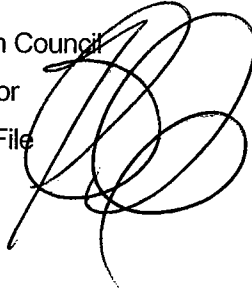


Jim (DAR)

Memo

To: Mayor Glatt & Members of Common Council
From: Christopher Cotter, City Administrator
CC: Scott Olsen, City Treasurer / CFO; File
Date: September 2, 2011
Re: Best Practices Check List



With the passage of the property tax levy cap legislation, regulations were included requiring local governments to report compliance with certain practices. The so-called "best practices" check list was developed for 2010 and has evolved into a new version for 2011. A copy of the completed check list is attached for your information and review.

While there is no actual "best practices" manual, and the evaluation tool continues to evolve, the concept is intended to review local government practices for efficiency. Not all of the categories apply to every community and where not applicable, the response "N/A" is inserted in the answer column. Also, some responses require further explanation; in those cases comments are included. Finally, a practice that may not currently be employed may be instituted "prospectively" and is so recorded as an answer.

In consultation with the City Administrator, the check list is completed and certified by the City Treasurer / CFO. The State may withhold financial aid for a community that does not meet a certain threshold. The compliance rate for Summit exceeds the level required.

In keeping with the requirement for public discussion of the check list, this matter will be included as a *Discussion, Action & Referral* agenda item as part of the September 7th meeting of Common Council.

Best Practices Worksheet CY 2012

Summit City (Union)			
2018			
	Question	Answer	Comments
General Management			
1	Has your municipality adopted a pay-to-play ordinance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-51? This law allows the municipality and its agencies to prohibit the award of public contracts to business entities that have made certain campaign contributions exceeding \$300 and to limit the contributions that the holders of a contract can make during the term of a contract to \$300. A model ordinance concerning pay-to-play can be found at: www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/pay to play ordinance-contractor.doc	Yes	
2	Did your municipality evaluate and/or enter into at least one new shared service or cooperative agreement in 2010, outside of joining cooperative purchasing system?	Yes	Equipment sharing, Wastewater agreement
3	Does your municipality maintain an up-to-date municipal website containing, but not limited to: past three years adopted budgets; and the current year proposed budget including the full adopted budget for current year when approved by the governing body; most recent annual financial statements and audits; notification(s) for solicitation of Bids and RFPs; employee contact information; and meeting dates, minutes and agendas for the governing body, planning board, board of adjustment and all commissions?	Yes	Yes to all except: only meeting dates for planning board, board of adjustment and commissions
4	Does your municipality's legal counsel review procurement specifications and sign off on all major professional service contracts before the documents are signed?	Yes	Attorney reviews contracts but does not "sign off"
5	Does your municipality have an ongoing policy cross referencing the submittal of Certificates of Occupancy from the Construction Official to the Tax Assessor?	Yes	
6	Is your municipality's computer information backed up regularly, pursuant to a written backup policy and is data stored offsite?	Yes	
7	Does your municipality require its elected officials to attend basic courses on responsibilities and obligations in local government (i.e. budgeting, policy setting, local government contracting, risk management, and compliance with the Open Public Records Act)?	Yes	JIF requires risk management attendance; Officials encouraged to attend Rutgers and League of Municipalities courses
8	If your municipality assigns employees with vehicles that can be taken home after work hours, is there a written policy in place to prohibit personal use and does that policy ensure that the commuting miles are reflected in employee W-2s?	Yes	Written policy in place. Commuting miles not reflected in W-2; vehicles for emergency recall only

