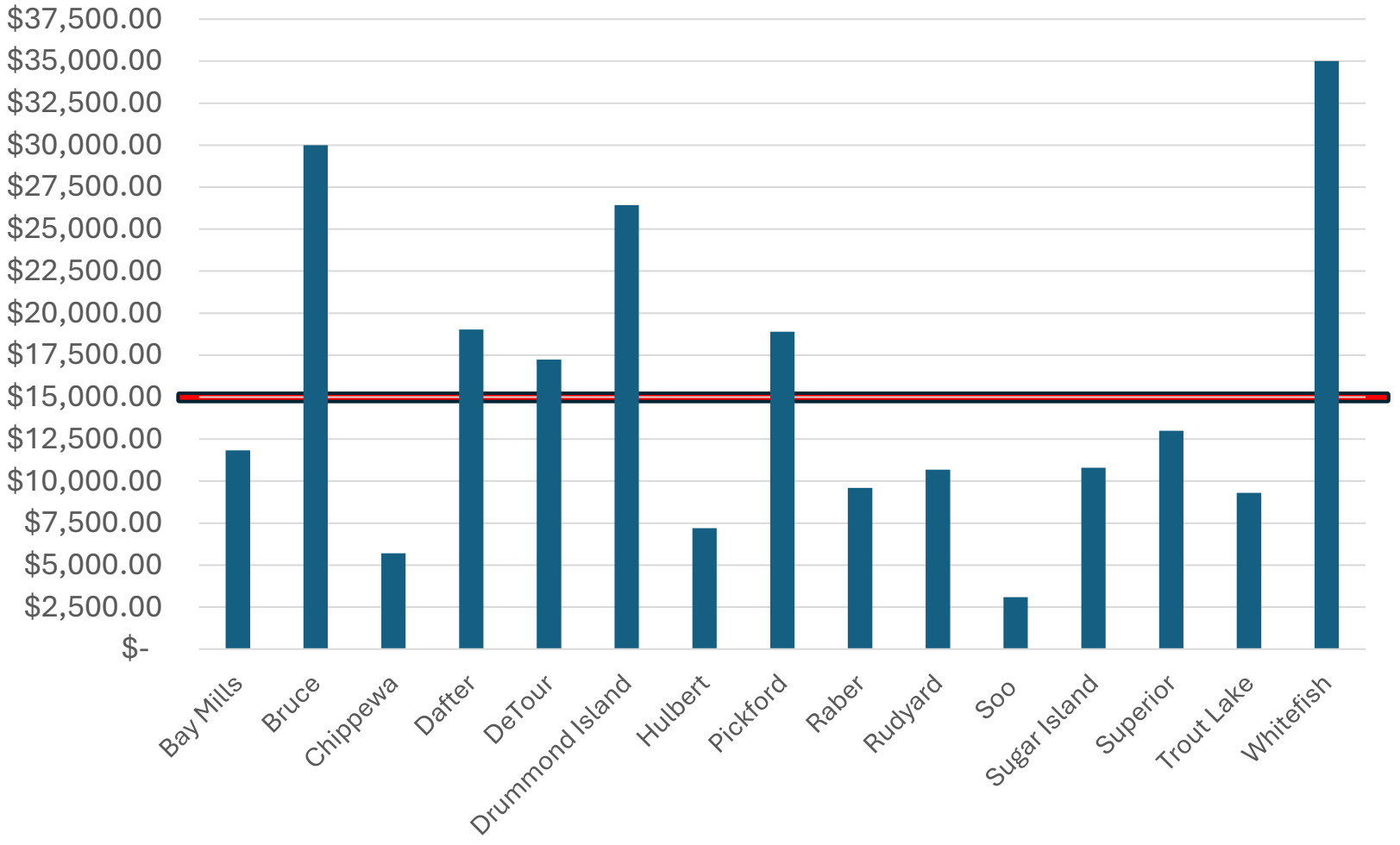
