1990 destroyed all of the Town records. The last General Check was issued to Belvidere Township in January of 1987. The Township shared just under \$1,000,000 in General Revenue Fund dollars with the community.

The Town Board in the late 1970's consisted of Leonard Carlson - Supervisor, Katherine Quick - Assessor, John Fairgrievies - Highway Commissioner, Bernard Bahling - Town Clerk, and Trustees Larry Kleber, John Wendell, Carl Pape and Robert Turner. In the April election of 1981, Robert Turner was elected Supervisor, Katherine Quick - Assessor, John Fairgrievies Highway Commissioner, Bernard Bahling - Town Clerk, and Leonard Carlson, Jackie Schwartz, John Wendell and Carl Pape as Trustees.

The Boone Volunteer Ambulance Rescue Squad (BVARS) was providing ambulance service to the community. To protect their equipment investment, Belvidere Township embarked on a building program that, when completed, would provide a building that would not only house the BVARS three ambulances, but also would supply housing (garage space) for three Keen Age Center vehicles and two vehicles of the Boone County Sheriff's Patrol. On July 7, 1981 Midwest Agri-Systems submitted the low bid for the 36' x 136' Township Annex. David Rogers drew up plans for the office area and after many BVARS fund raisers, the remodeling was completed in June of 1983.

The BVARS remained active until disbanding on February 7, 1988. This small band of faithful volunteers served the community with ambulance and special needs services until they could no longer obtain the trained volunteers necessary to provide professional service to the community. Belvidere Township will always be most grateful to those who gave of their time and talent and dedicated their role as a volunteer to the safety and well being of the community. Some of those dedicated BVARS are still in the community today. You know who your are and to you we all say, "Thanks for a needed job - well done!"

In the same era, October, 1981, Sandy K. Anderson was hired to replace Mary Austin who had chosen retirement. Ms Anderson is, at the time of this writing, the Governmental Bookkeeper and Secretary at Belvidere Township. Debbie Wright replaced Jan Smith as Director of the Boone County Council on Aging on May 7, 1985. Her assistants were Roberta Henneberry and Outreach worker, Phyllis Rath.

In the election of April 1985, Gordon Luckow, Leonard Carlson, Jackie Schwartz, and Carl Pape were elected Trustees; John Wendell - Assessor, John Fairgrievies - Highway Commissioner, Bernard Bahling - Town Clerk and Robert Turner as Supervisor.

The 1980's were a busy time for the Township. The General Assistance Workforce Program was developed, adopted and implemented. Many received financial assistance from the Township, and if able, were enrolled in the Workforce Program as defined and authorized by Illinois State statutes. Their financial assistance amount was divided by the minimum wage and that equaled their hours of service work to the community. Failure to comply could lead to denial of assistance payments.

On April 1, 1986, Trustee Gordon Luckow resigned his trustee position and moved to Florida. The Town Board appointed retired J.C. Penny CEO, Robert Reisdorf, to serve out Luckow's term. Reisdorf was sworn into office on May 10, 1986.

With the continued growth in Belvidere Township in the 1980's, the Town Board was actively searching for new quarters for the Belvidere Township Offices and the Highway Department. The corporate office of Belvidere Township had been at the Strom Building, 316 S. State St., Belvidere for many years. The office (General Assistance, Corporate Office and Assessor's) was handicapped accessible, but the Township Assessor's office was out of room. The Highway Department was on Fifth Avenue, one block north of Washington School. In the best interest of public safety and service to our growing township, new quarters were a priority for the Highway Department also.

On July 11, 1986 Belvidere Township purchased, closed and moved into new quarters on 6.5 acres at 8200 North Rt. 76, Belvidere. The main building (144' x 80') for the Highway Department had 11,520 square feet. The front office building (30' x 50') area was 1,500 square feet and was to house the General Assistance and Assessor's offices of the Township. In reviewing the needs of the Assessor's office, the Town Board decided to have the Corporate Office remain downtown in the Strom building and to move the Assessor into the front building of 8200 North Rt. 76. This was so enacted in a letter to Township Assessor John Wendell on October 11, 1989.

