

## Board Meeting Minutes

March 09, 2015

**FINAL**

Approved March 26,  
2015

The rescheduled February meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order on March 9, 2015, by President Tim Thompson at 7:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015-1683.

### **Present:**

Officers: Tim Thompson (President/Colvin's Glen-Colvin's Forest Citizens Association), Ed Wyse (First Vice President/Springfield/Membership/ Civic Association of West Springfield), Bill Barfield (Second Vice President/Legislation), Curtis Anderson (Recording Secretary/Budget), and Fred Costello (Corresponding Secretary/Land Use/Fox Mill Estates Homes Association).

District Council Representatives: Art Wells (Braddock/Truro Homes Association), Katherine Ward (Mt. Vernon), Flint Webb (Providence/Environment).

Committee Chairs: Ed Saperstein (Education/Glen Haven Farms Homeowners Association), Kathy Kaplan (Library/ Woodside at Holly Oak), Daniela Cockayne (Public Safety/Sleepy Hollow Citizens Association), Charlie Dane (Resolutions), Nancy Trainer (Nominating/Education/ Potomac Hills Citizens Association), Shaista Keating (Outreach)

Other: John Cockayne, Carey Campbell, Corazon Foley

### **Administrative and Organizational Topics**

Administrative Topics: Tim Thompson announced that he has been appointed to the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission which is "...charged with recommending changes to Fairfax County policies that would help us achieve our goal of maintaining a safe community, ensuring a culture of public trust and making sure our policies provide for the fair and timely resolution of police-involved incidents."

Federation Appointments: Tim Thompson nominated Margaret Thaxton for another term as representative to the Community Action Advisory Board. The Board approved the nomination.

**Bulletin/Newsletter:** Fred Costello – No report.

**Meeting Minutes:** The minutes for October 23, 2014 and January 22, 2015 were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Barfield (reading a message from the Treasurer) reported Total Assets of \$17,930.03, Total Liability of \$0.00, Total Equity of \$17,930.03, and Net

Income of \$307.11 as of March 9, 2015. The Treasurer's report is at attachment 2; a Finance Committee Report (submitted by email) is at attachments 3.

**Unfinished Business:** None to report.

**New Business:** Budget resolution to present to membership on March 19, 2015: Curtis Anderson, Budget Committee Chair, led a review of the draft budget resolution document. After much discussion the attached resolution (attachment 6) was adopted by the Board to submit to the membership.

### **Board & Committee Reports**

1. Budget – Curtis Anderson – See discussion above.
2. Citizens Association Services – Don Hinman – Report attached (attachment 4)
3. Education – Ed Saperstein & Nancy Trainer - No report.
4. Environment - Flint Webb – No report.
5. Human Services – Cherie Tripp Lejeune & Morgan Jameson – No report.
6. Land Use - Fred Costello & Jack Dobbyn – No report.
7. Library - Kathy Kaplan – No report.
8. Legislation - Bill Barfield & Matt Bell – No report.
9. Membership – Ed Wyse & Tania Hossain – No report.
10. Public Safety – Daniela Cockayne– No report.
11. Resolutions – Charlie Dane – No report.
12. Transportation – Jeff Parnes & Karen Campblin – No report.
13. Website – Jeff Parnes, Fred Costello & Brian Graham – No report.

### **District Council Reports**

(Dranesville & Hunter Mill - N/A)

1. Braddock – Art Wells – Report attached (attachment 5).
2. Lee – Chris Soule – No report.
3. Mason – John Birch – No report.
4. Mt. Vernon – Katherine Ward – Report attached (attachment 5).
5. Providence – Flint Webb - No report.
6. Springfield – Ed Wyse - No report:
7. Sully – Jeff Parnes - No report.
8. Membership – Open Floor – No items announced.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 11:37 p.m.

### **Next Meetings:**

**Membership Meeting** – “County and Public Schools Budgets”, March 19, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke.

**Board Meeting** - March 26, 2015, Dunn Loring Center, Room 108 (Entrance 2), 2334 Gallows Rd, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.

