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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2016

Fauquier County Board of Supervisors Adopts FY 2017 Budget, Calendar Year 2016 Tax Rates, FY 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program, and Draft FY 2018 Fiscal Plan

Warrenton, Virginia – The Fauquier County Board of Supervisors adopted the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, Calendar Year 2016 tax rates, Fiscal Years 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and a draft FY 2018 fiscal plan on April 5, 2016.

The FY 2017 adopted budget totals \$289.7 million beginning July 1, 2016. General Fund expenditures total \$177.5 million, an increase of \$6.2 million or 3.64% over the FY 2016 adopted budget. This increase includes an additional \$2.0 million in local support to the School Division. The adopted budget also continues the two-year budget process implemented with the FY 2015 budget, with the FY 2018 draft fiscal plan serving as commitment of the Board of Supervisors for the future year.

The adopted budget includes an increase to the Calendar Year 2016 overall real estate tax rate of \$0.040 to \$1.039 per \$100 of assessed value, comprised of a \$0.027 increase in the general rate and a \$0.013 increase in the fire and rescue levy. The adopted tax increase in Calendar Year 2016 is sufficient to cover budget enhancements in both FY 2017 and FY 2018, but fully implemented in the first year of the two-year budget. The average homeowner's real estate tax bill will increase approximately \$129 per year based on an average residential assessment of \$321,300. The adopted budget maintains all other tax rates at their current level.

The Board of Supervisors' focus in the adopted budget was increasing funding in three areas in order to address community needs. In the area of Fire and Emergency Services, this budget permits the hiring of 10 additional Firefighters/EMT's which will supplement staffing at a

number of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Stations. This additional staffing will, for the first time in Fauquier County, allow staffing at all 11 stations within the County during daytime hours. In addition to its focus on Fire and Emergency Services, the Board's budget also allocates funding for an additional 8 sheriff's deputies to help address the need for additional community policing during high incident times, with 4 new positions in each year of the biennium. The Board also provided an additional \$3.2 million over the biennium to the School Division to permit compensation adjustments for both teachers and classified staff.

As part of the State's FY 2017 budget, the State provided funding to implement mid-FY 2017 raises for certain school positions and certain state-supported local positions. In order for the County and the School Division to receive the funding for these raises, the County and School Division must allocate the raises to those staff members. As such, the adopted budget allows for a two-percent cost-of-living adjustment for County employees in mid-FY 2017 and no increase in health insurance premiums.

The FY 2017 adopted budget includes \$2.85 million in capital projects funding including \$300,000 for preliminary engineering for the joint-use facility at the Stafford property, \$350,000 for the Central Library project, \$200,000 for ball field, trails, and playground renovations/upgrades, \$125,000 for preliminary engineering for the Northern swimming pool project, \$1.54 million for the leachate and gas management at the Landfill, \$200,000 for ongoing hydrogeological studies, \$137,550 for local matching funds for the Warrenton-Fauquier Airport expansion/improvement grant funded projects.

The FY 2018 draft fiscal plan totals \$302.4 million, with General Fund expenditures totaling \$179.6 million. The General Fund is set to increase by 1.13% in FY 2018, including an additional \$1.2 million in local support to the School Division. The FY 2018 plan does not anticipate any additional real estate tax increase, given the tax increase in FY 2017 includes funding to cover FY 2018 projected increases for public safety staffing and local support to Schools. The FY 2018 budget, however, does not anticipate any compensation increases for County employees.

Information about the FY 2017 budget process, the proposed budget document, and a summary of the FY 2017 adopted budget are available on the Fauquier County website at <http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-h-z/management-and-budget>.

The detailed FY 2017 adopted budget will be posted on the Fauquier County website in June 2016.

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