

Hillsborough Qualifies For 100% State Aid In Meeting State's Best Practices Criteria

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Hillsborough Township Committeeman Carl Suraci announced that Hillsborough has met the state's best practices criteria to qualify for 100% state aid this year and called for improvements to the best practices checklist, including "rewards for municipalities like Hillsborough that are doing a good job for taxpayers."

Suraci, the Hillsborough's Finance Committee Chairman, stated, "The Township met the best practices criteria to qualify for 100% of state aid. Many of the state's recommended best practices are ideas that Hillsborough has already implemented over the years."

"The state's list included having a municipal website, using the Fair and Open process for professional service contracts, and having an employee handbook. These are ideas that Hillsborough implemented years ago."

Suraci said, "Hillsborough has implemented a higher level of best practices. These include reducing the number of full time employees, debt reduction, and a pay as you go policy for routine capital improvements. They are accomplishments, economies, and efficiencies that should be part of any analysis of municipalities and upon which state aid decisions should be made."

Suraci added, "If the state is going to punish municipalities who fail to make the grade with their best practices list by withholding state aid, than I think the state should also reward municipalities that do a good job with a state aid bonus, to help the local taxpayers."

The Township Committee agreed with Suraci's recommendation that a letter be sent to the Commissioner of Community Affairs recommending additional best practices and a state aid bonus plan.