Minutes prepared by Curtis M. Anderson, Recording Secretary

Attachment 1

**Board Meeting Agenda**  
**7:30 pm, Monday, March 29, 2015**  
**Mason Governmental Center,**  
**6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale VA**

Call to Order/Welcome – Tim Thompson

Administrative Topics – Tim Thompson

Federation Appointments:

Nomination for Community Action Advisory Board - Margaret Thaxton

Bulletin/Newsletter – Fred Costello

Meeting Minutes–Curtis Anderson– approval of the board meeting minutes:  
October 23, 2014 and January 22, 2015

Treasurer's Report – Matt Bell

Old Business: COY update – Tania Hossain

New Business - Budget resolution to present to membership on March 19, 2015

Board & Committee Reports

• Budget – Curtis Anderson

• Citizens Association Services – Don Hinman

• Education –Ed Saperstein & Nancy Trainer

• Environment - Flint Webb

• Human Services – Cherie Tripp Lejeune & Morgan Jameson

• Land Use - Fred Costello & Jack Dobbyn

• Library - Kathy Kaplan

• Legislation – Bill Barfield & Matt Bell

• Membership - – Ed Wyse

• Public Safety – Daniela Cockayne

• Resolutions – Charlie Dane

• Transportation – Jeff Parnes & Karen Campblin

• Website – Jeff Parnes, Fred Costello & Brian Graham

District Council Reports (Dranesville & Hunter Mill - N/A)

Braddock - Art Wells; Lee – Chris Soule; Mason – John Birch;

Mt. Vernon – Katherine Ward; Providence – Flint Webb; Sully – Jeff Parnes;

Springfield – Ed Wyse

Adjournment

Next Meetings:

Membership Meeting: (Budget) March 19th Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road.

Board Meeting: March 26th, Dunn Loring Center, Room 108 (Entrance 2)

Attachment 2

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations  
 Balance Sheet  
 As of March 9, 2015**

	<b>Mar. 9, 15</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
BB&T Act # 5234331304 (Checking)	17,930.03
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	17,930.03
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	17,930.03
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>17,930.03</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
1110 – Retained Earnings	15,917.94
3000 – Opening Bal Equity	1,704.98
<b>Net Income</b>	307.11
<b>Total Equity</b>	17,930.03
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>17,930.03</b>

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations  
 Income Statement  
 July 1 through December 11, 2014**

	<b>Jul 1 – Mar. 9, 15</b>
<b>Income</b>	
4080 – Interest	1.11
4090 – Membership Dues	940.00
4170 – Program Fees	
4180 – Banquet	0.00
<b>Total 4170 – Program Fees</b>	0.00
4190 – Reimbursed Expenses	-448.00
<b>Total Income</b>	493.11
<b>Expense</b>	
6160- Dues and Subscriptions	72.00
6230 – Licenses and Permits	25.00
6290 – Rent	89.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	186.00
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>307.11</b>

### Attachment 3

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Finance Committee is composed of the Treasurer as Chair (Matt Bell) and two other members (Ed Saperstein and Ed Wyse). One of the committee's duties is to prepare the annual budget following this schedule:

- no later than March: Finance Committee hold its first budget planning meeting
- April board meeting: present the proposed budget to the board for approval
- Annual meeting (May membership): present the board approved budget to the membership for approval

Attachment 4

**Citizen Association Services Committee– report by CASC Chair Don Hinman, 26 Feb. 2015**

**I. Upcoming Educational Event**

The Community Associations Institute (CAI), Washington Metropolitan Chapter, is holding its annual Conference/Expo on Sat. March 7, 2015, at the Washington Convention Center. It is a great opportunity to learn how to be a more effective HOA or Condo Association leader. Vendors of all types will have tables to explain their services (legal services, insurance, grounds maintenance, association management, etc.)  
<http://caidc.org/page/221~647552/2015-Conference-Expo>

**II. Legislative Update, Virginia General Assembly**

*Comment by CASC Chair:* S.B.1008 and H.B. 1632 were the two bills out of the 2015 General Assembly session of most relevance to the governance of HOAs and Condominium Associations. They were noncontroversial and there was no known opposition. Both passed unanimously in the House and Senate and are likely to take effect on July 1, 2015. The text and legislative history of the bills can be found at these two General Assembly links: <https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?151+sum+HB1632> and <https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?151+sum+SB1008>

**H.B. 1632** (Del. David Bulova, patron). **Common Interest Community Board; duties.**

*Description:* Requires Virginia's Common Interest Community Board to develop and publish best practices for the content of declarations consistent with the requirements of the Property Owners' Association Act.

