Maximum Value Government

The Windsor Town Council and staff have put in place a number of cost efficiency initiatives and participated in a variety of regional partnerships over the past years in an effort to minimize the tax impact on residents, while maintaining maximum value in the services provided. Identifying cost efficiencies is a continuous and integral component of the budget development process each year. This document outlines examples of one-time savings, as well as the town's ongoing efforts to keep the cost of business low.

Public Works

- 2010 - Traffic light costs and energy used are reduced by installing LED bulbs (Savings: **$8,000**)
- 2011/2012 - Converted three facilities from heating oil or propane to natural gas, (L.P. Wilson, JFK School, Wilson Firehouse) (Savings: **$185,380**)
- 2012 - Negotiated a 0.075 cents per kilowatt electricity rate that is 9% lower than past two years. (Two-year savings: **$104,264**)
- 2012 - Poquonock School heating system converted from steam boilers to natural gas hot water boilers. (Savings: **$73,860**)
- 2012 - Retrofit lighting at L.P. Wilson Community Center (Savings: **$39,300)**

Public Safety

- 2008 - Windsor police reduces overtime by making certain operational changes. (estimated savings of **$89,100**)
- 2010 - Police overtime is reduced by reassigning officers from special non-patrol assignments. (Savings: **$89,000**)

- 2007 - Changes to the health plan increase office co-pays, hospital admission deductibles and increase premium shares.
- 2007 - Same life insurance benefit level at a lower premium cost achieved through participation with the Public Sector Coalition, allowing the town to go out to bid together with other municipalities for a new vendor. (Savings: **$40,000**)
- 2008 - New emphasis is put on the auditing of commercial/industrial personal property. (Raises approximately **$40,000** in new revenue.)
- 2009 and 2010 - Portions of the town's long term debt were refinanced, resulting in a savings of **$2.3 million** over 14 years.
- 2010 - Windsor saves by purchasing on a regional basis. (Savings: **$15,000**)
- 2010 - Enfield agrees to use Windsor's Community Development office for housing rehabilitation services. (**$25,000** earned)
- 2010 - Planned borrowing is reduced to save on principal and interest costs. (Savings: **$442,000**)
- 2010 - Employee health insurance plans are restructured to include increases in the premium share for administrative employees. (Savings and avoided costs: **$120,900**)
- 2010 - A salary and wage freeze is implemented for town employees in the administrative pay plan. (Savings: **$232,400**)
- 2012 - 2014 The Town of Windsor becomes self insured. (Savings and avoided costs **$1 million**)
- 2012/13 - Administrative employees' pension contributions are increased saving the town as much as **$116,000.**
- 2012 - New town employees hired after July 1, 2011 included in a Defined Contribution plan for pension. (Estimated savings for next ten years: **$1.8 million**, **$8.45 million** projected savings for next 20 years.)
- 2012 - Negotiated a contract with a new Third Party Administrator reducing our annual payments from $53,000 annually to $28,100 annually for the next five years. (Savings: **$125,000**)
- 2012 - According to NCCI (National Council on Compensation Insurance) the average cost of a 2012 worker compensation claim in CT is $22,267, in Windsor, the average costs is $3,848.
- 2013: Increase employee contributions toward health insurance. (Savings: **$43,000**)

Development Services and Public Works employees collaborate on an upcoming project.

Operational Savings and new non-tax Revenues

- 2007 - Copier leases are renegotiated to reduce costs. (Savings **$10,000** over five years)
- 2008 - Town Clerk puts new charges in place for the use of land records (estimated savings of **$20,000**)
- 2008 - Weekend swimming pools openings are delayed by three weeks (Savings: **$11,800**)
- 2008 - Volunteers are utilized to help deliver services (estimated savings of **$60,000** in the libraries alone)
- 2010 - The town reduces its workforce by five full-time positions (Savings: **$419,000**)
- 2010 - User fees increased for recreational, senior and police private duty services. (Savings: **$17,700**)
- 2010 - The L.P. Wilson Community Center is closed an hour earlier on week nights (Savings: **$33,900**)
- 2010 - The Windsor Public Library is reorganized to eliminate one full-time position and discontinue the inter-library loan service. (Savings: **$60,670**)
- 2011 - A new operating system in the Town Clerk's office reduces software maintenance costs (Savings: **$8,000**)
- 2012 - The tax office partnered with a law firm to collect delinquent taxes resulting in increased collection efforts. **($91,000)**
- Successfully applied for and received **$7 million** in road grants since 2008.

