

JOHN O. GROSS
Curriculum Vitae
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2011 - Current

Township of South Orange Village and the Township of West Orange, Essex County – Director of Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer/Comptroller for these two communities in a unique shared service arrangement where I am responsible for both towns' financial services. Additionally in West Orange, a community of 48,000 residents, I am responsible for Tax Collection, the Comptrollers Office, town-wide Procurement and Information Technology, in addition to all accounting functions for both communities.

1999 – 2011

Township of South Orange Village, Essex County – Administrator, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Emergency Management Coordinator of a culturally and lifestyle diverse community of 16,000 and home to 10,000 Seton Hall University students, with responsibility for all facets of administration, supervision and finances of a \$32M full service operation and 225+ full/part time employees.

2002 – 2006

Mediator for the State of New Jersey Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, Successfully mediated civil court cases to help relieve the Civil Court System of overcrowded Dockets and resolve disputes between parties in a timelier and economically advantageous manner.

1998 – 1999

State of New Jersey – Executive Director, *Drug Utilization Review Council*, responsible for policy making and health care cost containment through regulating and monitoring good manufacturing processes in the production of generic medications for distribution in the State of New Jersey.

1994 – 1998

Township of Neptune, Monmouth County – Business Administrator/Chief Operating Officer of a culturally and lifestyle diverse community of 28,000 residents with 360 full/part time employees year round, also managing all government services for the ocean side resort community of Ocean Grove, New Jersey which is wholly contained within the borders of Neptune Township.

OTHER RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Township of South Orange Village –

Chair, Downtown Redevelopment Committee, Emergency Management Coordinator; Former Executive Director/CFO of the South Orange Performing Arts Center, Former Acting Executive Director of the South Orange Parking Authority; Liaison to Board of Health and Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee

Township of Neptune –

Mayor and Chair of Township Committee (1993); Deputy Mayor and Vice-Chair (1992); Member (1993); Chair, Finance, Administration & Tourism Departments (1992); ex-officio Member all Municipal Departments (1993).

Township of Neptune Board of Education – (1986-89)

Member and Vice President; Chair of Finance, Negotiations and Transportation Committees; Member of Athletics and Adult/CE Committees.

Monmouth County Board of Health – (1993-96)

Voting member of the Board responsible for all aspects of public health for participating municipalities

Ocean Independent Bank - (1986-90)

Founder and Member of Board of Directors of commercial lending institution with 40M in assets and 100 employees. Chair of Bank Advisory Board, Member of Bank Examining and Marketing Committees.

EDUCATION and CERTIFICATIONS:

Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Urban Studies, Rutgers University
Master's Degree in Public Administration, Rutgers University - 2011
Certified to Serve on the New Jersey Courts Alternate Dispute Mediator Panel, 2002
Certified Municipal Financial Officer – 2000
Certified Public Housing Manager – 1999
Certified Public Manager – 1995
Incident Command System of Public Emergency Management Certification – 1995
Labor Management Certification – 1996
University of the Sciences of Philadelphia B.S. Pharm. – 1977

HONORS and PUBLICATIONS

2011 New Jersey League of Municipalities Magazine “Long Term Structural Change”
(<http://www.njslom.org/magazine/2011-02/pg-22.html>)

2005 Annual Innovations in Governance Award from the NJ State League of Municipalities and the Department of Community Affairs for Public Private Partnerships

2003 Annual Innovations in Governance Award from the NJ State League of Municipalities and the Department of Community Affairs for Fiscally Sustainable Economic Development

2003 New Jersey League of Municipalities Magazine “Smart Growth Helps Fulfill a Village’s Vision” (available on request)

2002 New Jersey Future’s First Annual Smart Growth Award

2001 Recipient of South Orange Lion’s Club Man of the Year Award.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A PUBLIC MANAGER IN THREE NEW JERSEY COMMUNITIES

I. General Matters/Responsibilities

My responsibilities and experiences include Policy and Operations; **policy implementation**, day to day municipal operations, **constituent services**, attend and participate in all meetings of the Governing Body; prepare, attend and **participate in most committee meetings**; prepare, attend and participate Citizen Budget Advisory Committee meetings. As the Public Information Officer, I meet with groups and organizations coordinate and **provide all responses to the media**, other local governmental units, state government and coordinate information to residents, en masse via website, local access and other methods. I have also served as the **representative to the Joint Insurance Fund**. As the **Emergency Management Coordinator**, I was a first responder to emergencies of all kinds, **on call 24 hours daily, seven days a week**

II. Union/Labor Negotiations/Matters

As the **lead Labor negotiator**, I successfully negotiated labor contracts with police, paid fire fighters, public works and clerical staff. All of my contracts have been settled for **less than surrounding municipal contracts**. My service in these matters, as well as other areas, has resulted in **annual savings of legal costs**.