*Comment by CASC Chair on H.B.1632:* HOA covenants (declarations) vary greatly in their completeness and quality. An example of a problem in a number of association covenants is the lack of explicit authority to charge late fees for assessments that are not received on time. The General Assembly fixed this problem legislatively a few years ago for existing associations whose covenants lacked that authority. However, for future communities that will be organized as HOAs, including late fee authority would be a good example of a "best practice" that the CICB could recommend for inclusion in association covenants. Developers building new subdivisions would follow this guidance and include late fee authority and other helpful provisions when submitting their proposed HOA governing documents as part of the legal process in creating the subdivision. Publishing "best practices" for HOA governing documents will help future associations govern themselves more effectively.

**S.B. 1008.** (Sen. Chap Petersen, patron). **Condominium and Property Owners' Association Acts; statement of unit and lot owner rights.**

*Description:* Guarantees homeowners in HOAs and condo associations the right to:

- (i) have access to all books and records kept by or on behalf of the association,
- (ii) cast a vote on any matter requiring a vote by the association's membership in proportion to the unit or lot owner's ownership interest,
- (iii) have notice of any meeting of the board of directors and to record and participate in such meeting,
- (iv) have notice of any proceeding conducted against the unit or lot owner to enforce any rule or regulation of the association and the opportunity to be heard and represented by counsel at such proceeding, and
- (v) serve on the board of directors if duly elected.

*Comment by CASC Chair on S.B.1008.* This bill generated no opposition because the rights specified in these five provisions were already guaranteed to homeowners; it is a restatement of current law. The vast majority of HOA and Condominium board members and managers in Virginia already recognize these rights and implement them in their dealings with their residents.

## Attachment 5

### **Braddock District Report**

The Braddock District Council (BDC) will meet on March 11<sup>th</sup> a 7:30 pm at Braddock Hall. The BDC will join Supervisor Cook in hosting a special Budget Town Meeting which will be the first of several to be held within the District in coming weeks. Penetrators will be Christina Jackson and Laura Laxo from the Department of Management and Budget. The District's representative to the County School Board, Megan McLaughlin, will also participate.

The BDC's special committee on "Aging in Place" will meet March 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the King's Park Library Meeting Room. The featured topic will be the "Independent Living Project."

### **Mount Vernon District Report:**

#### **A. Minutes from the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) for February meeting.**

*The MVCCA has focused on the following issues by passing the following resolutions and sending them on to our Supervisor for action. Note: complete details of these resolutions can be found on the MVCCA website under the Resolution Tracker tab.*

EDU 2015-01: Citizen Input to the FY 2016 Budget Process: Requests that the county set a reasonable tax rate so that it allows for a reasonable citizen discussion regarding the budget and where our money should be spent.

ER 2015-02: Support for updated Solid Waste Management Plan to Encourage Recycling. The council members encourage the County to do more recycling especially of construction debris.

HHS 2015-01: Supporting County Goals of Ending Veteran Homelessness in 2015: The MVCCA supports the County position and goal to end homelessness of all our veterans throughout the county.

#### **B. Woodlawn:** The reimagined Woodlawn Plantation will be great for the County by becoming a tourist destination as well, therefore bringing in additional tax revenue.



Attachment 6

**Resolution on the  
Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2016 Budget**

**(APPROVAL DRAFT – Adopted by Board March 8, 2015)**

The following resolutions were adopted by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (Federation) Membership on March **xx**, 2015. This package of resolutions will be submitted to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Tim Thompson, President  
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

## Table of Contents

<b>I. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>A. EDUCATION/FCPS TRANSFER</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>B. LIBRARIES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>C. DEBT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>D. COMPENSATION</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>III. REVENUES</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>IV. BUDGET PROCESS</b>	<b>11</b>

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

While the Federation applauds the County for putting forward a budget which (a) contemplates some remaining funds available at the end of the fiscal year, (b) which does not contemplate an increase in the real property tax rate, and (c) which continues to maintain a relatively safe and secure community, we remain concerned about (1) the effect of an overall out-of-pocket increase in property taxes on the middle class taxpayers in the County and what this means for the future growth of the tax base, (2) the long term expenses built into the budget through underfunded and expensive pension plans, (3) unfunded repayments to the Commonwealth, and (4) the high cost of employee payroll benefit expenses during this period of low cost of inflation while Fairfax County taxpayers received much lower increases in their incomes.

