

Town of Mint Hill



Fiscal Year 2017-2018
Proposed Budget Document

PROPOSED BUDGET MESSAGE

DATE: 6/1/2017
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR BIGGERS,
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FROM: BRIAN L. WELCH, TOWN MANAGER/BUDGET OFFICER
RE: PROPOSED FY 2017 - 2018 ANNUAL BUDGET

Pursuant to Section § 159-11 of the North Carolina General Statutes, I respectfully present the FY 2017-2018 Budget for your review and consideration. The following message summarizes and highlights the significant elements of the adopted budget, particularly in those areas where there are notable changes from the FY 2016-2017 budget.

The proposed General Fund budget totals \$12,595,568. This budget is presented with a **proposed tax rate of \$0.27 per \$100** of assessed valuation, this rate is the same as the current tax rate as adopted for FY 2016-2017.

The Town's revenue forecasting philosophy has always been conservative and will continue for this fiscal year due to the ongoing uncertainty of current local, state, and national economic trends. Economic forecasting is not an exact science and at times relies upon the best professional judgment of the forecaster. To reduce the risks of miscalculating revenues or expenditures, the Town identifies as many factors as possible that may contribute to changes in revenue and expenditures, such as population growth, property values, development, and the economy.

Our citizens and Board have much to be proud of with a tax rate of 27 cents. At 27 cents, our tax rate is one of the lowest in the state for a municipality of our size. Furthermore, we have much to be proud in that it has been almost two decades since the Town increased the tax rate.

GENERAL FUND/POWELL BILL REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

Ad Valorem Taxes: The Town of Mint Hill relies on property taxes for 54% of the General Fund Budget Revenues. The assessment of all property located in the Town of Mint Hill is provided to us by Mecklenburg and Union Counties. The assessed property value is projected at \$2,582,365,082.

The adopted General Fund tax rate will be set at 27¢ per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property with an estimated collection rate of 97%. Ad Valorem tax revenues (including prior year taxes to be collected) for the coming Fiscal Year are budgeted at \$6,855,000.

Local Sales and Use Tax: The State of North Carolina grants local governments the authority to levy a local sales tax of up to 2.5%, with the state sales tax. Mecklenburg County levies this tax with Mint Hill receiving sales tax revenues based on an Ad Valorem basis. The FY 2017-2018 sales tax projection is \$1,600,000. Data received from the North Carolina League of Municipalities suggests that this fiscal year's sales tax collections will result in an approximate 4.75% increase over last fiscal year.

Franchise Tax: The state levies a franchise tax on the total gross receipts of various utilities. Each Town's share of the utility franchise tax is based on the actual receipts from electric and telephone service within their municipal boundaries during the fiscal year. The amount of revenue generated by this tax is highly dependent on weather conditions throughout the year. Also, any annexations of industrial or other facilities that are heavy users of electric or telephone services, effective during the fiscal year could impact this revenue. The Town has not annexed any industrial areas that will significantly impact this revenue. This revenue source is expected to be \$1,000,000 for FY 2017-2018.

Powell Bill Tax: State estimates report that the Powell Bill distribution will be approximately the same as in FY 2016-2017. The calculating formula for this revenue is derived from the 2015 NC Certified population of Mint Hill multiplied by \$19.74 (75%) and total mileage of road maintained by Mint Hill multiplied by \$1,612 (25%). The total estimated Powell Bill Tax Revenues for the FY 2017-2018 budget is \$684,600.

GENERAL FUND / POWELL BILL EXPENDITURE HIGHLIGHTS

Personnel: The FY 2017-2018 proposed budget includes a 2.5% merit pool for Town Employees whose performance evaluation warrants a pay increase. The proposed budget also includes the expansion in some departments and implementation in the remainder of departments of an employee incentive program based on job-specific training milestones.

Administration: There are no major changes proposed in the FY 2017-2018 budget in the Administrative Department.

General Services (Non-Departmental): This account is derived from ongoing professional and contractual expenses the Town expends on an annual basis. These services include items that are associated with multiple departments or contributions to outside organizations. These items include but are not limited to the auditing/legal services, insurance and bonds, telephone and utilities. Various outside organizations will receive funding from the Town of Mint Hill during FY 2017-2018. The distribution of funds to these organizations is as follows. The Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce

was approved for \$12,000. Kid's Voting was approved for \$2,500. The Levine Senior Center was approved for \$5,000. Servant's Heart was approved for \$10,000. Finally, the Mint Hill Athletic Association was approved for \$65,000 to finance ongoing operations.

