

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BEST PRACTICES

Categories:

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Administrative:

- | | Yes | No |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Do you require your Elected Officials to attend basic courses on their responsibilities and obligations in Local Government? (Courses should include: Budgeting, Policy Setting, Local Government Contracting, Risk Management, and Open Public Records Act. These courses should be coordinated through, Rutgers, County and State League of Municipalities, Mayors Association, NJAC and JIFs) | ☒ | ☐ |
| 2. Has your municipality established an "Absence from Meetings Policy" for elected officials/appointed board members? | ☐ | ☒ |
| 3. Do you share service of a Tax Assessor, Tax Collector or Chief Financial Officer? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 4. Did you renew Shared Service Contracts or Agreements during the last calendar/fiscal year? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 5. Does your municipality maintain an up-to-date municipal website containing, but not limited to the following? | ☒ | ☐ |
| a. Both proposed and adopted budgets for at least 3 years; | ☒ | ☐ |
| b. Notification(s) for solicitation of Bids and RFPs; | ☒ | ☐ |
| c. Employee business contact information; | ☒ | ☐ |
| d. Minutes and Agendas – Governing Body, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and Commissions; | ☒ | ☐ |
| e. Proposed ordinances for public hearing and all other required public notices | ☒ | ☐ |
| f. Display annual up-to-date Municipal and Land Use Ordinances on website. | ☒ | ☐ |
| 6. In the last year, did you participate in any type of strategic planning process designed to help you restructure to reduce costs? | ☒ | ☐ |

Personnel:

- | | Yes | No |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Do you have a Personnel Manual and/or Employee Handbook? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 2. Do you conduct Ethics Training? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 3. Does your municipality provide annual Employment Practice Liability training for Elected Officials, Managers, Administrators, Department Heads and Supervisors? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 4. Has your municipality in contract negotiations considered overtime assignments to be based on the work to be performed rather than seniority? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 5. Do your new contract increases limit salary & wages to 2% or less? | ☐ | ☒ |
| 6. Does your municipality limit Health Benefits to full-time (35 or more hours weekly), excluding from coverage all part-time employees, elected or appointed officials? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 7. Has your municipality implemented cost sharing for health benefits of at least 1.5 percent of salary for all employees? | ☒ | ☐ |

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8. Has your municipality reviewed its accrued absence policy? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 9. Does your municipality have a policy for use of municipal vehicles? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 10. Does your municipality have an approval process for overtime that is not limited to the department head? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 11. Does the municipality review overtime by department by category year over year? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 12. Does your municipality maintain a minimum work year of 2080 hours, for all full time employees? | ☐ | ☒ |

Procurement Policies:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Yes | No |
| 1. Has your municipality solicited for competitive insurance proposals or self-insured funds in the last three years? (Liability and/or Health) | ☒ | ☐ |
| 2. Are you utilizing the Fair and Open process for <i>Professional Service Agreements</i> ? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 3. Does your municipality utilize some or all contract awards through the "Fair and Open" versus "Nonfair and Open" process? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 4. Do you RFP <i>Professional Services Agreements</i> at least every three years? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 5. Do you employ a Qualified Purchasing Agent? | ☒ | ☐ |

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Financial Standard:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Yes | No |
| 1. Did you adopt your budget without a waiver from the Local Finance Board? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 2. Did the municipality introduce and adopt its last budget within the filing deadline? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 3. Did your municipality hold a tax lien sale within the past year, and all eligible properties included, ensuring the property stays current or return to, a tax paying basis? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 4. Have you conducted an annual random internal controls review and documentation inspection to ensure that controls are functioning as required? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 5. Does your most recent Audit Report reflect that the general ledger, fixed asset accounting and encumbrance systems are in place, and maintained on a current basis? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 6. Do you conduct a revaluation at intervals frequent enough to ensure that the discrepancy between assessed valuation and fair market value of properties is no more than 30%? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 7. Do you participate in the purchase of fuel, electric or gas in bulk through Cooperative Purchasing (County/State) and or a member of a SEM (Sustainable Energy Meeting) or any other similar group purchase program? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 8. Did you file your Annual Statutory Debt Statement within the required time period? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 9. Did you file your Annual Financial Statement within the required time period? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 10. Do you annually review and update your investment policy and compare it to actual investments at least once a year to document that principle is maintained, and interest is maximized? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 11. Do your municipal utilities show a five year infrastructure plan, including | ☒ | ☐ |

- holding rates stable and/or less than 2.0%, as well as fund balance stability?
12. Does the municipality obtain a Type II SAS 70 Report, for service providers, including but not limited to Payroll Service and Third Party Administrators for self insurance funds? ☒ ☐
13. Have you reviewed your banking relationships within the past two years to ensure that you are receiving the best value for your deposits? ☒ ☐

Budget Preparation:

- | | Yes | No |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Did you prepare a five year summary showing the amount of surplus anticipated and the percentage of the budget that this represents? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 2. Did the summary demonstrate the entities ability to retain and regenerate fund balance at a sufficient level to maintain the entities current Bond Rating? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 3. Did your municipality prepare a five year analysis showing the surplus utilized compared to the surplus regenerated? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 4. Did you prepare a detailed schedule of appropriations by the following categories: (Including a chart showing the amounts compared by category for five years)? | ☒ | ☐ |
| • Salary and Wages | ☒ | ☐ |
| • Other Expenses | ☒ | ☐ |
| • Deferred Charges | ☒ | ☐ |
| • Capital Debt Service | ☒ | ☐ |
| • Reserve for Uncollected Taxes | ☒ | ☐ |
| 5. Was a five year chart or graph prepared showing, in declining order, the largest dollar line items to the smallest dollar line items? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 6. Was a five year analysis prepared showing the expense categories with the largest dollar increase year over year and the expense categories with the largest percentage increase? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 7. Did you prepare an analysis of major cost centers such as, Health Insurance, Energy, Pension, Salaries for the last five years, showing year over year and cumulative increases? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 8. Did your municipality begin internal budget discussions with reviews of historical budget vs. actual data for the past three years on a department by department basis? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 9. Were departmental budget requests above a certain threshold presented and discussed by the respective department heads? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 10. Do you use charting and graphing in your budget analysis for pictorial analysis of major items and their respective percentage of the total budget? | ☒ | ☐ |

Budget Presentation:

- | | Yes | No |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Was a multi-year budget history and projection showing three years of history and two years of projections prepared in a "Viewer Friendly" style for public use? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 2. Did your municipality categorize revenue into five to ten major groupings and prepare a five year history to demonstrate the revenue trend and the entities ability to realize the amounts anticipated in the current year? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 3. Did your budget presentation list the percent increase year-over-year for each line item? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 4. Did your budget presentation present the percentage increases in line items | ☐ | ☒ |

- from highest percentage increase to lowest?
5. Does the budget presentation present each department's costs, inclusive of direct & indirect costs, as a percentage of the overall budget?

☒ ☐

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Has your municipality appointed a Safety Officer out of current municipal workforce to train management and staff in formal risk assessment process to decrease liability claims and injuries?
2. Do you maintain a formal Safety Program which includes written policies and claims review?
3. Do you retain a management approved physician for workers compensation claims management?
4. Is your Police Department accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA) or have senior officers had advanced training through professional agencies/academy?
5. Is your Police/Fire Dispatch handled by civilian (non-sworn) employees?
6. Does your Fire Department (controlled agency) participate in the NFIRS reporting system?
7. Does your municipality have a Shared Service Agreement for Firearms Range utilization or use of county facilities?

Yes No

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Do you have Shared Service Agreements, either as a provider or receiver, for public works equipment, rolling stock or services on a regular basis?
2. Did you evaluate your solid waste removal and recycling costs in the last 3 years or when contracts expire? (Either municipal operated or contracted out)
3. Have you limited your publicly funded pick-up of trash and recycling to curb-side or central drop-off service?
4. Do you maintain a minimum recycling rate of 35% or above?
5. Have you increased your local recycling collection by at least 5% in the last year?
6. If your municipality issues published or posted newsletters to the residents, did it promote recycling efforts & solid waste management in compliance with the storm water regulations?

Yes No

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

☐ ☒

☒ ☐

HEALTH

1. Do you have a local Health Department and employ a full-time Health Officer?
2. Do you share health services or welfare services with another municipality or county?
3. Do you employ outside services for a local nurse or share with another municipality?

Yes No

☐ ☒ N/A

☒ ☐

☒ ☐

ENERGY & UTILITIES

1. Have you conducted energy audit at all municipal facilities to evaluate heating, lighting, ventilating and air conditioning systems updates that may

Yes No

☒ ☐

- reduce energy consumption?
2. Do you participate in the League's Sustainable Jersey Certification program? ☐ ☒
 3. Are you a certified Sustainable Jersey town? ☐ ☒
 4. Has the municipality conducted an inventory of all active telephone numbers that are billed to the municipality? ☒ ☐
 5. Does the municipality have a cell phone policy? If so, does it conduct spot reviews of the itemized bills? ☒ ☐
 6. Does the municipality review its calling plan to ensure appropriate level? ☒ ☐

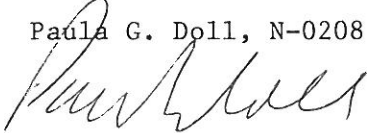
MUNICIPAL SCHOOL RELATIONS

- | | Yes | No |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Have you held or scheduled a "Joint Yearly Open Public Meeting" between the School Board and the Governing Body to discuss Community needs and shared services? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 2. Do you share playing fields/recreation services with your Board of Education? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 3. Do you share equipment with the Board of Education? | ☒ | ☐ |
| 4. Have you held a joint budget presentation of the municipal and school budgets to the Community? | ☒ | ☐ |

Date Certified: 09/27/2010

Chief Financial Officer
Name/Certification #

Paula G. Doll, N-0208



Percentage ranges:

Number of "Yes" Answers	Percentage of Final State Aid payout
76 - 88	100%
61 - 75	99
46 - 60	98
31 - 45	97
16 - 30	96
0 - 15	95

	Total Available Points	Scored "Yes" Points
General Management	29	26
Financial Management	33	32
Public Safety	7	7
Public Works	6	5
Health	3/2	2
Energy & Utilities	6	4
Municipal & School Relations	4	4
TOTAL	88/87	77