

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT GOALS

PREFACE

The Fiscal Performance Goals adopted by the Town Council on March 9, 1987 as amended November 25, 1996 represent an effort to establish written policies for guiding the Town's financial management practices. These goals are not intended in any way to limit the authority of the Council to act, but rather to form a framework within which to make financial decisions and to monitor financial activity in a consistent manner. The adoption of these goals will not restrict the Town Council's ability and responsibility to respond to emergency or service delivery needs above or beyond the suggested limitations herein established.

FINANCIAL REPORTING PERFORMANCE GOALS

- A policy of full and open disclosure of all financial activity will be adhered to.
- Records will be maintained on a basis consistent with accepted municipal accounting standards.
- The Director of Finance will prepare monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports, presenting a summary of financial activity by major types of funds and programs.
- The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report will be prepared in conformity with generally accepted governmental accounting principles and financial reporting practices.
- An independent public accounting firm will be employed to perform an annual audit of all Funds, Authorities, Agencies and Grant Programs, and the annual audited report will be made available to the general public, bond and financial consultants, and other interested citizens and organizations. The audit will be completed and submitted to a Town Council within one hundred fifty (150) days of the close of the Town's fiscal year.

RESERVE PERFORMANCE GOALS

- A contingency account will be established annually in the operating budget to:
 - a. provide for settlement of pending labor contract negotiations;
 - b. provide for temporary funding of unforeseen needs of an emergency or nonrecurring nature;
 - c. permit orderly budgetary adjustments when revenues are lost through the action of other governmental bodies;
 - d. provide the local match for public or private grants;
 - e. meet unexpected small increases in service delivery costs.
- The contingency account will be budgeted at a level sufficient to provide for settlement of pending labor contract negotiations plus an amount not to exceed one half of one percent (.5%) of the proposed Town budget. The Town's budget will be amended at the time such contingency funds are committed. The contingency account will be separate from the carryover fund balance.

FUND BALANCE GOALS

- A year-to-year carryover fund balance will be maintained in an amount necessary to maintain adequate cash flow and to prevent the demand for short-term borrowing. The undesignated fund balance should be at least five percent (5) of the general fund operating budget and shall be separate from the contingency account.
- It is the Council's policy that the practice of using fund balance as a source of financing for future year operating budgets has inherently destabilizing impact upon the operating budget. Therefore, fund balance in excess of the five (5) percent goal will be transferred to the CNR Fund and used for one-time expenditures.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PERFORMANCE GOALS

- Capital improvements will be based on long-range projected needs rather than on immediate needs, in order to minimize future maintenance, replacement and capital costs.
- All capital improvements should be made in accordance with the Town's five-year capital improvement program. The capital improvement program shall be revised annually.
- The development of the capital improvements program will be coordinated with the operating budget in order to maintain a reasonably stable total tax levy.
- Before submission to the Town Council, the Town Manager will identify the estimated cost and potential funding sources for each capital project proposed. Future operating costs associated with a proposed capital improvement will be estimated before a decision is made to implement a project.
- Federal, State and other intergovernmental and private funding sources will be sought out and used as available to assist in financing capital improvements.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE GOALS

- A cash flow analysis of all funds will be developed on a regular basis. Collections, deposits and disbursement of all funds will be scheduled in a way as to ensure maximum cash availability.
- Where permitted by law, cash from separate funds and sources will be pooled to maximize investment yields. Interest will be credited to the General Fund except where prohibited by law or where the source of the cash is from an individual or corporation to insure performance. Interest will be credited to the Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund (CNR) on cash held in the CNR Fund and the Capital Fund. The interest income will be used for future capital projects or debt service.
- Investment policy will be consistent with State law and will provide for security of principal as well as needed liquidity.

DEBT PERFORMANCE GOALS

- Long-term debt will be limited to those capital improvements that should not be financed from current revenues.
- The maturity date for any debt will not exceed the reasonably expected useful life of the project so financed.
- The total direct general obligation debt will not exceed three percent (3%) of the full assessment value of taxable property.
- As a means of further minimizing the impact of debt obligations of the taxpayers:
 - a. long-term net debt will not exceed \$500 per capita;
 - b. these limitations will not apply to any debt incurred for emergency purposes.
- The issuance of Bond, Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes will be avoided.
- Special assessments, revenue bonds and/or any other available self-liquidating debt measures will be used instead of general obligation bonds where and when possible and applicable.
- An official statement will be prepared to be used in connection with all sales of bonds and notes.
- Good relations will be maintained with financial and bond rating agencies and a policy of full and open disclosure on every financial report and bond prospectus will be followed.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES PERFORMANCE GOALS

- The Town Manager will propose and the Town Council will adopt and maintain a balanced budget in which expenditures will not be allowed to exceed reasonable estimated resources and revenues.
- All current operation and maintenance expenses will be paid from the current revenue sources.
- The operating budget will provide for the adequate maintenance of capital assets and equipment.
- The budget will provide for adequate funding of all employee benefit programs and retirement systems.
- A budgetary control system will be maintained to enable adherence to the adopted budget. This will include a record keeping system to be adhered to by all programs and activities receiving annual Town Council appropriations.
- A system of regular monthly fiscal reports comparing actual revenues and expenditures to budgeted amounts will be prepared and maintained.
- An effective risk management program to minimize loss and reduce costs will be developed and implemented. The Town Manager will ensure that adequate insurance programs are in place, including unemployment and workers' compensation insurance.
- Delivery of services by other public and private organizations will be encouraged whenever and wherever greater efficiency and effectiveness can be expected. Technology and productivity advancements that will help reduce or avoid increasing personnel costs as a proportion of the total budget, to use available resources more productively and creatively, and to avoid duplication of effort and resources.
- A Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures will be maintained and will be adequately funded each year by a transfer from the General Fund Budget and by unanticipated one-time revenues.

REVENUE PERFORMANCE GOALS

- A diversified and stable revenue system will be maintained as protection from short-run fluctuations.
- Annual revenues will be estimated on an objective and reasonable basis. The Town Manager will develop a method to project revenues on a multi-year basis.
- One-time or special purpose revenues will be used only for capital expenditures or for expenditures required by the revenue and not to subsidize recurring personnel, operation or maintenance costs.
- All user charges and fees will be annually re-evaluated at a level related to the cost of providing the services.
- Appropriate expansion and diversification of the tax base will be encouraged and additional Federal and State revenues will be sought in order to reduce the reliance on the property tax as it affects individual homeowners.