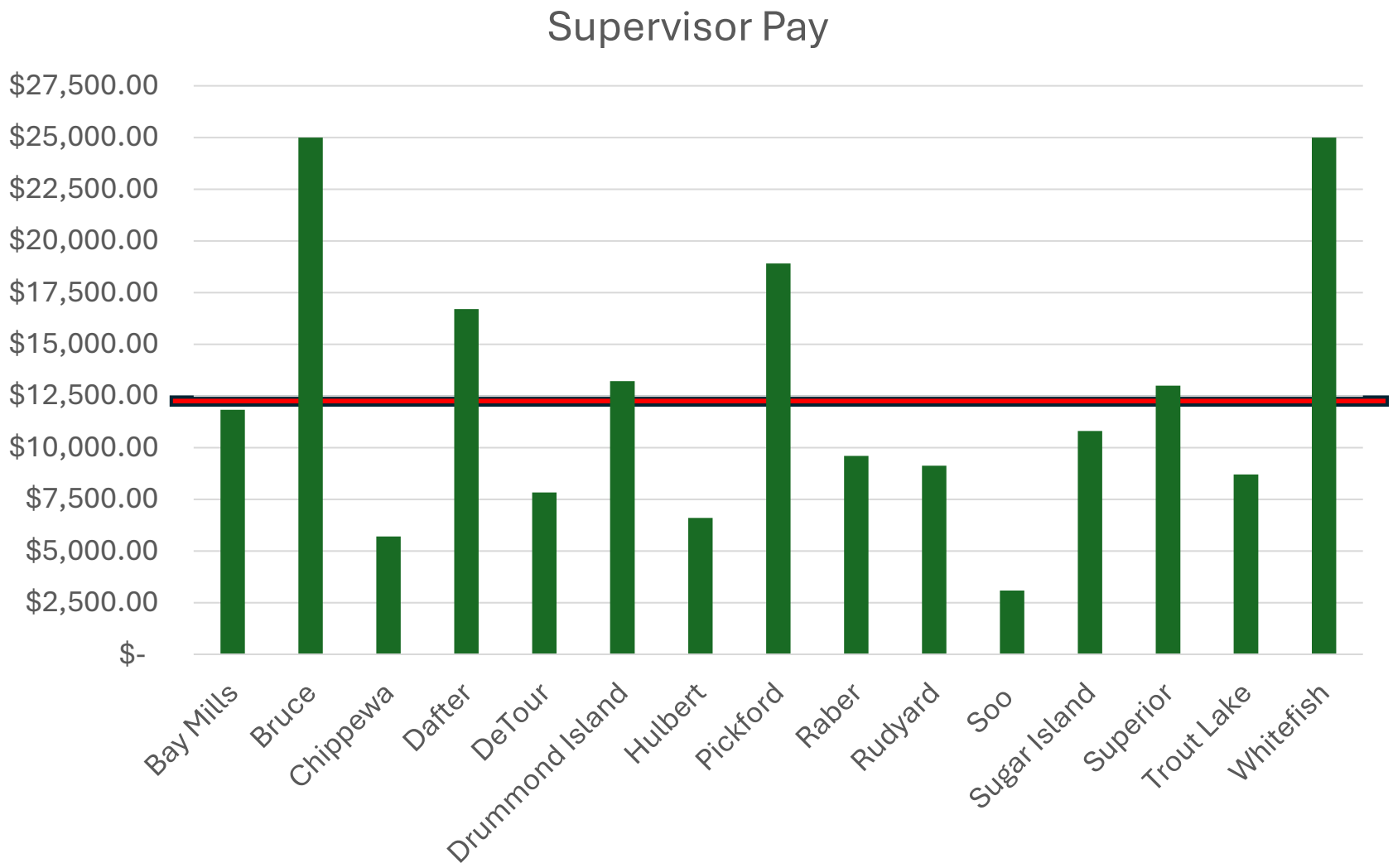
Chippewa County