The Township had grown in parcels, residential and commercial, sub-divisions and miles of road. The valuation of Belvidere Township increased from \$82,302,820 in 1975 to \$96,016,475 in 1980; \$98,523,823 in 1985; to \$120,781,846 by 1990. Commercial development on Newburg Road and in the City of Belvidere - aided by the new Enterprise Zone and Growth Dimensions was placing additional responsibilities on the Assessor's office. During their time of relocating the Township Highway department and Assessor's office, then Mayor E. Terry Gratz and Supervisor Turner asked the Town Board for approval to use the Township garage facility on Fifth Avenue for a Recycling Center for the community. The Board agreed and on October 10, 1987, the Recycling doors were opened to the public. Mayor Pat Murphy continued to support the center, as have Mayor Peterson and Mayor Brereton. The Township and City share in an intergovernmental agreement in the operation of the

center which is still in operation today at the time of this writing. The operational costs of the Center are shared on a 50 / 50 basis by the City and the County. Rick Menge, the current Recycling Center Director, is assisted by Ray Schebke.

In February of 1988, the BVARs disbanded and moved from the Annex. The Boone County Council on Aging administered their SHARE program from the facility so the Annex was kept in use for community programs. The Council moved from their South State and Buchanan Street location (Arnold Johnson Building) to The Salvation Army building January, 1989. The Council's programs are administered today by Director Anna Gray (May, 1991), and plans are currently in place to build a new senior facility in the Little Thunder development on land donated by Jack and Peggy Wolf.

With the growth of the 1970's and '80's came additional traffic and miles of roads to maintain for the Highway Department. New bridges were built. Beloit Road was re-designed and the new bridge built in 1978. Ten years later - 1988, a new bridge was constructed on Riverside Road.

Elected in 1989 were Robert Turner - Supervisor, John Wendell - Assessor, John Fairgrievies - Highway Commissioner, Bernard Bahling - Town Clerk and Trustees Leonard Carlson, Robert Reisdorf, Gordon Luckow and Jackie Schwartz. Discussions with the City of Belvidere and the Township related to upgrading Newburg Road to an 80,000 pound truck route were scheduled in February of 1991, an agreement was reached and the road project began.

The new Town Board had made earlier decisions to move the Township corporate office to the Township Annex at 251 West Locust. This move was necessary due to the June 13, 1990 fire that totally destroyed the Strom building along with the old Gas and Electric building and Donn Gustafson's State Farm Insurance office.

On June 14, 1990 Belvidere Township's new home was 251 West Locust Street. Although not really on West Locust Street, that is the address given the Township by the U.S. Post Office. To the "natives", we are located on the old Legion Memorial Field roadway; now being just west of the Boone County Shopper and Leonard Court, across from Doty Park. (Confusing? Possibly, yes!)

The nineties have brought more growth and more needs for improved services. A new, wider modern bridge was constructed on Spring Creek Road, just west of the Beaver Valley, Riverside intersection. With their new bridge on Spring Creek and the Riverside Bridge of 1988 now in place, the intersection of Beaver Valley, East Riverside and Spring Creek Road was to receive engineering studies and plans for future improvement and re-alignment. An agreement with Jim Vitalie was reached in May

of 1991, exchanging parcels of land on both side of the roadway to assist with the improvement.

Mileage of roads in Belvidere Township had steadily been increasing from 53.55 miles in 1976 to 60.80 miles in 1980, to 72.49 miles in 1990. The additional miles of roads were created by the many subdivisions and additional plats for housing that were being developed in the township. Housing starts increased dramatically to the point that Boone County was the second fastest growing county in the state - next to number one, McHenry County.

Recycling was going strong, servicing over 300 cars per week. Debbie Wright retired as Director of the Boone County Council on Aging in June of 1991, and Anna Gray assumed her new duties as Director. The Township was still actively supporting Growth Dimensions. The Riverfront Improvement Program is underway with walk-ways, bicycle paths and routes the main thrust. The "walk-way bridge over the 'Kish' was within the budget and should start this fall." (September 14, 1991.) A movement to "Save the Community Building " was begun by early morning volunteer meetings in the lower level of School District 100's business office with Supervisor Turner continuing to represent the Township. In the fall of 1992, Township Clerk Bahling was appointed to the Community Building Complex Committee, elected Treasurer and holds that position today.