Planning: There are no major changes proposed in the FY 2017-2018 budget in the Planning Department.

Police Department: The Police Department provides for a patrol force of five officers per shift, investigations, school resource officers and administrative staff. They continue to improve on Community based policing, problem-solving and being pro-active in reducing the overall concerns with crime in Mint Hill. This budget year includes funds for the purchase of five (5) replacement patrol vehicles. Additionally, funds are included to continue a five (5) year radio replacement program mandated by changes in radio technology.

Fire Department: Mint Hill Fire & Rescue is recognized as Mint Hill's primary provider of Fire and Ambulance Service in the Town. Mint Hill residents continue to receive the highest possible service in Mecklenburg County. The Town of Mint Hill provides and assigns the Fire Department twenty-four (24) full-time employees with benefits, employee departmental costs such as uniforms, travel/training, and the purchase of one piece of equipment every five (5) years as per our contract.

Idlewild Volunteer Fire department provides coverage for a portion of Mint Hill and Matthews. For this reason, both municipalities make financial contributions to the department to support ongoing operations. In an effort to combat rising operating costs while keeping the Idlewild VFD solvent and functioning at a high level, the Town has budgeted \$272,500 for FY 2017-2018 to offset operating and personnel costs and for continued help towards their recent purchase of a fire engine.

Animal Control: Animal Control Services will continue to be provided by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Control through an annual contract. The contract provides for receiving all animal control complaints, dispatching service, complaint investigation and resolution, transportation of animals and housing of the animals. The FY 2017-2018 budget estimates the cost of this service at \$115,000.

Street Maintenance: The Town maintains over 100 miles of streets within the corporate limits. These streets are assessed on an annual basis and are assigned priority for repair by the Public Works Director. The FY 2017-2018 budget has identified \$470,000 for street resurfacing.

Solid Waste / Recycling: The adopted budget provides funding for once weekly curbside collection of one ninety-six (96) gallon can, bi-weekly recycling of one ninety-six (96)

gallon can and debris pickup. The cost of this service for FY 2017-2018 is \$1,860,000 or \$16.88 per household per month. Landfill service and tipping fees will continue to be provided by Mecklenburg County Landfill service at a cost of \$320,000 annually. Total cost for Solid Waste Service for the budget is \$2,180,000.

Parks and Recreation: Funds have been added to this year's budget to continue our commitment of maintaining structures at the parks that include shelters, the park house and other equipment. Funds have also been identified for the Parks on Wilgrove and Fairview to install equipment and make improvements as they are identified by the Public Works and/or Parks Directors.

STORMWATER FUND

Mecklenburg County and all seven municipalities assess a stormwater fee to every tax parcel except undeveloped ones including tax-exempt agencies such as Governments, Schools, and Churches. The assessments are spent only on stormwater related expenditures to repair or maintain the major and minor stormwater system. The Town will continue to contract with Mecklenburg County Stormwater Services for inspection and repair services, supplemented by the Town's Public Works Department, as well as implement the federally mandated Stormwater Phase II Permit Requirements. All priority rankings and subsequent work on stormwater complaints are in accordance with the Mecklenburg County Stormwater Services priority rating system.

TOURISM REVENUE FUND

Mecklenburg County collects hotel and motel tax from properties within the County. Revenues collected within the Town limits are shared with the County, which uses its portion of the tax to fund the Charlotte Convention Center as well as the NASCAR Hall of Fame. The remaining portion of the tax is remitted to the Town of Mint Hill to be spent on the promotion of local tourism. This fund also accounts for revenues collected from the Prepared Food and Beverage Tax for use for the same purpose. Per an interlocal agreement between all municipalities within Mecklenburg County, the Town's portion of the tax will remain at 75% of that amount collected in each municipality. Approved funding for the Mint Hill Historical Society in the amount of \$65,000, Mint Hill Arts in the amount of \$12,000, Pottery 51 in the amount of \$7,000, Mint Hill Madness in the amount of \$12,000, Honor the Warriors in the amount of \$5,000, the VFW in the amount of \$5,000 and Discover Mint Hill in the amount of \$1,500 have been awarded in FY 2017-2018. Proceeds from this Fund also go towards the continued implementation of the Town's Cultural Action Plan via a contribution to the Arts and Science Council in the amount of \$10,000.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

This Fund contains proceeds for future infrastructure work that has been contributed by developers in lieu of immediately installing the infrastructure required as part of their

development. Currently the Fund contains monies slated for the installation of sidewalk, curb and guttering and other improvements along Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road along with funds as per the Town's cash in lieu of bonds policy.

