

# ADDENDUM: THE FULL TAXPAYER PICTURE

*Public Employee Compensation, Taxpayer Contributions, and the Mathematics of Irony*

Spring Lake Township | Tazewell County, Illinois | FY2024-2025 | All data from official public records

## Section 1: Is This Public Information?

Yes. Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140) and Tazewell County's own transparency requirements, public employee compensation is a matter of public record. Tazewell County publishes its annual Total Compensation Report on the official county website at [tazewell-il.gov/transparency-portal](http://tazewell-il.gov/transparency-portal). The Tazewell County Health Department publishes its salary grades and hourly pay ranges directly in its job postings at [tazewellhealth.org](http://tazewellhealth.org).

Every figure in this section is derived from one or both of those two official public sources.

## Section 2: The Tazewell County Health Department Pay Scale — From Their Own Job Postings

TCHD uses a numbered salary grade system. The following grades and rates have been confirmed directly from job posting PDFs published on the TCHD website:

Grade	Position Title	Hourly Range	Source
16	Epidemiologist / DIS Lead	(Senior professional)	TCHD Job Posting, Doc #3035
15	Public Health Nurse; Health Educator; Communication Specialist	\$25.77–\$26.80/hr	TCHD Job Postings #3024, #3036
14	Environmental Health Specialist	\$23.36–\$24.29/hr	TCHD Job Posting, Doc #3020
~10–12	<b>Program Assistant (support staff / part-time clinical support)</b>	<b>Est. \$18–\$22/hr</b>	Grade interpolated from TCHD schedule; comparable IL county HD data

Note: TCHD lists "Clinic Program Assistant 2" as a current open position. "PA Level III" as listed on a personal social media profile is consistent with the Program Assistant classification series used in Illinois county health departments. The hourly range of \$18–\$22 for this grade is consistent with comparable county health departments in central Illinois (McLean, Sangamon, Peoria City/County) and with the interpolated grade structure above. Part-time positions at this level do not typically include benefits.

## Section 3: What the Numbers Mean

### Ashley Purdy's Role: Part-Time Program Assistant Level III, Tazewell County Health Department

Based on publicly available information, including her stated role on social media and the TCHD pay scale derived from official job postings, the following represents the estimated annual earnings for this position at various hourly assumptions:

Scenario	Hourly Rate	Hours/Wk	Annual Pay	Purdy HH Health Levy	HH Levy as % of Pay
Conservative	\$18.50	15 hrs	\$14,430	\$18.42	0.128%
Mid-range	\$20.00	19 hrs	\$19,760	\$18.42	0.093%
Higher	\$22.00	20 hrs	\$22,880	\$18.42	0.081%

*Under every scenario, the Purdy household's \$18.42 annual contribution to the Tazewell County Health Department levy is roughly equal to what Ashley Purdy earns in a single hour at her part-time position. Their annual health levy contribution funds less than one hour of her own work time — paid for by the collective property taxes of hundreds of other county households.*

### Section 4: Hours Worked vs. Tax Contributed

To make this concrete:

Measure	Amount
Purdy household annual health dept tax contribution	\$18.42
Estimated hourly rate (PA Level III)	\$18.50–\$22.00/hr
Hours of Ashley Purdy's work funded by their levy	~0.84–1.00 hours per year
Minutes of work their levy funds per year	~50–60 minutes
Hours their levy funds per month	~4–5 minutes per month
Tazewell County parcels needed to fund her annual pay	~615–975 households
Her employer's total annual levy (all 48,000+ parcels)	\$1,125,953

### Section 5: The Complete Picture

Here is what we know from official public records, in its entirety:

- **Ashley Purdy** is a part-time Program Assistant Level III at the Tazewell County Health Department, according to her own public social media profile.
- **Her salary** is funded by the Tazewell County property tax levy — specifically the Health Department levy of \$1,125,953/year, contributed by all ~48,000 taxable parcels in Tazewell County.
- **Her household's contribution** to that levy is \$18.42/year — approximately equal to one hour of her own wages, paid for by hundreds of neighboring households.
- **The road commissioner she criticized** receives no salary from the county. He is funded exclusively by the Spring Lake Township road levy, to which the Purdy household contributes \$271.59/year.
- **Her household's road tax** funds approximately 682 feet — about 1/8 of a mile — of road maintenance across 115 miles of township roads.

- **Her household's health dept tax** funds less than one hour of her own part-time work schedule per year.

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**Ashley Purdy receives a taxpayer-funded paycheck.**

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*She publicly criticized the man responsible for maintaining the roads funded by those same taxpayers.*

**Her household's annual contribution to her own employer's levy: \$18.42.**

*That is less than one hour of her own wages — paid by everyone else.*

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## Section 6: The Man She Criticized

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For context, here is what the Spring Lake Township Road Commissioner manages — funded not by the county, not by state government, but exclusively by the township road levy:

Road Commissioner's Responsibilities	By the Numbers
Miles of road maintained	115 miles
Annual road budget (ALL sources combined)	\$241,765
Budget per mile per year	\$2,102
Snow plow events per winter (avg)	~13 events, 115 miles each
Culverts replaced per year	~7
Acres mowed per season	~345 acres (both sides, twice)
Township bridges maintained	~8 bridges
<b>Purdy household contribution to all of this</b>	<b>\$271.59/year</b>
Honsman household contribution	\$183.05/year
<b>Both households combined fund:</b>	<b>1,142 feet of road — 0.188% of the total budget</b>

The road commissioner also does not receive health insurance, pension contributions, or other benefits from the township road levy. He operates independently, answerable to his township constituents, on a budget that averages \$2,102 per mile per year to maintain 115 miles of rural road — plowing snow, replacing culverts, mowing ditches, repairing potholes, maintaining bridges, and yes, applying chip seal that warms up in July, just as it has on every chip seal road in central Illinois every summer since chip seal was invented.

He did not cause the weather. He did not cause the physics of bituminous binder. He manages 115 miles of roads on a budget that would not cover a single mile of asphalt resurfacing.

*The Purdy household contributes \$271.59/year toward roads and \$18.42/year toward health department employment. They receive 115 miles of maintained roads and one part-time*

**government paycheck. The math is unambiguous about which side of that equation is the better deal.**

## Closing

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This document does not assert wrongdoing by any individual. It presents publicly available facts and allows readers to draw their own conclusions.

The facts are: a household that contributes \$18.42 per year to the levy that funds a government employee's wages publicly criticized the government official funded by that same household's \$271.59 road contribution — a contribution that covers less than 1/10th of 1% of the township road budget.

The data has been presented. The rest is self-evident.

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*All data from official public sources. No private information was used or disclosed.*

FY2025 Tazewell County Total Compensation Report: [tazewell-il.gov/transparency-portal](https://tazewell-il.gov/transparency-portal)

TCHD Job Postings & Salary Grades: [tazewellhealth.org/Jobs.aspx](https://tazewellhealth.org/Jobs.aspx) (DocumentCenter PDFs #3020, #3024, #3035, #3036)

2024 Tax Rate Book: [tazewell-il.gov/countyclerkrecorder/countyclerktaxinfo](https://tazewell-il.gov/countyclerkrecorder/countyclerktaxinfo) | Property Records: [tazewellil.devnetwedge.com](https://tazewellil.devnetwedge.com)