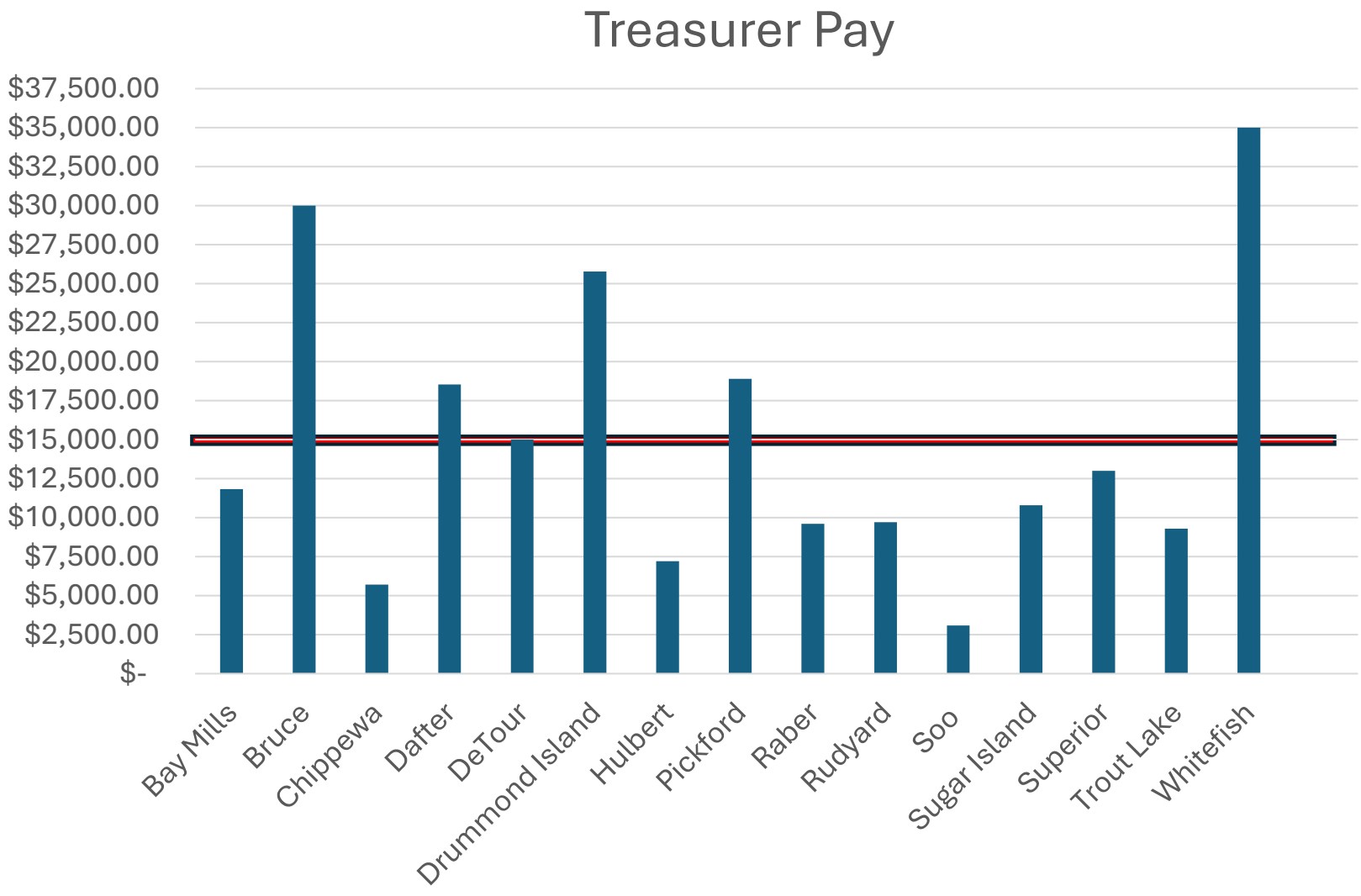
Township Elected Official Salaries

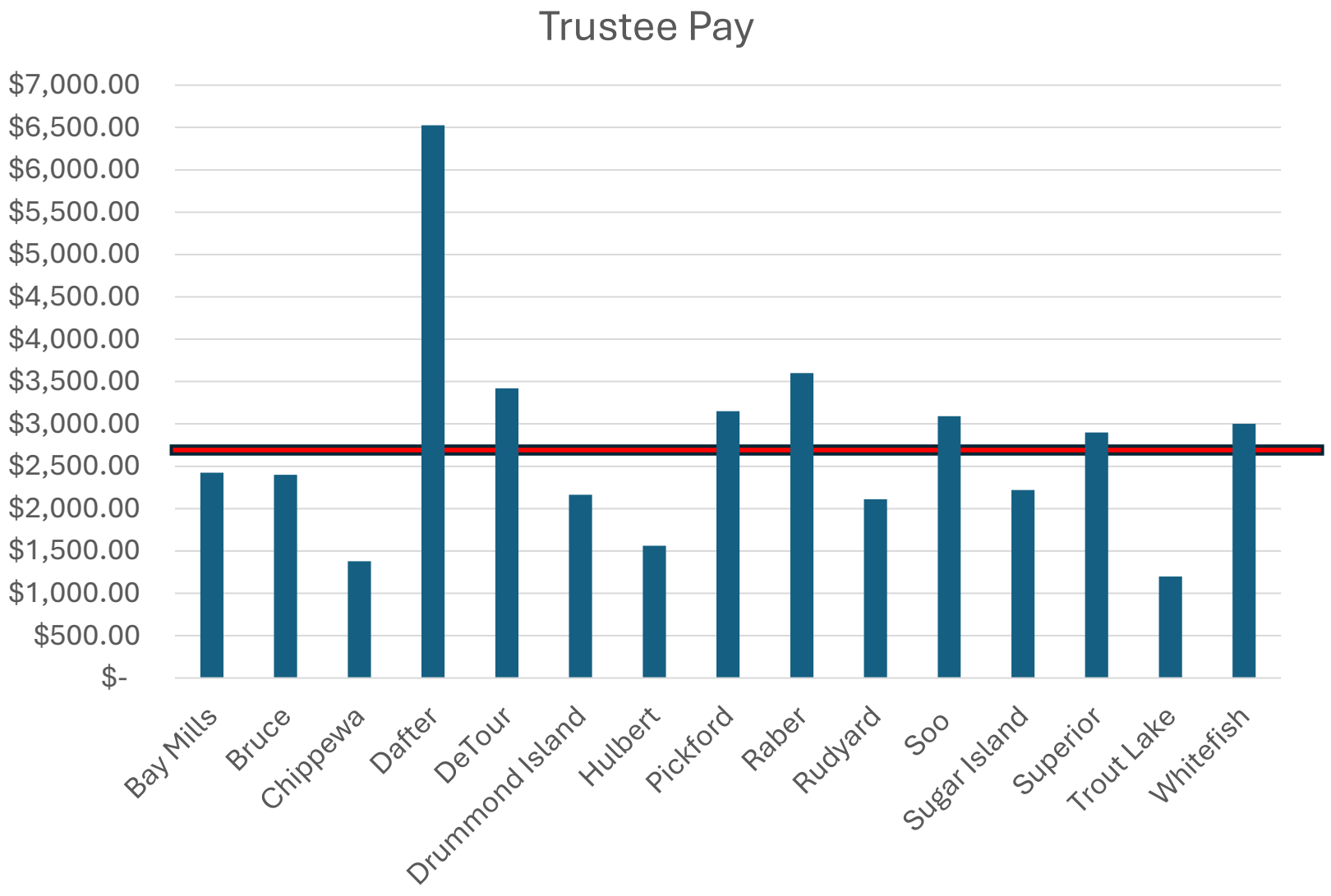
As of September 30, 2026

Clerk Pay


$37,500.00
$35,000.00
$32,500.00
$30,000.00
$27,500.00
$25,000.00
$22,500.00
$20,000.00
$17,500.00
$15,000.00
$12,500.00
$10,000.00
$7,500.00
$5,000.00
$2,500.00
$-
Bay Mills
Bruce
Chippewa
Dafter
DeTour
Drummond Island
Hulbert
Pickford
Raber
Rudyard
Soo
Sugar Island
Superior
Trout Lake
Whitefish


Supervisor Pay
$27,500.00
$25,000.00
$22,500.00
$20,000.00
$17,500.00
$15,000.00
$12,500.00
$10,000.00
$7,500.00
$5,000.00
$2,500.00
$-
Bay Mills
Bruce
Chippewa
Dafter
DeTour
Drummond Island
Hulbert
Pickford
Raber
Rudyard
Soo
Sugar Island
Superior
Trout Lake
Whitefish


Treasurer Pay
$37,500.00
$35,000.00
$32,500.00
$30,000.00
$27,500.00
$25,000.00
$22,500.00
$20,000.00
$17,500.00
$15,000.00
$12,500.00
$10,000.00
$7,500.00
$5,000.00
$2,500.00
$-
Bay Mills
Bruce
Chippewa
Dafter
DeTour
Drummond Island
Hulbert
Pickford
Raber
Rudyard
Soo
Sugar Island
Superior
Trout Lake
Whitefish


Trustee Pay
$7,000.00
$6,500.00
$6,000.00
$5,500.00
$5,000.00
$4,500.00
$4,000.00
$3,500.00
$3,000.00
$2,500.00
$2,000.00
$1,500.00
$1,000.00
$500.00
$-
Bay Mills
Bruce
Chippewa
Dafter
DeTour
Drummond Island
Hulbert
Pickford
Raber
Rudyard
Soo
Sugar Island
Superior
Trout Lake
Whitefish

