

City/ County Manager

O. Paul Shew

Paul Shew began his service as a Village Manager in Milford, Ohio. From there he accepted a position as City Manager of Willimantic, Connecticut. Willimantic had a traditional town meeting form of government and Mr. Shew was the first City Manager hired after the community voted to change. At that moment Willimantic was under a full field investigation by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Shew was successful in working through that investigation; and four years later assisted the Village with a consolidation effort with the Town of Windham. That consolidation of governments was the first of its kind in nearly a century. He also served as an Adjunct Professor at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Shew went on to manage the Town of Franklin, Massachusetts. In Franklin he was a lead negotiator for the Town in developing a public/private agreement valued at \$700MM including the MBTA, YMCA, NDAI and the Town of Franklin. Over a six year period the Town developed two industrial parks; one commercial park; and created a Town and Gown relationship with the local college.

Shew is recognized as a change agent with a 'velvet glove' approach to change. In over six years as the Village Manager of Ossining, New York, he worked with the Board of Trustees to revitalize the Central Business District. That effort included relocation of the police/court complex into the CBD; revitalization of the waterfront through a Design Competition Contest; reconstruction of the Fire Headquarters; construction of a natatorium in the CBD; and negotiation for a new US Post Office downtown.

In addition to his work as a City/County professional, Shew has traveled and worked extensively with local leaders in other countries including England, Sweden, India, South Africa, India and most recently Japan. He has served as the Past President of the Lower Hudson Valley ASPA Chapter and completed all coursework for his doctoral degree at the University of Connecticut. He has published papers on working with Day Laborers; Downtown revitalization; working with difficult individuals; and economic revitalization. He presented at the ASPA 64th Conference in Washington, DC, on public/private partnerships.