Best Practices Worksheet CY 2012

Summit City (Union)			
2018			
	Question	Answer	Comments
9	Does your municipality sell personal property (fire trucks, road equipment, confiscated items, etc.) through an approved online auction system to broaden the market area for increased revenue?	Yes	
10	Are ordinances codified on an annual basis and made available electronically and/or in an existing ordinance book for the public?	Yes	
11	Has your municipality established an "Absence from Meetings Policy" for elected officials and appointed board members?	Yes	Ordinance addresses commissioners & appointed members, not elected officials
Financial Standards			
1	Does your municipality's newly (within the last six months) negotiated public employee contracts refrain from increasing base salary items by more than an average of two (2%) percent annually over the aggregate amount expended in the final year of the previous contract?	Yes	None within the last 6 months but prior to that several were negotiated to less than 2% on average
2	Is there a system of checks and balances over the purchasing and disbursement functions, including payroll (e.g., the same employee who prepares the checks also reconciles the bank account would not be a proper system of checks and balances)?	Yes	
3	Does your municipality have written procedures pertaining to cash receipts and cash disbursements including but not limited to: receiving, recording and preparing deposits for cash receipts; and processing, reviewing, and approving disbursements?	Yes	Written procedures for disbursements part of purchasing manual
4	Does management (department heads) review and approve all payroll disbursements, invoices, and purchase orders before final approval of the governing body by resolution?	Yes	
5	Are bank statements and related canceled checks and validated deposit slips, reviewed and reconciled monthly to the general ledger balances?	Yes	
6	Are contracts for services over the pay-to-play threshold of \$17,500 awarded using bids or a fair and open process?	Yes	Professional Services agreements have been non-fair and open
7	Does your municipality maintain all documentation regarding bids including but not limited to: notices to potential bidders that include the plans, specifications, and contracts; documentation that the bids were properly advertised; and bid opening documentation that include the submitted bids, bid tabulation sheet, and indication of which bid was accepted?	Yes	

Best Practices Worksheet CY 2012

Summit City (Union)			
2018			
	Question	Answer	Comments
8	Does your municipality perform an audit of your utility (telephone, fax, electric meters) accounts at least once every three years to ensure that inactive accounts are cancelled?	Yes	

Best Practices Worksheet CY 2012

Summit City (Union)			
2018			
	Question	Answer	Comments
Budget Preparation & Presentation			
1	Has your governing body reviewed the municipality's annual financial statement with particular emphasis on surplus generation and usage, tax collection rates (including the status of tax liens), and delinquent tax collection statements?	Yes	Governing body reviews with auditor
2	Did your municipality prepare a five (5) year summary showing the amount of surplus anticipated and the percentage of the budget that this represents?	Prospective	We examine use of Surplus but not over 5 year period
3	Does your municipal CFO or auditor evaluate your capital balances annually to review and cancel unspent funds at the closure of capital projects?	Yes	
4	Do elected officials receive quarterly (or more frequent) reports on the status of all budget revenues and appropriations as they correspond to the annual adopted budget?	Prospective	
5	Was a budget history and projection showing three years of history prepared in a "Viewer Friendly" style for public use?	Yes	Budget "Snapshot" mailed to all residents; 2 years history makes it "viewer friendly"
Health Insurance			
1	If your municipality does not participate in the State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP), a joint insurance fund (JIF), or a healthcare insurance fund (HIF), have competitive proposals for insurance been solicited in the last three years?	N/A	
2	If your municipality is a member of the SHBP, have you transitioned from Chapter 88 (lifelong retirement benefits & Medicare Part B payouts) to Chapter 48 (healthcare cafeteria and select cost-saving provisions for all current and future employees)? N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.38(b1) to 52:14-17.38 (b2)	N/A	Not a Chapter 88 municipality
3	Does your municipality perform an annual review of health benefit covered lives in an effort to delete employees, spouses or dependents who should no longer be receiving coverage?	Yes	As part of SHBP audit
4	Do your municipal firefighters receive annual heart screening in conformance with NFPA Standard 1582, Chapter 7.4-7.7?	Yes	