III. Shared Services/Inter-Local Agreements/Privatization

Inter-local service agreements continue to be a desirable financial instrument to negotiate to smaller communities. I have negotiated and administered profitable **Inter-Local Service Agreements (ILSA)** to provide water services, to **build a joint animal shelter, operate a shared municipal court, vehicle maintenance, animal control services and shared financial services between two municipalities**. I have also negotiated **consolidation of Fire Department and Recreation** programs, which have yet to be concluded, as well as other **coordination of service initiatives** to improve the quality of services. New privatization opportunities have been emerging over a number of years and will increase even more so as the economy shifts. Recently, I successfully **privatized the key functions in the Finance Department** and several **Public Works functions** for **substantial savings in tax dollars**,

IV. Grants

Grants have always been an important function of my office. I have been extremely successful in obtaining a **wide array of grants** that have literally **reduced the budget by millions of dollars** that taxpayers would have otherwise been responsible to fund.

V. Technology

The commitment to technology maintenance upgrades of hardware, software, networking and **organization-wide staff training** is coordinated by my office, including the **distribution of public information** and the provision of direct services to constituents via the municipal website.

VI. Homeland Security/Office of Emergency Management

As the **Emergency Management Coordinator**, I designed and implemented all efforts to plan for and respond to emergencies/events such as security response to the World Trade Center terrorist attack, anthrax scares, major snowstorms, hurricane responses, flooding, all fires and other emergencies involving loss of life, property or standard of living; Emergency Operation Drills and Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings.

VII. University Relations

The relationship between the municipalities and major not-for-profits, such as universities, is critical considering serious concerns over financial issues (services vs. tax exempt status). My responsibilities have always been to foster a positive relationship while negotiating some form of resolution to unresolved conflicts and build on mutually advantageous opportunities.

VIII. Finance

As a state certified **Chief Financial Officer**, not only am I responsible for the statutory requirements of the position, I prepare the Current Fund Budget, Utility Budgets, Capital Budgets as well as **project the requirements** for the municipality in order to **maintain stable tax rates**. This includes taking into account the financial impact, both revenue and expenditures, of new projects, zoning proposals, changes, future impact of the implementation of new grant programs, the advisability of using financial tools and other methods of financing municipal needs.

IX. Redevelopment/Development

I have been responsible for attracting and negotiating with developers and redevelopers agreements to construct new **desirable ratables** to provide tax relief to residents and to **promote economic development** of the local economy. Specific projects that were initiated and completed during my career include: **Gaslight Commons, a 200 unit luxury apartment** complex near the South Orange Avenue train station; **Church Street Commons, a 40 unit luxury apartment** complex near the South Orange Avenue train station; **Eden Gourmet Market, an upscale Manhattan style destination market**; **Above Restaurant, a sophisticated gourmet restaurant** located in the heart of the downtown; **The Avenue, an 80 unit mixed use residential and retail development** located adjacent to the South Orange Avenue train station; **The Manors, a 69 unit luxury manor home** development featuring breathtaking views of the Manhattan skyline and 4-5,000 square foot townhouse homes in the heart of Newstead.

X. South Orange Performing Arts Center

I served as **SOPAC's first Executive Director**, responsible for its design, construction and to develop financing, including obtaining federal, state and county **grants to finance up to \$5 million** of its \$15 million construction costs in partnership with Seton Hall University. The complex includes a state of the art **425 seat live performance theatre**, designed for an intimate theatre experience, **five screen cinema theaters** for first run films and a **high quality banquet facility**. Some of the most notable performers to grace the stage are **Yo-Yo Ma, Dionne Warwick, Max Weinberg, Carrie Fisher, Paula Poundstone, Richie Havens** and home to the **Mid-Town Direct Repertory Theatre and Menopause: The Musical**.