



**NEWS RELEASE
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**TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTS FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET, CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, AND MASTER TAX AND FEE SCHEDULE**

PURCELLVILLE, Va. – JUNE 22, 2016 — At its June 14, 2016 Council Meeting, the Purcellville Town Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and Capital Improvement Program at a total amount of \$21,620,454. The FY 2017 Operating Budget amounts to \$20,405,916, which is broken down by fund as: General Fund - \$10,860,549; Parks and Recreation Fund - \$541,394; and Utility Funds (Water and Wastewater) - \$9,003,973.

The Town Council discussed the FY 2017 Budget for five months, beginning with a pre-budget work session in January and multiple work sessions in March and April. During these discussions, Council directed the Town Manager to identify \$242,000 in reductions in order to keep the property tax rate flat from FY 2016.

The General Fund operating budget includes enhancements to address critical service needs and support. Four enhancements were approved, including reinstatement of the Assistant Director of Public Works position, a Maintenance Worker position, an Office Manager/Management Analyst for the Police Department, and a part-time paralegal to support the Town Attorney. Additionally, vehicle replacements were approved for the Police Department and Capital Engineering Division of Public Works.

In the FY 2017 Budget, Town employees will receive a 3% Market Adjustment and have an opportunity for performance bonuses as part of the Town Council's approved Pay-for-Performance program. This program ensures that high-performing employees are recognized for their dedication and quality work and helps the Town recruit and retain its workforce. As one of the cost reductions proposed by the Town Manager and approved by Council, the Town will modify its health plan offerings to focus on a more consumer-driven health care model, which will limit premium increases to both the Town and employees.

The Parks and Recreation Fund operating budget includes an enhancement of part-time staff to provide additional support for the community-based events and activities throughout the year. Through the Parks and Recreation Fund, the Town owns and maintains the Bush Tabernacle, provides outside-the-fence maintenance at Fireman's Field and Dillon's Woods, hosts Signature Events, and supports holiday events and activities throughout the year.

The Town's Enterprise Funds include operational enhancements to improve efficiency in daily activities and monitoring of plant operations. Also included is an upgrade to the Town's video camera system that is used to inspect sewer lines and identify the cause of backups in the system. This camera will allow staff to be more proactive in detecting problems in our sewer and stormwater drainage systems before customers are impacted.

The Town's Capital Improvement Program for FY 2017 includes allocation of funds from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVRTA), VDOT, and Loudoun County (Gas Tax). These funds are dedicated to projects along local roadways to improve traffic operations.

As part of the Budget Adoption, the Town Council also approved the Master Tax and Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2017 (the Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rates were adopted in April). No changes in taxes were adopted. Changes to Town fees include modifications to Community Development fees and application costs, as well as updates to event support fees and train station rental fees.

On the utility side, water rates were approved with a 3% increase, and wastewater (sewer) rates were approved with a 5% increase. Staff noted that the Town's utility service consultant provided scenarios for rate projections based on the Town's current operational expenses, debt service, and projections of future connections. The Town Council expressed its desire to discuss the utility rates in more detail to develop a plan for managing current expenditures and future debt service, identifying critical capital needs, and investigating additional options for alternate revenue sources to mitigate rate increases on customers.

More information on the FY 2017 Proposed Budget is at: <http://www.purcellvilleva.gov/budget>

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 antiques, entertainment, farmer's markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at www.purcellvilleva.gov.

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