## **II. SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS**

### **A. EDUCATION/FCPS TRANSFER**

**WHEREAS**, over the last several years FCPS teacher salaries have become uncompetitive with surrounding jurisdictions, with our maximum teacher salary now ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of 10 Washington area school districts—10 being lowest; and

**WHEREAS**, salaries are one element of total compensation that helps to attract and retain a strong workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, younger employees often have different preferences and needs regarding the composition of their compensation package, as compared to employees close to retirement; and

**WHEREAS**, between FY 2010 and FY 2015 the FCPS student population has increased between 2,000 and 3,000 students each year; and

**WHEREAS**, due to enrollment increases and aging facilities, FCPS would require \$242 million annually to both build and to renovate schools at the industry standard schedule of 25 years, and is only provided with \$155 million annually to support the Capital Improvement Program; and

**WHEREAS**, both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board approved the recommendations of the Joint Infrastructure Financing Committee (IFC) to add \$13.1 million to FCPS' Capital Improvement Program in FY 2016, but the County Executive has proposed delaying this payment until FY 2017;

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive's proposed budget and the Board of Supervisors' guidelines both include a 3.20% increase in the School operating transfer, in recognition of significant cost increases;

### **THEREFORE BE IT**

- 1. Resolved**, the Federation recommends that both FCPS and the County adopt more flexible compensation packages for their employees, permitting employees more choice in allocating their total compensation.
- 2. Resolved**, the Federation recommends that the School Board and the Board of Supervisors establish a joint committee to study how fringe benefits compare among various categories of workers in the two organizations.
- 3. Resolved**, the Federation requests the Board of Supervisors fulfill its commitment to add \$13.1 million to FCPS' Capital Improvement Program in FY 2016.
- 4. Resolved**, that the Schools operating transfer increase by no less than the

recommendation of 3.20%.

## **B. LIBRARIES - RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR 14 (13.5 FTE) LIBRARY CIRCULATION AIDE POSITIONS TO FY2016 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS** the Department of Management and Budget has requested the elimination of 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide positions in the FY2016 Advertised Budget as part of a 3% overall library reduction; and

**WHEREAS** the Library Board of Trustees budget subcommittee and Library Board of Trustees reluctantly voted in October 2014 to eliminate 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide positions as part of FY16 Budget reductions directed by the Fairfax County Executive; and

**WHEREAS** the Fairfax County Executive included the elimination of 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide positions in the FY2016 Advertised Budget as part of a 3% overall library reduction; and

**WHEREAS** circulation aides provide necessary services in the library branches including supervising volunteers, assisting patrons with technology, processing holds/deliveries/transfers, mending books, processing periodicals, overseeing handouts, dealing with lost/damaged items, processing library card applications and entering patron data, sweeping, straightening, marking items that are used in house, helping investigate and clearing up items on patron accounts, ordering supplies, putting up signs for holidays and closings, clearing the book drop, giving directions, helping with surveys, handling book bag sales, assisting with programs, organizing monthly exhibits of the patron's display cases, advising patrons on specific selections of books, providing translation assistance for patrons who speak languages other than English,<sup>1</sup> searching for items on various lists including "missing," "claims returned" and holds; and

**WHEREAS** circulation aides allow required staffing levels to keep branches open for their posted hours; and

**WHEREAS** eliminated staff positions can almost never be recovered; and

**WHEREAS** the next Library Director will very likely have a much stronger vision for using all our library staff more productively and by eliminating the 14 (13.5 FTE) positions, we are robbing the current Library Director's successor of that opportunity; and

**WHEREAS** the community library survey being drafted by the Library Board has not yet been conducted to provide community input as to what the citizens of Fairfax County want in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century library; and

**WHEREAS** funding allotments for the 14 (13.5 FTE) vacant circulation positions provide 30% of the total funding for overtime; and