Growth was continuing in Belvidere Township. Highway Commissioner John Fairgrievies reported in January of 1993 that we now had 85 miles of roads and 42 subdivisions in the township. The plat of the Little Thunder Development by Jack Wolf had been presented to the County Board and the Township. The Big Thunder Mall Development had been presented in October of 1992.

Toll road interchange, right-of-way (ROW) for Big Thunder Boulevard, re-alignment of Riverside Road in the vicinity of the Hyland property and the continued construction of the new bridge on Spring Creek - plus additional safety issues were just a few of the measures being addressed by the Township. Council on Aging programs were continuing to address the needs of the community. Transportation, nutrition, CCP In-Home Care, Meals on Wheels, IRS services, IHEAP, Medical, and Outreach to name a few, were very much a part of the community programs offered by the Council.

In the Election of 1993, H. Robert Falkenstein defeated incumbent John Wendell for Township Assessor. Others elected were Robert Turner - Supervisor, John Fairgrievies - Highway Commissioner, Bernard Bahling - Town Clerk and Trustees Leonard Carlson, Gordon Luckow, Jackie Schwartz and Robert Reisdorf.

Belvidere Township confirmed in a letter to Boone County Highway Engineer Richard Lundin on August 12, 1993 that the right-of-way necessary to implement the Spring Creek Bridge project had been

secured. Jim Gang, retired Boone County Engineer, was hired by Highway Commissioner John Fairgrievies to oversee the bridge project for the Township and to work with County Engineer Lundin.

The City of Belvidere and the Township continued to negotiate an easement / option to purchase right-of-way contract for the purpose of extending Big Thunder Boulevard on a portion of Township property. The State had required that Big Thunder Boulevard be extended west to Route 76 (Fairgrounds Road). Improvements were made to the Recycling Center; the Council on Aging had received two new vehicles with raised roofs and the Kish-A-Walk program was paving a portion of their walkway. H. Robert Falkenstein was sworn in as Township Assessor at the December 28, 1993 meeting. A letter was read and a plaque given in appreciation to outgoing Assessor John Wendell for his years of service in to the township. (1977 - 1993).

The Township in 1994 remained involved with Growth Dimensions, the Community Building Complex, Riverfront, Solid Waste, Council on Aging and Recycling. Manatron was introduced as the County's choice for the new computer software system. Doty Flats improvements were underway. Highway Commissioner John Fairgrievies was continuing to address the Spring Creek - Beaver Valley and Riverside Road area. Olson Road had been resurfaced. The Belvidere Township Park District had just completed another successful Walk-A-Thon for the benefit of the Riverfront walk-way and bike path. Under the leadership of Jean Twyning the 4th Graders had collected \$10,884.74 through the year. Turning lanes were to be added at Beaver Valley Road and Business Route 20 in the summer of 1994.

A letter of resignation from Highway Commissioner John Fairgrievies announcing his retirement was read on July 23, 1994 (effective September 1, 1994). Richard Lee was appointed Highway Commissioner to serve out Fairgrievies term of office by a roll call vote on August 27, 1994. A letter of resignation from John Fairgrievies, who first came to work for the Township in 1946 at the ripe old age of 21, was accepted with regrets on a roll call vote. Richard Lee was administered the oath of office by Clerk Bernard Bahling on August 31, 1994.

With the continued growth in Belvidere Township the new Highway Commissioner instituted a new Life/Safety program. He was assisted in this by Township resident Tom Rozanas, proving once again, that Township government was the government closest to the people. Mr. Rozanas and Commissioner Lee toured the township to identify concerns and areas of safety that could be improved

upon. Signage, lighting, traffic control devices, speed limit clarification, truck traffic, blasting and road way striping were a few of the issues identified and marked for improvement.

At this time the first letter to Bill Ost, District II Engineer IDOT, requesting traffic signals at Shaw Road and Business Route 20 was written. That request is continuing to be pursued today in 1999.