Best Practices Worksheet CY 2012

Summit City (Union)			
2018			
	Question	Answer	Comments
Personnel			
1	Does your municipality make available to the public free of charge, either through an internet posting or on-site review, documents that show the current salaries of all personnel and additional documents that would allow the public to understand how your municipality's aggregate salaries have changed over a three year period?	Yes	Would be in the form of resolutions and "Budget Snapshot" (which is mailed annually to all residents)
2	Has your municipality, consistent with N.J.S.A. 34:13A-8.2, filed a copy of all negotiated public employee contracts with the Public Employment Relations Commission, or will your municipality bring itself into compliance by having all contracts emailed to contracts@perc.state.nj.us .	Yes	
3	Are all applicants and employees hired, promoted and retrained in accordance with established equal employment opportunity (EEO) and non-discrimination policies?	Yes	
4	Does your municipality limit health benefits to full-time (35 or more hours weekly), employees and exclude from coverage all part-time employees, elected or appointed officials?	Yes	
5	Are standardized absentee forms completed and filed for all employee absences?	Yes	Attendance forms; not absentee
6	Are formal records maintained by your Personnel Department (Human Resources office) to account for vacation and sick leave earned and taken by all employees?	Yes	
7	Does supervisory staff review and approve employee time and attendance reports before submitting to management?	Yes	
8	Does your municipality limit the carry forward of accrued vacation time to no more than one year's worth of such time (meaning no employee hired after the effective date of the limitation policy can have more than two (2) years of vacation time on the books in any given year)?	Yes	
9	Does the municipal governing body approve all payments of accumulated/uncompensated absence benefits?	Yes	Council approves all Leave of Absence requests
10	Does your municipality's personnel manual include policies covering the use of municipal computers, including internet/e-mail use?	Yes	
11	Does your municipality have a transitional duty program (light duty) to encourage employees out on workers compensation to return to work?	No	Employees required to be "fit for duty"
12	Does your municipality provide annual employment practice liability training for elected officials, managers, administrators, department heads and supervisors?	Yes	Provided by JIF

Best Practices Worksheet CY 2012

Summit City (Union)			
2018			
	Question	Answer	Comments
Public Safety			
1	Does your municipality have an emergency management plan that is updated bi-annually and verified yearly through practical exercises and written reports distributed to all affected parties (police, fire, OEM, etc.) as required pursuant to L.1989, c.222, s.20?	Yes	
2	Is your municipality's police department accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), or have senior officers had advanced training through professional agencies/academies?	Yes	
3	Are all required hazard-use inspections and reports performed in accordance with state standards, needed-relevant information disseminated to emergency response organizations and a copy of the report sent to local fire and police agencies?	Yes	
4	Does your municipality have formal written mutual aid agreements for all emergency response organizations?	Yes	
5	Does your municipality have a formal procedure to ensure that all park and recreation facilities are inspected/assessed periodically to determine whether proper maintenance is being done to ensure the safety of the using public?	Yes	
Energy			
1	Has your municipality conducted an energy audit within the last three years to evaluate whether the energy consumption (i.e. heating, lighting, ventilation and air conditioning) of municipal facilities can be reduced?	Yes	
2	If your municipality issues published or posted newsletters to its residents, did such publications promote recycling efforts and solid waste management in compliance with the storm water regulations? N.J.A.C. 7:8 et seq.	Yes	

Best Practices Worksheet CY 2012

Summit City (Union)			
2018			
	Question	Answer	Comments
Municipal/School Relations			
1	Has your municipality held or scheduled a "Joint Yearly Open Public Meeting" between the local school board(s) and the governing body to discuss community needs, shared services, and the school and municipal budgets?	Yes	Type I School District has Board of School Estimate (members are BoE and Council), but don't necessarily discuss municipal budget
2	Do you share playing fields, recreation services, and/or equipment with the local board(s) of education?	Yes	
3	Has your municipality entered into any shared services with local board(s) of education pertaining to maintaining of fields, sharing of equipment, purchasing of gasoline, snow plowing, etc.?	Yes	
	Select	0	
	Yes	45	
	No	1	
	N/A	2	
	Prospective	2	
	Total Answered:		
	Score (Yes + N/A + Prospective)		
	Score %	98%	
	Percent Withheld	0%	
	Chief Financial Officer Completion Certification:		
	Type Name of CFO and Certification # in cells below:		
	Scott H. Olsen	N-0504	
	Name	Cert #	
		Date Prepared:	8/30/2011