SUMMARY

Mint Hill will continue all efforts to provide its residents with the highest possible level of service while striving to be good stewards of the Town's tax dollars. We will manage the continued growth of our area to provide a well-balanced community with a high standard of living that is sustainable in all economic conditions. The Town will continue to work with other agencies to resolve issues related to water/sewer, transportation, growth and recreational opportunities. Identifying what are the best long-term interests for the Town, goal-setting for the future and working towards these goals will continue to be our primary focus. In closing, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the elected officials and the entire Town Staff for their dedication, hard work and genuine interest in our community. Their selfless efforts and commitment to excellence reasons Mint Hill is one of the best communities in North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,

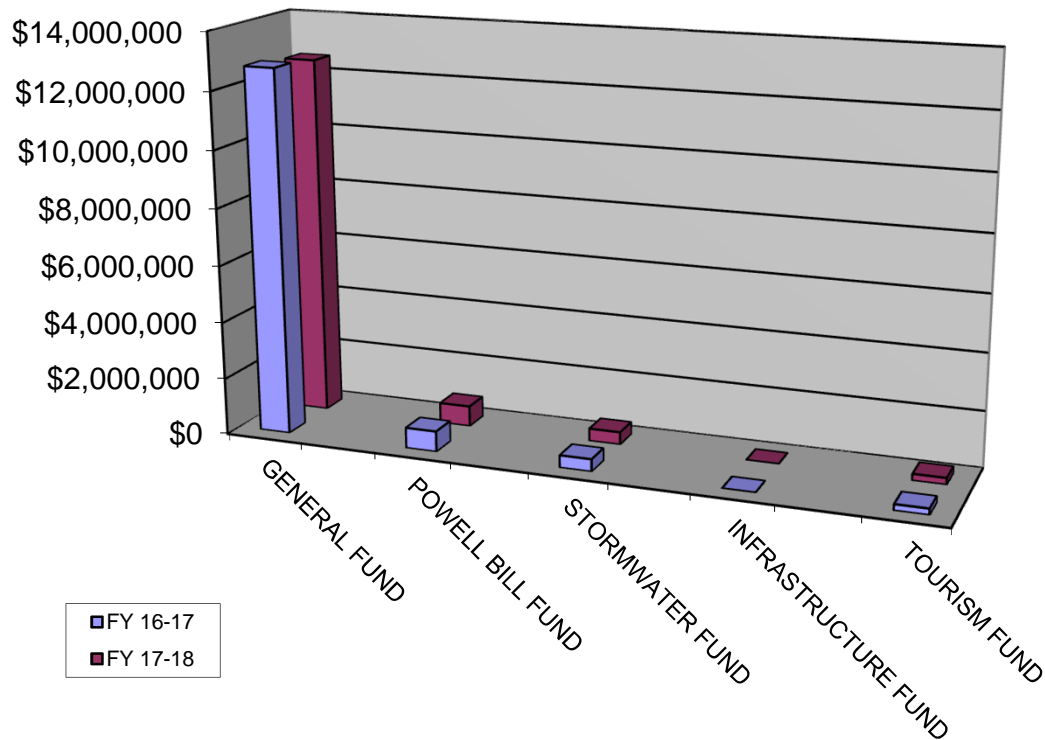


Brian L. Welch
Town Manager/Budget Officer

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET BY FUND

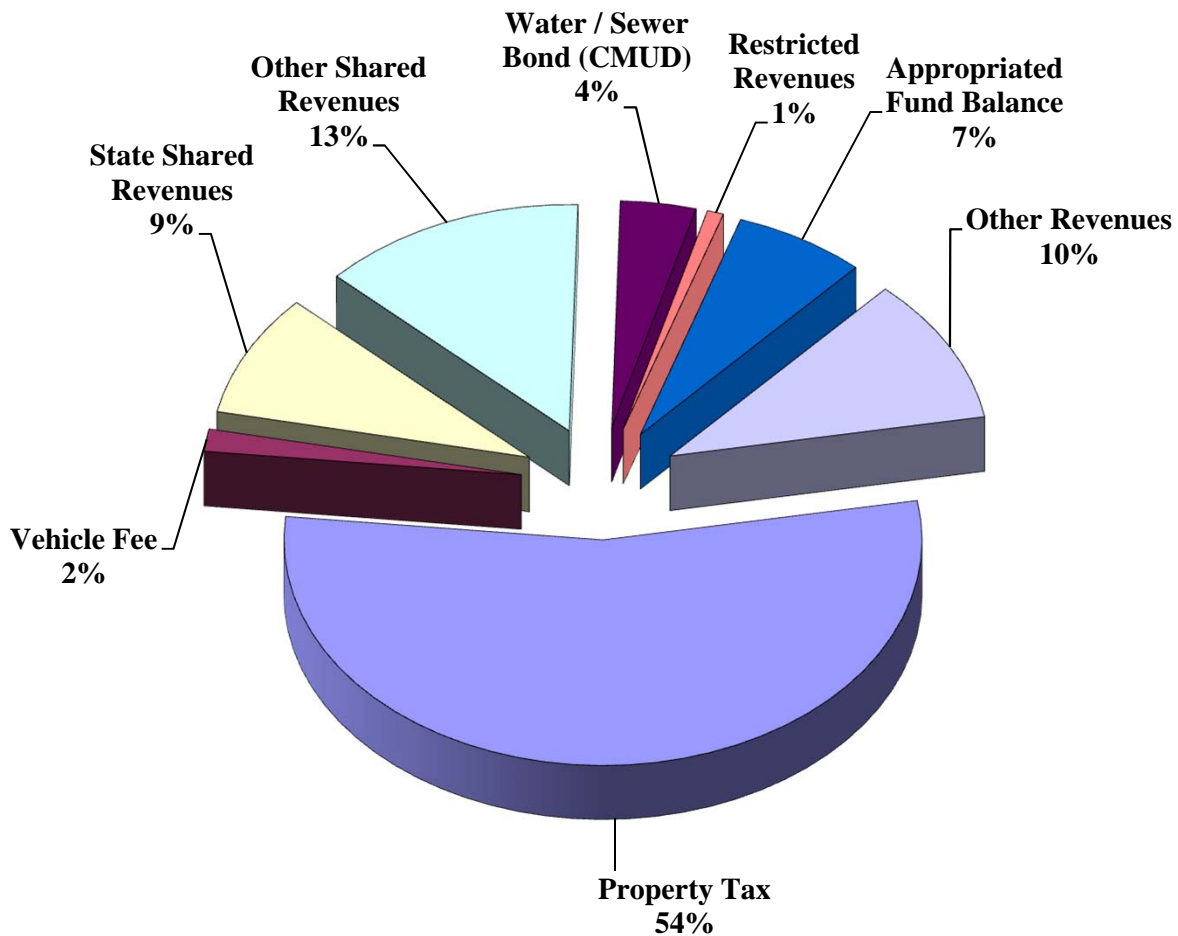
TYPE OF FUND	FY 16-17	FY 17-18
GENERAL FUND	\$12,760,854	\$12,595,568
POWELL BILL FUND	726,000	726,000
STORMWATER FUND	435,020	443,980
INFRASTRUCTURE FUND	50	50
TOURISM FUND	214,000	232,500

