

Town of Tolland, CT
Town Council Goals for 2009-2011

Mission: To enrich the quality of life for our residents and all those whom we serve by providing cost effective Town wide services while optimizing resources.

Goal #1. – The Town Council will, through prudent management and oversight, strive to provide the best functioning and efficient local government possible.

- Prioritize construction projects for first and second years of the Capital Plan based upon level of service required for the town and accurate cost estimates.
- Monitor effectiveness of the e-blast system in terms of quantity and quality of information provided.
- Review updated financial reports and investment and cash policies to reflect current practices and financial priorities of Town of Tolland.
- Maintain at least 80% fill rate on Town Boards and Commissions.
- Review changes in the Health Insurance industry and implement revisions in the Town employees' program that maintain quality insurance benefits for employees at a reasonable cost.
- Maintain communication with the Board of Education to assist in considering revisions to the BOE's health insurance plans.
- Aggressively pursue grants that will enhance the quality of life in Tolland including, but not limited to, grants for open space, economic development, new program endeavors, affordable and/or senior housing and infrastructure projects.
- Review and monitor Capital Projects as they are implemented.
- Establish priorities for future Town and/or BOE facility improvements.
- Explore employee incentives that are low cost.
- Support the utilization of traditional and non-traditional methodologies to ensure that Town employees are current on best practices within their areas of expertise.
- Explore ways to provide new residents to Town with information on Town services and information on Town Boards and Commissions.

- Work closely with State and Federal Legislators on issues of significant interest to Tolland including, but not limited to, the State budget and its impact on municipal aid, as well as the percentage of reimbursement from the State for the high school project.
 1. Hold at least one meeting with legislators prior to the start of the legislative sessions; and
 2. Maintain frequent contact during the legislative session.

Goal #2. – The Town Council will strive for the highest quality education for the children of Tolland, funded within the ability of the townspeople.

- Encourage interdepartmental cooperation and efficiency by working with the BOE.
- In conjunction with the Board of Education, examine the methods used to share information with the public and see if there are ways to collaborate to better inform the public on services offered by the Town, current events of the Town and other important information
- Enhance communication and cooperation with the Board of Education by holding at least 4 joint meetings per year on matters of mutual interest including, but not limited to, the budget.
 - Review with the BOE information on the use of federal stimulus dollars during the current fiscal year, the impact of budgetary constraints on programs or staff reductions, and the identification of any new, significant expenses or savings for the next fiscal years.
 - Continue the process of gaining a better understanding of educational resource needs during the budget process by holding joint budget workshops with the BOE when appropriate and use of liaisons and the dissemination of pertinent budget related material.
- Review a matrix of benefits provided for all bargaining units in the Town and Board of Education.
 - Develop a strategy for joint administration of Benefit programs for all employees.
- Determine areas where consolidation of functions may occur as well as continue to examine opportunities for regional cooperation.
- Identify a use for the Parker School.
- Explore having student representatives on certain Boards and Commissions.

Goal #3. – The Town Council will promote economic development in Tolland taking into consideration the input of townspeople, as well as facilitating the integration of its rural character with a business friendly environment.

- Hold public hearings on topics relating to economic development including, but not limited to, the Rt. 195 Corridor Study, the Tolland Green portion of the Corridor Study, and the Tolland Village Area project.
- Support the Town Manager, the EDC and other Boards and Commissions in the marketing of Tolland for business development, expansion or relocation.
- Hold coordinated meetings with business entities to solicit information on their concerns.
- Appoint a liaison to the EDC and Planning and Zoning Commission who will facilitate communication between the EDC, Planning and Zoning and the Town Council.
- Encourage the maximization of the Business Park, including but not limited to the sale of lots 2, 9 and 10.
- Implement and evaluate a structured business visitation program involving representatives from Town staff, Town Council and EDC.
- Complete Phase II of the Sewer Facility Plan including the extension of the sewer line to Anthony Road.

Goal #4. – The Town Council will enhance and promote the safety and quality of life of all Town residents while working to maintain a safe, affordable environment.

- Increase living opportunities for seniors.
- Complete the new, affordable, senior housing development on Old Post Road.
- Continue to hold public forums and use the e-blast system to better inform the public on budgetary matters, as well as to prioritize goals and objectives for the next two years.
- With the Planning and Zoning Commission develop a strategy for identifying and monitoring short- and long-term goals for the implementation of certain aspects of the Plan of Conservation and Development.
- Evaluate the need for additional, affordable housing through the use of the Home Connecticut grant.
- Adopt a plan for Tolland Green with the primary focus of traffic and pedestrian safety.
- Continue to promote the use of the Adopt-A-Spot Program.

