



**NEWS RELEASE  
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## **TOWN MANAGER DELIVERS PROPOSED FY 2017 BUDGET**

**PURCELLVILLE, Va. March 16, 2016** — At the Town Council Budget Work Session on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, Town Manager Robert W. Lohr, Jr., delivered his proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget and Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Lohr began the presentation with a focus on the Town's accomplishments this past year, including the continuation of the Town's AA/AAA Credit Rating, completion of the Downtown Streetscape project, and receipt of the 2014 Visit Loudoun Tourism Event of the Year award. The basis of developing the proposed budget is the Town Council's adopted Strategic Initiatives: Foster Community & Economic Well-Being; Practice Good Governance; Strengthen Community Partnerships; and Fund the Future.

In presenting the General Fund, Mr. Lohr has proposed a 2-cent increase in the real property tax rate, to \$0.24 per \$100 of assessed value. All other taxes remain the same, and small fee increases are proposed in certain departments. Critical enhancements are included for every department, with 3.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions proposed in the General Fund in the areas of Police, Public Works Administration, Maintenance, and Town Administration. Also in the Police Department, the Town Manager has proposed two new cruisers to replace aging vehicles, electronic speed signs to support traffic enforcement, and a site feasibility study for locating a replacement Police Station building in the Town.

The Parks and Recreation Special Tax District, used to fund improvements and operations at Fireman's Field, Dillon's Woods, Bush Tabernacle (Skating Rink), and community events and activities, is proposed to maintain the current tax rate. A proposed enhancement of 0.3 FTE is included to provide additional staff support for the events and activities of the Council and its advisory boards and commissions.

The Water Fund is proposed to include enhancements for equipment and regular operational needs. Due to ongoing planning for future debt requirements and capital needs, a rate increase of 3% is proposed for FY 2017.

The Wastewater Fund similarly includes equipment and operational enhancements, with no additional staffing proposed. The fund continues to be dependent upon availability fees for offsetting significant debt, and rates are proposed to increase 5% in FY 2017 in order to help the fund become more structurally balanced.

Across all departments, Mr. Lohr has proposed a 3% merit increase for staff, as well as pay-for-performance bonus funds for role model employees. A compensation study is proposed to be continued to support the recruitment and retention of high caliber employees. Funding is also included to complete the Comprehensive Plan Update, which was begun in this current fiscal year.

Overall, total operating expenditures equal \$20.2 million for FY 2017, and all funds are balanced.

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes projects funded by grant dollars received from Loudoun County, VDOT, and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. The only locally-funded project in the FY 2017 CIP is the Financial Systems Software upgrade, which is being funded by unassigned cash reserves.

The Town Council has established many Budget Work Sessions to discuss the proposed budget, tax rates, and utility rates. The first Budget Work Session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at 7:00pm at Town Hall.

The public is welcome to provide comments to the Town Council on the proposed budget, tax rates, and utility rates. Comments can be sent via email to [PurcellvilleTC@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:PurcellvilleTC@purcellvilleva.gov), via phone at 540-338-7421, or online.

The Proposed FY 2017 Budget, presentations, meeting dates, and online contact form can all be found at <http://www.purcellvilleva.gov/budget>. This page will be updated throughout the budget process with the latest information.

### **The Town of Purcellville, Virginia**

Purcellville is an award-winning town of nearly 8,500 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 40 miles west of Washington, DC. It has been honored for its green initiatives, most recently with the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities. The Town has an elected Mayor and six Town Council members. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, Purcellville has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiquing, entertainment, farmer's markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov).

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