TOTAL \$14,135,924 \$13,998,098



FY 2017-2018 GENERAL FUND PROPOSED REVENUE SUMMARY

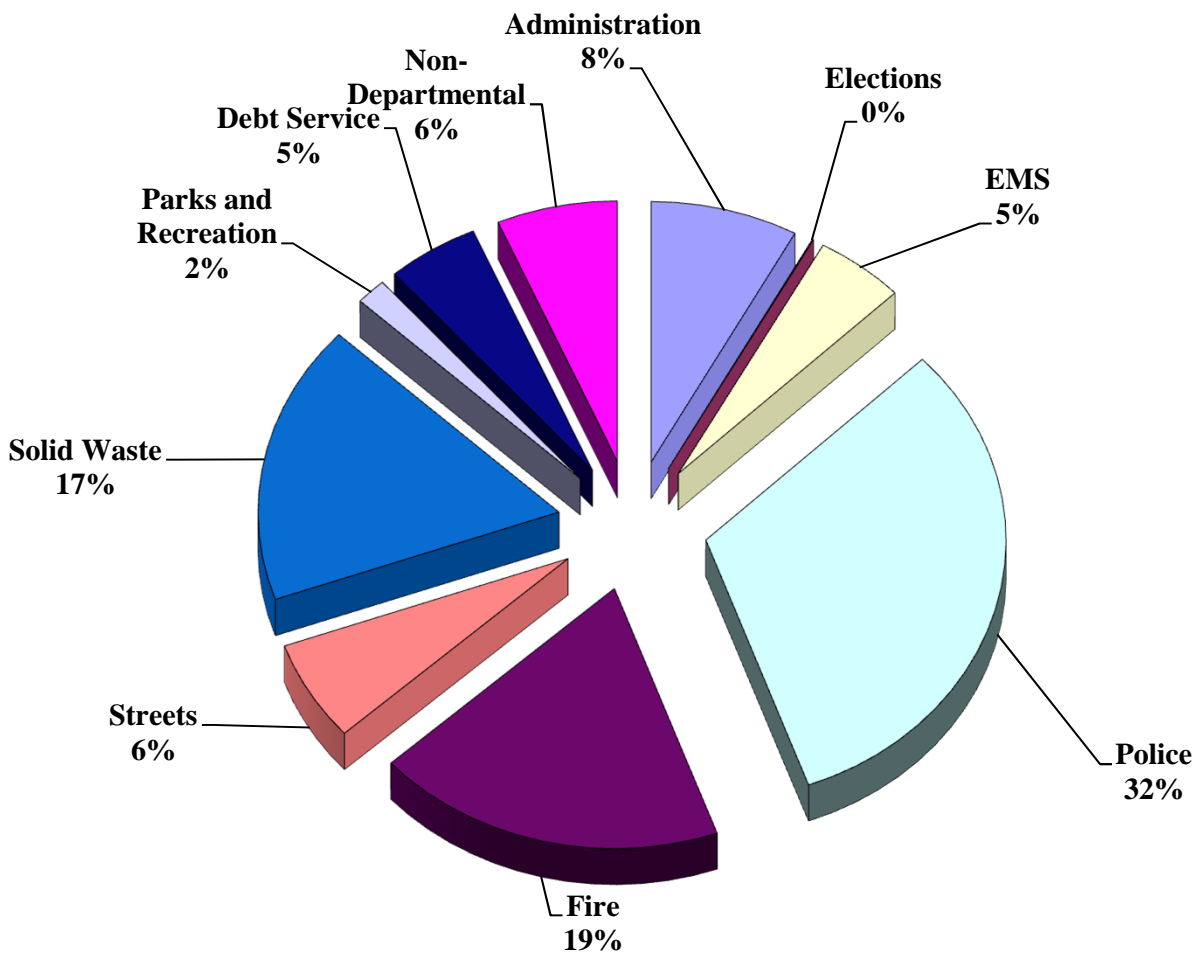
REVENUES	
Property Tax	\$6,855,000
Vehicle Fee	200,000
State Shared Revenues	1,100,000
Other Shared Revenues	1,695,500
Water / Sewer Bond (CMUD)	482,750
Restricted Revenues	105,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	845,352
Other Revenues	1,311,966
<i>Total Revenues</i>	\$12,595,568



FY 2017-2018 GENERAL FUND PROPOSED EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