The Council on Aging was continuing to search for new quarters. The Belvidere High School building and Washington School building next to the Community Building and Dodge Lanes were being considered. On December 28, 1994, the strong community voice for Crimestoppers and the Council on Aging, and former Belvidere Township Highway Commissioner, Trustee and Auditor Carl Pape passed away. A memorial was forwarded to the Boone County Council on Aging in Mr. Pape's name.

In early 1995, Steve and Tina Thomas, owner / operators of the Belvidere Airport presented their 125 - 140 lot airport subdivision and development plan (complete with their own taxi ways) in a program to Growth Dimensions. A new plat, Bel-Air Estates, with condos and country living complete with a museum was in the offering for Belvidere Township and the County. To proceed with "Bel-Air Estates", a zoning change was necessary. The comprehensive plan did not designate or provide for any residential access in the vicinity of the airport. Boone County Planner David Slitkas drafted an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan that would allow consideration for residential development related to aviation. The Boone County Board voted the amendment down that would have allowed this development to be in compliance with the comprehensive plan. The Village of Poplar Grove was then approached to consider annexing the airport property, and to provide the proper zoning for the development of Bel-Air Estates. Recognizing the potential of the development, the Village approved the Thomas' request and moved immediately to annex and re-zone the airport property for the development. In due respect to the Village of Poplar Grove, the Thomas' re-named their airport The Poplar Grove Airport. Although Belvidere lost the identity of the airport, Belvidere Township is pleased that the Village of Poplar Grove was able to salvage the development for the airport owners and life long residents of our community, the Thomas family, and the late John A. Strom. The development today, 1999, a vision of 25 years ago, provides a new way of life for many and in so doing has become a rare jewel of the prairie.

In the community the Township continued working with Belvidere Township Park District and the Doty Park improvements design. Other reports recorded were the reassessment of the industrial and commercial property in Belvidere Township. According to H. Robert Falkenstein, Township Assessor, this had not been done since 1984. Highway Commissioner Richard Lee's Life/Safety program reports indicated that roadway lights had been installed at Business Route 20 and Shaw Roads, Route 20 and

Town Hall Roads, Riverside and Shaw and at Inglewood and Shaw Roads. The 'road by road' safety review was continuing in the township. Prior to the Annual Town Meeting on April 9, 1996, it was reported that the township's population was now 19,782 and Boone County was 35,620. The growth pattern was continuing. A new 80' x 100' pole building to house township equipment was in the planning stage for the Highway Department. In a letter to the township, then Mayor Rory Peterson stated the Big Thunder Road area issue would have to be reviewed later. The new State Street Bridge was still 2 - 3 years away. The township had encouraged the City of Belvidere to replace the bridge as it is today. Emphasis was placed on retaining the parking spaces, sidewalks and look-outs. It was also stressed that a decorative railing should be installed to retain the beauty of the river-way.

All county and state townships said farewell to George H. Miller, the Executive Director of the Township Officials of Illinois, who was retiring after 17 years. Brian E. Smith replaced Miller on August 1, 1996. Smith joins Troy A. Kost and Miller as only the third Executive Director of TOI in the association's 92 year history. Commissioner Lee was continuing to install new signs on the township road ways. The City of Belvidere had revised its right-of-way needs on Big Thunder Boulevard from 17' to 10' of township property. This was approved. A new 130' bridge for Squaw Prairie Road was in the planning stage. This design was submitted in early 1997. Ralph Wehner, Executive Director of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, met with area officials to discuss the traffic / roadway problems in our area. Wehner also discussed future Tollway interchanges and the improvements for the area that the Tollway had planned.

Program support for the Boone County Council on Aging, Crimestoppers, Recycling Center, Riverfront, Growth Dimensions, road and bridge projects, and the continued up-grading of the Township Assessor's Department were repeatedly addressed. Road safety and signage on township roads was also a continual concern. Positive measures were taken to assist Commissioner Lee in his on-going Safety Program. Coloring books emphasizing the importance of recycling were distributed to all of the 1st graders in the community.

