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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whitchurch-Stouffville Council approves \$87 million operating and capital budget for 2017

Town invests in new staff, roads and new cricket pitch

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council has unanimously approved a \$87 million budget for 2017 which includes approximately \$24 million in new funding for capital projects and approximately \$63 million to maintain and operate Town services.

“The 2017 Budget provides our residents and businesses with continued high quality services in areas such as roads and sidewalk maintenance, parks and recreation facilities, customer service and community engagement” said Mayor Justin Altmann. “Council and staff drafted a comprehensive budget that serves all citizens and continues to invest in our Town, now and in future years.”

The 2017 Operating Budget included a negative tax rate increase, however Council added a 2.50 per cent additional contribution to capital reserves for a estimated 1.75 per cent tax rate increase. This translates to approximately \$36 in higher taxes (Town portion only) for an average detached single family residential house with an assessed value of \$741,000.

The contribution to capital reserves is for future asset rehabilitation and projects identified in the 10-year Capital Plan.

“This budget represents a fiscally sound approach and addresses the increased demand for services in our town,” Mayor Altmann said. “It is in line with many other York Region and GTA municipalities.

Operating budget highlights include

- \$6.3 million for Leisure and Community Services;

- \$5.5 million for Fire and Emergency Services;
- \$1.3 million to provide curbside waste collection to more than 17,000 households; and
- \$5.0 million for the maintenance of our community's roads.

Capital Budget highlights include

- \$2 million dollar allocation to the building and maintenance of parks and playgrounds;
- \$4.5 million allocation to resident water meter replacements;
- the installation of Wi-Fi Internet services to a variety of Town facilities; and
- the continuing resurfacing and reconstruction of a variety of the Town's roads – including Montreal Street, Burkholder Street and the multi-year Downtown Stouffville revitalization project.

Also included in the budget was a 50% increase to Economic Development and Communications marketing and community engagement initiatives, \$30,000 allocated to the construction of a new cricket pitch and \$125,000 towards the completion of a new Leisure Master Plan.

Council also approved 9 new full-time staff positions, including 2 contract staff, to help Town Hall continue providing the highest quality of service to the citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

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