**WHEREAS** overtime is now required in 90% of library branches to maintain hours of service, in part because of the vacant circulation aide positions; and

**WHEREAS** much of the library staff is nearing retirement age and cannot be expected to provide extensive overtime hours; and

**WHEREAS** the 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide vacancies have not been filled due to Department of Management and Budget policy rather than because of lack of need within the branches; and

**WHEREAS** the 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aid positions represent a wholly inequitable share of 31% of net positions cut from all county agencies in the FY2016 Advertised Budget; and

**WHEREAS** the \$355,000 cut representing “efficiencies” in addition to the \$500,000 cut for circulation aide positions in the FY2016 Advertised Budget, in of and by itself, represents more than an adequate and proportional cut to the library after multiple years of declining budget and failure to fill library staff vacancies since 2013;

**THEREFORE BE IT**

- 1. Resolved**, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations requests that the Board of Supervisors completely restore the funding for 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide positions in the FY2016 Adopted Budget.

---

1 Available for translation assistance from all FCPL branches are staff, including many circulation aides, proficient in the following languages: Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese - Mandarin, Farsi, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Marathi, Punjabi, Polish, Russian, Telugu, Urdu, Vietnamese.

### **C. DEBT MANAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has maintained a Aaa rating from Moody's Investors Service since 1975, a AAA rating from Standard & Poor's since 1978 and a AAA rating from Fitch Ratings since 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, as of January 2015, Fairfax County is only one of nine states, 39 counties, and 33 cities to hold a Triple-A rating from all three rating agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has been able to maintain its triple-A bond rating throughout many economic downturns and Federal Government budget reductions over the past 36 years by following sound financial management practices; and

**WHEREAS**, interest payments on the debt amount to over \$100M per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the county issues bonds annually at an average amount of \$100M, less than 3% of the annual operating revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, voter referendums are being circumvented by raising funds for County projects by selling bonds through the Economic Development Authority;

### **THEREFORE BE IT**

- 1. Resolved**, that the Federation recommends that the county continue to adhere to sound financial management policies and practices, including matching recurring requirements with sustainable and recurring sources of revenue, and if necessary defer or eliminate any new debt issuance that might place the county's strong debt rating and healthy financial condition at risk.
- 2. Resolved**, that the county not finance county infrastructure using Economic Development Authority bonds.

#### **D. COMPENSATION<sup>1</sup>**

**WHEREAS**, people live much longer than they did when the county retirement system was instituted (life expectancy is now 83, as compared to 70 not many years ago); and

**WHEREAS**, police and uniformed employees of the County are eligible for retirement at a much earlier age than taxpayers in the private sector; and

**WHEREAS**, we are concerned about the long-term liability of the pension fund, and

**WHEREAS**, raising the age at which retirement benefits are first paid to county employees (not including uniformed services or FCPS) to age 66, we estimate would save the County \$150M per year when fully implemented in year ten, and

**WHEREAS**, the DROP program was introduced during the housing bubble, when the County had abundant income, but now, after the bubble burst, \$33M per year is required to fund the DROP program; and

**WHEREAS**, the DROP program gives employees a lumped-sum payment averaging \$250,000 upon retirement, over and above their pension plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual cost-of-living increase in the pension payments is 4% although the cost of living has increased recently only 1.65%, the difference adding \$4M to the current county expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, the salaries of county employees are nearly the same as those in the private sector, although the fringe benefits that these employees receive amounts equal to 51-53% of their salaries, as compared to at most 30% in the private sector; and

**WHEREAS**, the salaries of school employees are nearly the same as those in the private sector, although the fringe benefits that these employees receive amounts equal to 36-38% of their salaries, as compared to at most 30% in the private sector; and

**WHEREAS**, the salaries of county and school employees are paid from the salaries of the taxpayers;

---

<sup>1</sup> Dollar values in this section are the Federation's best estimate, as presented in Report 147 on the Federation's website budget page. The Federation would welcome the County's estimate and the supporting documentation.