In the April 1, 1997 Consolidated Election the following were elected: Robert L. "Bob" Turner - Supervisor, Bernard F. Bahling - Township Clerk, H. Robert Falkenstein - Assessor, Richard E. Lee - Highway Commissioner and Trustees Leonard C. Carlson, Jacqueline "Jackie" Schwartz, Gordon H. Luckow and Robert J. Reisdorf.

Unfortunately, on May 13, 1997, at the Regular Belvidere Township Board meeting, a moment of silence was ordered in memory of the late Robert J. Reisdorf, Township Trustee, who passed away on May 9, 1997. Reisdorf, a retired J.C. Penney Company CEO, was a thoughtful, dedicated township

official and a good family person. He understood the importance of sound budgeting and financial responsibility. He was a people person. "Robert will be greatly missed" said Supervisor Turner.

Former City of Belvidere Alderman Debbie Carlson was appointed October 14, 1997 to replace Trustee Reisdorf. As the Township and the City share jointly in community projects, Carlson was the unanimous choice of the board for Township Trustee. The board felt Carlson's experience with city government would be beneficial as the two governments worked together. Carlson assumed the recycling responsibilities immediately upon her appointment.

The Community Building was still receiving a new face lift - inside and out. The Boone County Council on Aging received a gift of land in Little Thunder from Jack and Peggy Wolf in June 1997 for the construction of a new Senior Center. Leonard Carlson, Township Trustee and Council board member stated that an architect would be hired and a fund raising program implemented. The community and Council was most pleased with the donation of land as was Director Anna Gray.

Highway Commissioner Richard Lee was working to secure the necessary right-of-way at Riverside, Spring Creek and Beaver Valley roads for the purpose of re-aligning the dangerous intersection. Roadway striping was continuing on the township roads with the County and Township sharing the responsibilities. Assessor Falkenstein reported that the assessed valuation of Belvidere Township was \$317,911,842.00 - an increase of \$40 million from 1996. Growth was continuing. Leonard Carlson reported the supporting memberships at the Council on Aging had reached \$10,721.86 in the past 12 months. Anna Gray, Director of the Council on Aging, was continuing to meet with State Representative Ron Wait and Senator Dave Syverson to secure state funding for the new Senior Center. The second phase of the bike path / walk-way extension on Appleton Road would begin upon approval of the Windwood Plat. The Township was working with the City of Belvidere and School District 100 to resolve the road issues at the new Lincoln Elementary School, on the corner of the E-By and McKinley Avenue. With the City not annexing the corner where the school was built, that left the road responsibility in the hands of the Township and School District. The problem was resolved with inter-agency agreements and the road was built. The Town Board was pleased to have had their Highway Commissioner, Richard Lee coordinate the road extension with School District #100 and KB Farms.

Clerk Bahling administered the oath of office to William Leisher, Moderator for the Annual Town Meeting on April 14, 1998. The Town resident received information on the following: Supervisor Robert Turner gave the following general announcements and update on Spring Creek, Beaver Valley / Riverside Roads realignment, Dr. O'Malley's property on Riverside at the curve, Squaw Prairie Road improvements, Town Hall Road to Cassen was completed but consideration for an extension would be

considered if needed, Growth Dimensions and the Tollway interchanges, the Joint County / City / Township Recycling Center, the plans for extending Big Thunder Boulevard and easement extension of the project 1999 - 2001.

Anna Gray reported on the plans for the new Keen Age Center. The architect for the project is Philip Jensen. Richard Lee, Township Highway Commissioner explained and presented the plans for the road work for the upcoming construction season. Assessor H. Robert Falkenstein gave a report on the assessing abilities of his department. He stated there are 8,504 parcels to assess in the township. (444 farm land appraisals and 7,372 homes, 574 commercial, and 114 industrial properties. In 1991 there were 7,578 total parcels.) Other general business of the Town were presented after which the annual 1999 Town Meeting adjourned.

Township, City and County officials continued to meet with Jack Wolf throughout 1999 in discussion on the Big Thunder Extension. The Council on Aging had applied for a \$51,000 grant to extend the mini-bus service. Supervisor Turner stated the Riverfront Committee was working on a fund raiser for a bridge to be built, just west of the Veterans of Foreign Wars building (VFW Hall). Clerk Bahling was appointed to another three year term on the Community Building Complex Committee. Agreements were ordered drawn up between the Township and the City for the property the Township had secured for the City. The Township Board approved the City's "option to purchase" on June 23, 1998. The Recycling Center received a new face lift with new siding being installed to better compliment the neighborhood.