- Implement road safety practices on high-risk roadways.
- Develop intergenerational programs where appropriate.
- Offer programs through the library at the Senior Center to enhance the seniors' skills with online resources available through the library and the Town.
- Support the expansion of Library programs, including those that could be conducted at the Senior Center.
- Investigate further use of alternative personnel resources in town government, including interns and volunteers.
- Increase the interaction and exchange of information between Town Council, Public Safety, State Police and Town Staff.
- Seek additional grants for speed control in Town.
- Review the report on Fire Operations and make recommendations for the upgrade of services, including facilities and equipment.
- Assess risk exposures in Town Facilities and take appropriate remedial action within budget limitations.
- Increase use of volunteers for Town activities.

Goal #5. – The Town Council will support open, thoughtful and effective communication among all facets of the Town government and its constituency.

- Increase the use of the web page, press releases, articles in Tolland Monthly and handouts to better educate the public on issues of interest and concern to the townspeople
- Refine and enhance the use of the webpage, e-blast system and other social media devices.
 - Continue to utilize the e-blast system and other social media devices to inform the public on current events.
 - Continue the use of the Town newsletter and include information on significant actions taken or being discussed by the Town Council and other Boards and Commissions.
- Meet on a regular basis with the leadership of the other Boards and Commissions.
 - Encourage the continuation of the communication between the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools.

- Hold workshops with land use and other boards and commissions.
- Continue the use of Town Council liaisons to Land Use Boards and Commissions as well as the Board of Education.
- Encourage public participation in Council meetings and discussions.
 - Continue the use of Community Conversations when appropriate.
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of Public Participation at the beginning and end of public meetings and make necessary policy changes.
 - During Town meetings ensure that all speakers use the microphones or speak loud enough for all to hear.
 - Explore multiple public hearings at different times for significant issues.
 - Explore use of a Town Council blog to promote the dissemination of information.

Goal #6. – The Town Council will demonstrate prudent fiscal decision making.

- Adopt a Town wide budget that is within the economic feasibility of the taxpayers and, to the extent possible, maintains levels of service that are acceptable to the majority of the townspeople.
- Initiate discussions with the BOE regarding fiscal consistency among BOE/Town staff.
- Implement performance measurement accounting in at least one department
- Develop standardized policies, procedures, bid, and contract documentation for solicitation and awarding of public contracts for purchase of services, construction projects and other matters as may be required under the Town's purchasing policy.
- Approve a Request for Proposal for Town-wide Auditor Services for 6/30/10 and select the best vendor.
- Achieve the award for excellence in financial reporting for 2008-09 as well as the GFOA award for excellence in presentation and content of the budget.
- Settle Town labor contracts prudently.
- Review the progress of private fund raising efforts to create a Youth Hall at the Cider Mill Road property and determine future direction of this project.
- Utilize the Computerized Pavement Management System to prioritize Capital Budget projects.

- Approve a long-range plan for the library, especially in the area of technology.
- Investigate the use of Hicks Trust funds for repairs at the library, including but not limited to structural plans for an addition, painting and reconfiguration of the circulation desk.
- Secure grant funding to construct senior housing at the new Old Post Rd site.
- Utilize the Town-wide revaluation in preparation of the 2010 budget.

Goal #7. – The Town Council will implement conservation and energy efficiency policies that will provide short- and long-term fiscal and environmental benefits to the Town.

- Complete the conversion of the Town Hall to a geothermal HVAC system.
- Determine the benefits of the Town and Board of Education joining the clean energy community initiative (with the Town Energy Committee) and take appropriate action.
- Continue to preserve, identify and acquire open space that enhances and preserves the character of the Town in perpetuity.
- Support the continued creation of pedestrian and bike pathways throughout the Town of Tolland.
- Finalize management plans for acquired open space parcels and publish a trail map booklet. (With the Conservation Commission)
- Secure funding opportunities for implementing the Tankerhoosen Watershed Management Plan.
- Become educated on Low Impact Drainage practices both privately and municipally.
- Continue the 4-day workweek schedule as a means to continue to reduce energy use.
- Continue to monitor sand-free, winter storm management plan and assess the impact on plant and flora in the community.
- Promote efficient energy renovations of the Parker School by leasee.