**THEREFORE BE IT**

1. **Resolved**, that the cost-of-living increase in the pension funds be that of the current cost of living rather than having a minimum cost-of-living increase of 4%.
2. **Resolved**, that the county gradually implement the following resolutions over a 10-year period:
  - a. **Resolved**, that the county raise the age at which retirement benefits first are paid to the age of 66, and
  - b. **Resolved**, that the DROP program be terminated.
3. **Resolved**, that the County and FCPS make every effort to pay a living wage to low salary employees.

### III. REVENUES

**WHEREAS**, real estate values have increased on average 3.39% during the recent equalization process, meaning that maintaining the property tax rate of \$1.09 per \$100 would still generate about \$2.4B in revenue and increase the cost for the average homeowner of roughly \$190 per year; and

**WHEREAS**, tax payments are paid from income rather than home value; and

**WHEREAS**, county residents' income has increased only 1.6%; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of the comprehensive State Transportation Act contains significant tax increases on sales, wholesale gasoline/diesel, property transfers, and other taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the rising additional fees that directly affect homeowners (such as storm water fees and waste disposal fees) further increases the "tax burden" on homeowners; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has raised the SACC fees and other fees on County taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has the authority to adopt a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on by-right commercial or mixed-use development, and to require that the collected impact fees be used to pay all or part of the costs of reasonable road improvements, and that new transportation revenues collected from fuel taxes be used to alleviate transportation congestion within the county;

### THEREFORE BE IT

1. **Resolved**, the Federation recommends the Board of Supervisors implement additional sources of revenue including but not limited to: (A) implementing a Meals Tax, (B) increasing fees for BPOL, residential permitting, and SACC, and (C) implementing a plastic bag usage fee.
2. **Resolved**, the Federation recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on by-right commercial or mixed-use development; the collected impact fees are to be used to pay all or part of the costs of reasonable road improvement, and that new transportation revenues collected from fuel taxes be used to alleviate transportation congestion within the county.
3. **Resolved**, the BOS ensure that all capital projects are funded through the sale of general obligation bonds.

#### **IV. BUDGET PROCESS**

**WHEREAS**, there are no fewer than 86 Fairfax County boards, authorities and commissions, and 10 citizen advisory groups to the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), all of which are advocacy groups for everything from trees to pets and child care to the elderly, none address a balanced, thorough analysis and prioritization of expenditures and revenue sources of the Fairfax County and FCPS' budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing financial situation creates counterproductive competition among vital programs, making carefully tailored cuts especially problematic; and

**WHEREAS**, a few of the District Supervisors have their own advisory committees on the county budget, whose chairs meet irregularly to exchange ideas; and

**WHEREAS**, community input must not only be broad, but also be informed by a depth of knowledge that effectively employs the diverse expertise of those who live and work in Fairfax County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advertised Property Tax Rate for FY2016 had to be set for March 3, just two weeks after the County Executive released his FY2016 Advertised Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the county's increasing participation in public-private partnerships, including the Tysons transit and other community redevelopments, may expose taxpayers to open-ended financial risks without adequate public discussion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advertised Budget was released on February 17, 2015, and the public hearings on the budget are scheduled to begin 49 days later, on April 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the County and FCPS already develop a 5 year staffing plan and budget outlooks; and

**WHEREAS**, while the "performance" of most departments and agencies, while reported in the county's proposed budget under the heading of Performance Measurement Results, include many activities, such as attending meetings and preparing reports, that are activities rather than real accomplishments/results; and

**WHEREAS**, both the county government and FCPS provide many non-mandated programs that should be reviewed for need and effectiveness, especially during economic downturns; and

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has an obligation to ensure the most efficient use of tax dollars at a time of continuing shortfalls, to minimize damage to essential county and schools programs, and to limit the burden on county taxpayers;

## **THEREFORE BE IT**

1. **Resolved**, the Federation praises the county's extensive series of public meetings to solicit community input on spending priorities, and urges that such meetings be continued in future years.
2. **Resolved**, the Federation continues to strongly urge that the processes/calendar for county residents' informed input to the budget decision-making process allow at least 60 days between release of the Advertised Budget and the public testimony on the budget.
3. **Resolved**, the Federation urges the County to publish 5-year budget goals.
4. **Resolved**, the Federation urges the County to publish a 5 year capital projects plan which includes projects for both the County and FCPS.