The Township supported Growth Dimensions meeting with Vanderwall and Associates of Madison, Wisconsin in reviewing an engineering plan titled the "West Hills" Development. A Township / County Sanitary District was also in the making. Belvidere Main Street Center Committee spokesperson, Eileen Hill, shared with the Town Board the accomplishments and future goals of the Belvidere Main Street Center. The Township remains supportive of the Belvidere Main Street Center program. "You never get a second chance to make a good first impression". Richard Lee reported that the safety roadway striping was almost completed and that the gas and oil tanks have been removed at the Recycling Center location.

The Council on Aging was busy making plans for their 25 year Anniversary event. The new heating and air conditioning work was almost complete at the Community Building. Other work to be done had been put out to bid noted Clerk Bahling. An intergovernmental meeting on the Sanitary District was scheduled for October 12, 1998.

State Representative Ron Wait, along with Senator Syverson, presented Anna Gray, Council

President Pat Murphy and the Boone County Council on Aging a check for \$250,000.00. Jim Metz was announced as the new Board Member on the Council on Aging. The Township and Growth Dimensions continued to favor parking places for the new State Street Bridge. Construction on the Squaw Prairie Bridge was started and estimated to take 55 working days to complete. A Township Investment Policy was planned to be in place in year 2000. The final parcel of land right-of-way necessary to improve the intersection of Spring Creek, Beaver Valley and Riverside Roads was secured on October 7, 1998.

Co-Chairs for the Riverfront fund raiser were Rob Funderburg and Donald Zierke, the goal: \$100,000.00. All township equipment will be Y2K compliant. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Boone County Council on Aging was acknowledged. The Community Building Complex Committee received an unexpected gift of \$5,000.00 each from Bill Wolf and Jack Wolf in memory of their parents C.J. "Doc" and Mable Wolf. The funds are to be used in hopes of making a full service kitchen in the Community Building.

Dave Faulkner, Bob Givononi and Kent Kniep were recommended as Directors for the new Sanitary District by County Board chairman Don Meier, Poplar Grove Township Supervisor Louis Anderson, Caledonia Township Supervisor Lyle Lamont and Belvidere Township Supervisor Robert Turner. The nominees received the full support of the Belvidere Township Board. As of December 8, 1998 the Township was waiting to hear back from the City Attorney on the Big Thunder Road Expansion.

The 1999 Annual Town Meeting was held on the third Tuesday in April due to the General Election. The City of Belvidere requested an appraisal on the 10' strip of township land to be used in conjunction with the 56' of the Nimtz property for the extension of Big Thunder Boulevard. The Township will deed this property to the City for \$1.00. To consummate the transaction, the Township was to petition to be annexed to the City. This was to be done at no charge to the Township. In return the City would fence and gate the Township property as needed by working with the Highway Commissioner. They would re-build the Township's north exit to Fairgrounds Road as needed and provide for two water and sewer hook ups and two additional stubs. The Highway Commissioner continued to work with the EPA and the Environmental Contractor of Illinois in cleaning up the tanks at the Recycling Center. The Riverfront fund raiser was a reported huge success with more than \$100,000 raised. On February 9, 1999, the Town Board heard a presentation by County Board Member Attorney John Young and Sheriff Duane Wirth on the need for a new addition to the current Boone County Jail. John Hare was also in attendance to support the 44,000 square foot addition at a cost of \$9.2 million.