DATA

TOWNSHIP	Supervisor	Rank	Clerk	Rank	Treasurer	Rank	Trustees	Rank
Bay Mills	$ 11,825.00	7	$ 11,825.00	8	$ 11,825.00	8	$ 2,424.00	8
Bruce	$ 25,000.00	1	$ 30,000.00	2	$ 30,000.00	2	$ 2,400.00	9
Chippewa	$ 5,700.00	14	$ 5,700.00	14	$ 5,700.00	14	$ 1,380.00	14
Dafter	$ 16,702.82	4	$ 19,028.67	4	$ 18,528.67	5	$ 6,525.58	1
DeTour	$ 7,828.80	12	$ 17,237.76	6	$ 15,002.16	6	$ 3,420.00	3
Drummond Island	$ 13,211.00	5	$ 26,440.12	3	$ 25,778.00	3	$ 2,163.00	11
Hulbert	$ 6,600.00	13	$ 7,200.00	13	$ 7,200.00	13	$ 1,560.00	13
Pickford	$ 18,900.00	3	$ 18,900.00	5	$ 18,900.00	4	$ 3,150.00	4
Raber	$ 9,600.00	9	$ 9,600.00	11	$ 9,600.00	11	$ 3,600.00	2
Rudyard	$ 9,120.00	10	$ 10,680.00	10	$ 9,708.00	10	$ 2,112.00	12
Soo	$ 3,090.00	15	$ 3,090.00	15	$ 3,090.00	15	$ 3,090.00	5
Sugar Island	$ 10,800.00	8	$ 10,800.00	9	$ 10,800.00	9	$ 2,220.00	10
Superior	$ 13,000.00	6	$ 13,000.00	7	$ 13,000.00	7	$ 2,900.00	7
Trout Lake	$ 8,700.00	11	$ 9,300.00	12	$ 9,300.00	12	$ 1,200.00	15
Whitefish	$ 25,000.00	1	$ 35,000.00	1	$ 35,000.00	1	$ 3,000.00	6
Annual Averages	$ 12,338.51	7	$ 15,186.77	7	$ 14,895.46	6	$ 2,742.97	8
Monthly Averages	$ 1,028.21		$ 1,265.56		$ 1,241.29		$ 228.58	

Patterns & Notes

- Seven of the fifteen reporting townships compensate their Supervisors, Clerks and Treasurer's (Big Three) at the same rate.
- Eight of the fifteen reporting townships compensate their Clerks at a rate higher than their Supervisors.
- Eleven of the fifteen reporting townships compensate their Clerks and Treasurers at the same rate.
- Two of the fifteen reporting townships (i.e., Pickford & Soo) pay all of their elected officials at the same rate.
- Statistical Outliers:
  - Bruce Township-Big Three
  - Chippewa Township-All
  - Dafter & Trout Lake Townships-Trustees
  - Drummond Island Township-Clerk & Treasurer
  - Hulbert Township-All
  - Soo Township- Big Three
  - Whitefish Township-Big Three

Interesting Facts

- Townships with the highest paid elected officials used a referendum (i.e., vote of the people) or a simple annual resolution to establish their salaries.
- Some Townships use part-time employees (not including deputies) to perform tasks that might otherwise fall to elected officials. This option increases the amount of money the township pays for a specific function, but it does offer a level of continuity and stability when one or more of the Big Three elected officials change.
- Since deputies are not required to be residents of the Township it appears to be an option to appoint individuals with a specific knowledge, skills, abilities or talents to hold deputy positions even if they reside elsewhere.
- Not all Townships ask their trustees to perform tasks outside of attending board meetings. Actually, some Townships only pay their Trustees when they come to meetings. Therefore, it stands to reason that a Trustee performing tasks for the Township might be paid more than a trustee that only participates in the monthly meetings.

Preliminary Summary for Sugar Island Township

Before we begin a formal analysis, we must first need to identify and examine outliers and the reasons those significant differences exist. It is also important to note the obvious fact that no two of the fifteen general law townships operate the same way, provide the same services, and have the same populations or the same capability to fund various aspects of governance. However,

- Salaries for Sugar Island's elected officials are below average.
  More specifically:
    Clerk: Current pay of $10,800 is about $4,400 less than the average
    Treasurer: Current pay of $10,800 is about $4,100 less than the average
    Supervisor: Current pay of $10,800 is about $1,400 less than the average
    Trustees: Current pay of $2,220 is about $520 less than the average

- The law permits deputies to work at the "pleasure of the official" and to serve as a substitute for the official (with some stipulations). This analysis does not consider deputies in the process, so one should not assume that all deputies perform the same functions, or that the appointing officials perform the same week to week functions.

Next Steps

- Interview outliers to document and report potential reasons for the significant differences.
- In the meantime, the Township Board must consider options including:
  - To engage formally with the public (i.e., conduct a public hearing)
  - Examine policies regarding other potential incentives to adjust compensation in accordance with MCL 15.183 for assigned additional, non-statutory duties to Board members, especially Trustees.
  - Examine the actual cost of various office functions and then properly apportion amounts to the elected officials and their deputies.
  - Generally speaking, non-statutory duties are those that might otherwise be assigned to an employee/contractor.
- If it is determined that a change is necessary, a resolution must be created, approved, and then made effective at the beginning of the nest fiscal year (i.e., April 1, 2027).

Questions or comments regarding this document should be forwarded to Mark Eitrem, Supervisor of Sugar Island Township (SITwpSupervisor@gmail.com)