EXPENDITURES

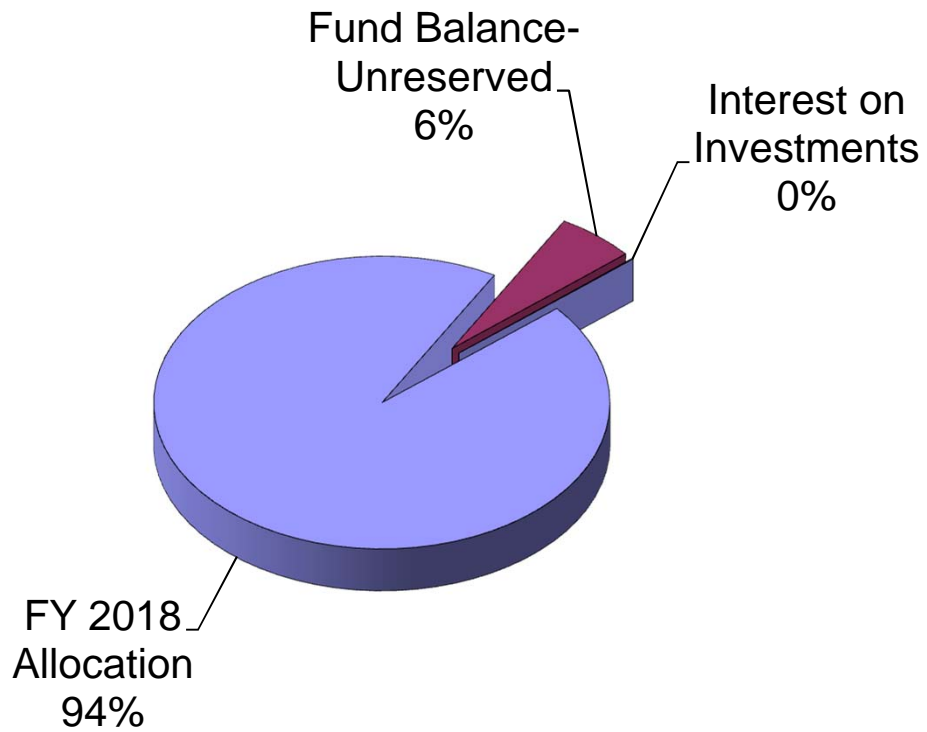
Governing Body	\$41,295
Administration	996,042
Elections	7,500
EMS	603,966
Police	3,973,340
Fire	2,368,742
Streets	783,970
Solid Waste	2,180,000
Parks and Recreation	205,537
Debt Service	620,176
Non-Departmental	815,000
Total Expenditures	\$12,595,568



**FY 2017-2018 POWELL BILL
PROPOSED REVENUE SUMMARY**

REVENUES

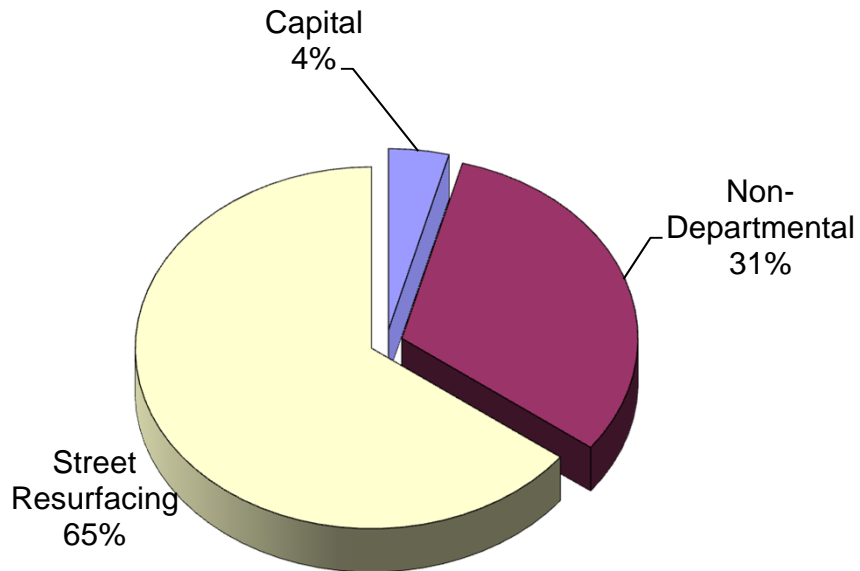
FY 2018 Allocation	\$684,600
Fund Balance-Unreserved	\$40,900
Interest on Investments	500
<hr/>	
Total Revenues	\$726,000



FY 2017-2018 POWELL BILL
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

EXPENDITURES

Capital	\$30,000
Non-Departmental	226,000
Street Resurfacing	470,000
<hr/>	
Total Expenditures	\$726,000



2017-2018 PROPOSED BUDGET ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mint Hill, NC meeting in regular session on June 8, 2017, that the following Fund Revenues and Department Expenditures together with certain restrictions and authorizations are adopted:

SUMMARY

General Fund	\$12,595,568
Powell Bill Fund	726,000
Stormwater Fund	443,980
Infrastructure Fund	50
Tourism Revenue Fund	232,500
	<hr/>

TOTAL FUND SUMMARY **\$13,998,098**

Section I GENERAL FUND

Revenues Anticipated

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Ad Valorem Taxes - Levy	\$6,150,000
Ad Valorem Taxes-Prior Years	40,000
Auto Fee	200,000
Ad Valorem Taxes-Interest	25,000
Motor Vehicle Tax	640,000
Vehicle Rental Tax	4,000
Other Taxes - ABC	80,000
Solid Waste Disposal	15,500
Beer & Wine Tax	100,000
Utility Franchise Tax	1,000,000
Sales and Use Tax Refund	1,600,000
Other Financing Sources	315,000
Earnings on Investments	5,000
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	967,966
Zoning Application Fees	20,000
Fund Balance-Unreserved	845,352
Char-Meck Schools (SRO)	105,000

Sewer Bonds (CMUD)	377,500
Water Bonds (CMUD)	105,250

Total General Fund Revenue **\$12,595,568**

Expenditures Authorized

<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Governing Body	\$41,295
Administration	996,042
Elections	7,500
EMS	603,966
Police	3,973,340
Fire	2,368,742
Streets	783,970
Solid Waste	2,180,000
Parks and Recreation	205,537
Debt Service	620,176
Non-Departmental	815,000

Total General Fund Expenditures **\$12,595,568**

Section II
POWELL BILL FUND

Revenues Anticipated

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Powell Bill Revenue	\$684,600
Fund Balance-Unreserved	\$40,900
Interest on Investments	500
	<hr/>
Total Powell Bill Revenues	\$726,000

Expenditures Authorized

<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Street Resurfacing	\$470,000
Non Departmental	226,000
Capital	30,000
	<hr/>
Total Powell Bill Expenditures	\$726,000

**Section III
STORMWATER FUND**

Revenues Anticipated

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Stormwater Fees	\$330,000
Interest on Investments	2,000
Fund Balance-Unreserved	111,980
	<hr/>
Total Stormwater Revenues	\$443,980

Expenditures Authorized

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Administration	\$278,980
Non-Departmental	165,000
Capital	0
	<hr/>
Total Stormwater Expenditures	\$443,980

Section IV
INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Revenues Anticipated

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Interest on Investments	<hr/> \$50
Total Infrastructure Revenues	\$50

Expenditures Authorized

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Contingency	<hr/> \$50
Total Infrastructure Expenditures	\$50

Section V
TOURISM FUND

Revenues Anticipated

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Prepared Food/Occupancy Tax	\$205,000
Grants	5,000
Fund Balance-Unreserved	22,350
Interest on Investments	150

Total Tourism Revenues **\$232,500**

Expenditures Authorized

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Non-Departmental	\$232,500

Total Tourism Expenditures **\$232,500**

**SECTION VI
TAX RATE ESTABLISHED**

An Ad Valorem Tax Rate of \$0.27 per \$100 at full valuation is hereby established as the official tax rate for the Town of Mint Hill for the fiscal year 2017-2018. This rate is based on a total true valuation of \$2,582,365,082 and an estimated rate of collection of approximately 97%. A vehicle fee of \$10 is also hereby established and is levied on all vehicles registered within the corporate limits.

**Section VII
SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION, BUDGET OFFICER**

- A The Budget Officer shall be authorized to reallocate departmental appropriations among the various objects of expenditures as he believes necessary.

**Section VIII
RESTRICTIONS, BUDGET OFFICER**

- A Utilization of appropriations established in any Capital Reserve Account may be accomplished only with the express approval of the Board

- B Upon authorization by the Board at some future time, the Budget Officer may activate the Capital Projects Fund and thereafter treat it as any other operating fund.

**Section IX
UTILIZATION OF BUDGET AND BUDGET ORDINANCE**

This Ordinance and the Budget Document shall be the basis of the financial plan for the Mint Hill Municipal Government during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. The Budget Officer shall administer the Budget and he shall insure that operating officials are provided guidance and sufficient details to implement their appropriate portion of the Budget. The accounting section shall establish records that are in consonance with the Budget and this Ordinance and the appropriate statutes of the State of North Carolina.

PROPOSED THIS THE 8TH DAY OF JUNE, 2017