Windsor finds real savings and new opportunities with regional initiatives

Windsor continues its leadership role in the **Bradley Development League,** a consortium made up of East Granby, Suffield, Windsor and Windsor Locks, the towns surrounding Bradley International Airport. The League actively markets the airport and the region for economic development purposes.

The Windsor Police Department also partners with north central and metro area departments in a **Traffic Enforcement Collaboration.** This is particularly effective for holiday speeding enforcement and DUI checkpoints as well as seatbelt stops and other road safety checkpoints.

Windsor's police department has joined forces with the Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, Granby, Simsbury, Farmington, Avon, Simsbury, and Canton police departments in the **North Central Emergency Services (SWAT) Team** that responds to emergencies and works to reduce violence.

Windsor has joined forces with 14 other Connecticut Municipalities and Boards of Education in the **Connecticut Public Sector Purchasing Coalition** to achieve savings when purchasing employee benefits such as prescription drugs.

Windsor continues to play an important role in **Mass Dispensing Area #31,** the regional bioterrorism response organization that includes Windsor and South Windsor.

The Windsor Public Schools have been able to reduce the cost of heating oil through its membership in the **Cooperative Purchasing Consortium.** Our schools have also been able to solicit bids and contract for electricity generation through the **Connecticut School Consortium.**

The Windsor Fire Department saved 50% off the purchase price of test equipment ($3,000) by jointly purchasing the equipment with the **Blue Hills Fire Department**.

Windsor has saved money by sharing the **cell tower** located at our public works facility on Day Hill Road with the Town of Bloomfield.

Windsor contracted hours with the West Hartford and Bloomfield Health District for **Sanitarian Services** from February 2011 to June 2011.

The Windsor Public Library negotiates discount pricing for books, databases, library supplies as well as a directory and discount pricing for program performers through the **Connecticut Library Consortium.**

The Windsor Public Library is provided with CEN internet connection free of charge through the **State of Connecticut.**

As members of **Library Connection** patrons have access to materials in 28 local libraries. They can place a hold on an item from one of the participating libraries and it will be shipped to Windsor for pick-up and return.

The State of Connecticut's **Connecticard** system means that patrons who are issued a card in Windsor can use that card anywhere in the state. They can also return those items to any other library in the state as Connecticard retrieves and delivers those items to the owning libraries.

Windsor has taken advantage of the purchasing power of both the **State of Connecticut** and the **Capitol Region Council of Governments** in the procurement of gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, asphalt, catch basin cleaning, materials for snow plowing and pavement striping, software for the Town Clerk's office, office computers and even vehicles such as dump trucks and hybrid automobiles.

Our town government continues the aggressive pursuit of grants.

- Hybrid vehicles (**$54,000** toward 25% of cost of nine vehicles)
- Emergency Management/Bio-Terrorism (approximately **$60,000** annually)
- State Library Historic Document Grant (**$6,000** annually)
- Sr. Transportation DOT Bus Grant **(40,000)**
- Expanded Dial-a-Ride Services (approximately **$34,000** annually)
- Youth Services Bureau (**$26,260** annually)
- Senior Services fitness equipment and Seniors at Northwest Park program (**$10,000**)
- Aid to Firefighters Homeland Security Grant (**$40,000**)
- Traffic Safety Grants. (**$77,000** in FY08, **$97,000** in FY09, **$90,000** in FY10, **$69,000** in FY11)
- Energy Efficiency Geo-Thermal Grant at Northwest Park (**$108,260**)
- Reimbursement from state grant for JFK Elementary School roof (**$637,000**)
- SAFER - Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grant (**$58,100**)
- State grants for Day Hill Road (**$463,000** in 2008, **$754,500** in 2009)
- Community Development Small Cities Grant for Wilson Branch Library Renovation **($402,000)**
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving grant for technology equipment and training **($30,000)**
- Transit-Oriented Development Planning and Facilitation **($250,000)**

TOWN OF WINDSOR
First in Connecticut. First for its citizens.