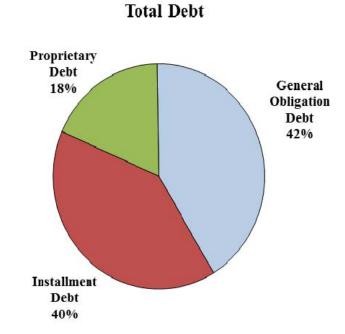
## **DEBT SERVICE FUND**

The Debt Service Fund accounts for the principal and interest payments for the Town's general obligation bonds and certificates of participation issued for projects such as the construction of the Town Operations Center and the 140 West Downtown Initiative.



#### **Outstanding Debt**

As of June 30, 2016 the Town will have about \$60 million in debt outstanding. The Town's most recent debt issuance was an installment financing for streets and buildings for \$7,984,000 that was completed in March 2016. The financing had a 15 year term

with a net interest cost of 2.32%.

In June 2015 the Town entered into a public improvement installment financing in the amount of \$2.44 million. The installment financing had a 15 year term and was completed with a net interest cost of 2.24%.

In February 28, 2013 the Town sold \$3.05 million of General Obligation (G.O.) refunding bonds. The refunding bonds sold at a very competitive interest rate of 2.02% resulting in net present value savings of \$158,563.

In June of 2012 the Town sold \$6.9 million of Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBs) to finance the Town's portion of the 140 West parking

	Long-Term Debt June 30, 2016				
Governmental Debt					
General obligation debt Limited Obligation Bonds Installment debt Separation allowance Compensated absences	\$ 23,472,000 12,150,000 10,502,145 415,060 2,691,000				
Total	\$ 49,230,205				
Proprietary Fund Debt					
Enterprise Funds Limited Obligation Bonds Compensated absences Internal Service Funds Motor vehicle equipment	\$ 8,060,000 636,000 2,213,753				
Total	\$ 10,909,753				

garage, other parking improvements and improvements to the Town's Operation Center. The transaction included refunding of approximately \$24 million of existing installment financings, including the Town Operations Center debt. The refunding portion of the transaction resulted in a net present value savings of \$746,580 over the remaining life of the bonds. The debt service costs for 140 West are be funded by the Parking Fund budget and the savings from the refunding will be split between the Parking Fund and the Debt Management Fund.

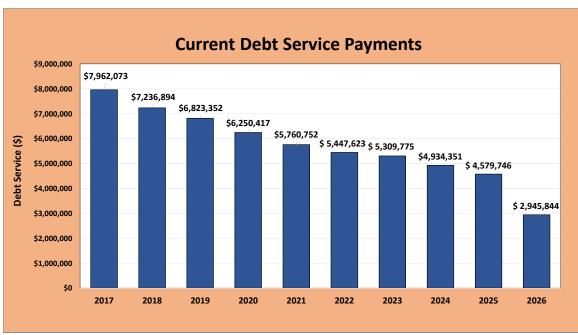
On May 15, 2012 the Town sold \$1.7 million of two-thirds G.O. bonds and \$4.94 million in G.O. refunding bonds. The rate for the refunding bonds that closed in FY12 was 2.26%, generating \$432,217 in net present value savings. The rate for the two-thirds bonds, which closed in FY13, was 1.42%.

On October 12, 2010, the Town issued \$20.41 million in G.O. bonds for the Library Expansion Project, Streets and Sidewalks, and Parks and Recreation facilities. About half of the bonds were issued as taxable Build America Bonds (BABs) that receive an interest rebate from the Federal Government. The balance of the G.O. bonds were issued as conventional tax-exempt bonds. The next largest portion of debt, \$15.9

million, was issued in 2005 to finance the construction of the Town Operations Center project. The Town has an additional \$8.57 million in debt that was used to finance the Wallace Parking Deck and other off-street parking facilities. This debt is paid entirely from parking fee revenue.

### **Current Debt Obligations**

The Town has a rapid pay-down of existing debt with 77% of existing debt scheduled to be retired within 10 years. The Town's long-term debt payments for existing G.O. obligation bonds and certificates of participation, for all funds, are shown below for the next ten years:



(Includes vehicle financings that are not paid from the debt Fund)

#### **Future Additional Debt**

In November of 2015 the Town held a general obligation bond referendum. The following bond orders appeared on the referendum ballot.

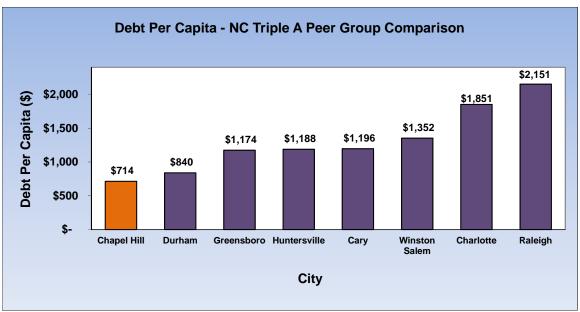
Streets & sidewalks	\$16,200,000
Trails and greenways	5,000,000
Recreation facilities	8,000,000
Solid waste facilities	5,200,000
Stormwater improvements	5,900,000
Total	\$40,300,000

The projects planned for each of the bond orders were identified through the Town's capital planning process, which includes the consideration of multiple master plans,

special studies and public facility assessments, identified a number of large-scale projects that could be financed through G.O. Bonds. All five bond orders were approved by the voters.