Meetings continued in February with the City and Township on the extension of Big Thunder Boulevard. Improvements to the Community Building were continuing to be made and the Riverfront fund raiser was reported as most successful. Township Supervisor Turner, Highway Commissioner Lee and County Highway Engineer Lundin met in early May with Riverside property owner Larry Gloyd and banker Rob Funderburg regarding the "white fence" of Mr. Gloyd's. The fence is repeatedly the site of accidents due to the vehicles not slowing to negotiate the sharp curve. The last report we have is that 37 incidents have been reported - to say nothing of those not reported. To date, Belvidere Township Highway Commissioner Richard Lee has installed reflective tape on the fence, cautioning speed limit signs and a flashing yellow warning light. (Vehicles continue to attack the "white fence".) Resident John Young, in a letter to the Township, asked if any road work was going to be done on Orth Road because of the new sub-division being planned there. Commissioner Lee stated, "nothing's being done at this time".

The Budget and Appropriation Ordinances 1999 - 2000 governing the Town funds and accounts for the Road and Bridge accounts were adopted on May 25, 1999. Growth Dimensions Board Member, Supervisor Turner, reported State Representative Ron Wait announced a \$50,000 grant from the State of Illinois to assist the community with planning the new Agricultural Technology Park. The park is planned for the area south of the Tollway and west of Genoa Road.

Curtis Tobin, School District 100 Attorney, drafted an agreement in the amount of \$36,360.92 for the Township's share of Bonus Avenue. Representative Ron Wait assisted the City of Belvidere by securing State funds for the Bonus Avenue upgrade. On July 1, 1999 the Township adopted the State Gift Ban Ordinance #96-9377. The Township Ordinance is #99-02. Clerk Bahling was appointed the Ethics Officer for Belvidere Township by Supervisor Turner.

Alderman LaPier, representing the City of Belvidere inquired if the Township would sell any of their property at 8200 Fairgrounds Road to the city for a new fire station and OSF ambulance quarters. The city was considering other locations in the North State Street / Business Route 20 area. There are parcels in the "West Hills" area that are also being considered for future fire / rescue stations. The Riverfront Committee continued to address right-of-way at Dodge Lanes and with Tri-State Marketing, owners of the Amoco station at Business Route 20 and Appleton Road. With a new agreement in place the Township paid K-B Farms \$36,360.92 for their share of the Bonus Avenue improvement at the site of the new Lincoln Elementary School. The Township and City continued discussion on water and sewer and a lift station improvement to the Big Thunder Boulevard road area with the Township agreeing to share all costs at 50%. This concept was approved by the Town Board on September 28, 1999.

Throughout the balance of 1999, Belvidere Township embraced their support of the Boone County Council on Aging, the Riverfront and Community Building Complex Committees, the City / County / Township Recycling Center, Crimestoppers and Belvidere Main Street Center. Also continuing to be addressed was the computer upgrading of the Assessor's office by Chief Deputy Assessor Linda Treu (20 year employee) and the Life / Safety Road Program of the Highway Commissioner and Kelly Gipp. Gipp is a 20 year veteran of the Highway Department. Continued requests for traffic signal lights at Shaw Road and Business Route 20 were being pursued with County engineer Richard Lundin; IDOT District 2 Engineer to assist.

Miles of roads in Belvidere Township is at 75.44, an increase of 21.89 miles since 1976. The 1999 estimated Township Assessed Valuation has increased to \$356,894,410.00. The new bridge on Squaw Prairie Road is open to the public and the Spring Creek / Riverside / Beaver Valley Road intersection improvement will commence in 2000. The City Council will build the Big Thunder Boulevard extension on the Nimtzy property and will not need any Township property. The Township property will remain in the County as we enter the new millennium and void of water and sewer until such time as the area is developed. On December 2, 1999, the Belvidere Daily Republican reported that Poplar Grove Village President Roger Day told the Board of Growth Dimensions the new Poplar Grove / Bel-Air Estates wastewater treatment plant should be operating soon.

Steve Thomas, Poplar Grove Airport President and Bel-Air Estates developer, assisted in this 25 year update as did Anna Gray, Executive Director of the Boone County Council on Aging, Boone County Supervisor of Assessments Pat Elder and the Official Minutes of the Belvidere Township Board Meetings. The West Hills Neighborhood Plan, totally in Belvidere Township, will receive whatever support and direction that Belvidere Township can provide as we enter into the new millennium. Township government in the State of Illinois will be 150 years old in the year 2000. Not a special interest group, but a chartered Government by State Statute and still to this day, 150 years later, the Government Closest To The People!