In addition to the referendum the Town is also planning to finance the following projects using installment debt.

- The Town is planning on replacing buses for the Chapel Hill Transit System. There are 12 buses planned for debt financing in FY16 and the total cost is expected to be about \$6 million. With the reduction in federal funding available for bus purchases, the Town and its funding partners (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Town of Carrboro) are working together to maintain a bus replacement schedule that will support the system's annual ridership of about 7 million passengers.
- The Town is currently in the planning process for the replacement of public safety facilities, including police headquarters and several fire stations. In addition, the Town is looking to address other space needs by combining public safety with other uses in one "multi-agency" facility. Preliminary estimates suggest that the total cost of a multi-agency facility will be between \$25-30 million, depending on the final scope and location of the project. It is expected that the project will be financed sometime after FY17.



(Ratios of total outstanding G.O.B. debt, authorized & unissued G.O.B. debt, and IP debt, excluding enterprise, for N.C. populations greater than 50,000. Source: Analysis of Debt of N.C. Municipalities 6/30/2015, Department of State Treasurer, Division of State and Local Government Finance.)

#### **Debt Limits**

By State law, local governments may issue debt totaling 8% of the total assessed value of its property tax base. The 8% limit applies to G.O. bonds and certificates of participation.

Outstanding debt in most governmental units falls well below the 8% of the total assessed value limit, and typically ranges from

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA  COMPUTATION OF LEGAL DEBT MARGIN June 30, 2016									
Total assessed valuation at June 30, 2016	\$	7,533,174,172							
Debt limit - 8% of total assessed value	\$	602,653,934							
Amount of debt applicable to debt limit: General obligation bonds		23,472,000							
Legal debt margin	\$	579,181,934							

about 1% to 4% for most governments, depending on the utility enterprises operated by the unit.

As of June 30, 2016 the Town has \$23,472,000 in outstanding G.O. Bonds that apply to this limit. The total is less than 1% of the Town's June 30, 2016 tax base (\$7.53 billion).

The Town's annual General Fund G.O. and installment financing debt service cost for FY17 is estimated to be about \$7.06 million, or about 11.19% of the General Fund adopted budget. As a percentage of adopted governmental budgets (Debt Management Fund and General Fund), debt service costs are about 9.99%. Annual debt service is considered to be low to moderate if it is less than 10% of the annual governmental appropriations. Our projections show that we will have debt service levels between 9% and 12% of budget for the next several years as borrowing increases to meet capital needs. We will continue to monitor this indicator because it is one of numerous factors used to determine the Town's credit rating.

#### **Bond Ratings**

The Town's bond ratings evidence its financial strength. When the Town issues G.O. bonds or other

Moody's	AAA
Standard & Poor's	AAA

securities, rating agencies reevaluate the Town's current and future ability to repay debt. As a part of the evaluations, the agencies examine the Town's management, reserves, current debt obligations, community growth and stability of key revenue sources. Because of a solid employment base in and around the Town of Chapel Hill and the Town's careful management of resources, the Town has maintained especially high bond ratings for a municipality of its size. Both Moody's Investor Services and Standard and Poor's have affirmed the Town's triple A G.O. Bond Rating (Moody's in June of 2012 and Standard & Poor's in August of 2015). Triple A is the highest rating attainable for G.O. Bonds.

# DEBT SERVICE FUND BUDGET SUMMARY

The Debt Service Fund is used to account for debt payments on the Town's general obligation bonds issued for capital improvement projects and on the limited obligation bonds issued to refund the Town Operations Center debt and to pay for the Town's new parking deck at 140 West. Funding for debt service historically came from a transfer from the General Fund to the Debt Service Fund, but beginning in 2008-09, a portion of the property tax rate was allocated to debt service payments. The continuing tax rate of 8.5 cents is expected to yield \$6.44 million in revenues in 2016-17.

The adopted budget for 2016-17 includes a contribution to reserve of about \$474,000.

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EXPENDITURES	3								
		2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Original Budget		2015-16 Revised Budget	]	2015-16 Estimated	2016-17 Adopted Budget	% Change from 2015-16
Principal Payments	\$	4,594,000	\$ 4,330,000	) \$	4,330,000	\$	4,330,000	\$ 5,030,000	16.2%
Interest Expense		2,154,740	2,082,643	3	2,082,643		2,117,946	2,025,240	-2.8%
Service Charges		13,963	1,750	)	1,750		20	-	-100.0%
Contribution to Reserve		648,484	1,188,389	)	1,188,389		1,036,549	473,542	-60.2%
Total	\$	7,411,187	\$ 7,602,782	2 \$	7,602,782	\$	7,484,515	\$ 7,528,782	-1.0%

REVENUES							
	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Original Budget	2015-16 Revised Budget	]	2015-16 Estimated	2016-17 Adopted Budget	% Change from 2015-16
Property Taxes Transfer from Off-Street	\$ 6,327,892	\$ 6,520,000	\$ 6,520,000	\$	6,390,500	\$ 6,443,000	-1.2%
Parking	909,081	909,582	909,582		909,581	908,832	-0.1%
<b>BABS</b> Interest Subsidy	169,184	169,200	169,200		169,184	169,200	0.0%
Interest Income	5,030	4,000	4,000		15,250	7,750	93.8%
Appropriated Fund Balance	-	-	-		-	-	N/A
Total	\$ 7,411,187	\$ 7,602,782	\$ 7,602,782	\$	7,484,515	\$ 7,528,782	-1.0%