September 15, 2016 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen held a special called meeting on Monday September 15, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the non-profit funding pool applications requests. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Vice-Mayor Patti Abel, Aldermen Joe Collins, Adam Kimsey, Billy Mashburn, Brandon McMahan and Barbara McRae were present.

Alderman Collins – Can I be refreshed about the criteria for the non-profit applications. I seem to remember that we wouldn't consider applications that would fund general operating procedures. I'm not suggesting that's what we want, but I just want to be on the same page as this Board. Is that what we still want?

Mayor Scott – I think so.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – It's not unlawful to allocate funds that would pay for general operating expenses, but I do remember before our application pool was started we would get a lot of groups wanting us to keep their doors open. I think that's where that came from.

Alderman Collins – That would disqualify them, as we go down the list if we see that we should disqualify them? That has been the standard?

Alderman Mashburn – In my opinion yes. That should be the case.

Alderman Collins – We need to change the policy or continue to follow the policy before we move on.

Alderman Mashburn – I'm not sure Alderman Collins that ninety percent of these requests don't' understand the true meaning of what we are asking them. So I'm looking at their actual requests before reaching any conclusions. Do you have one in particular you're looking at?

Alderman Collins – Some of these have operating expenses on their applications. I'm not sure if I'm troubled if they are using it for survival or for a special event. I just want to be consistent with prior Boards and ensure we are on the same page. I just want us to think about that. Because that was a stated policy.

Mayor Scott – I think we need to go through these individually, and if we have questions we can discuss them, and hopefully ask their representative if we need to. Then we will go back through and make our decision on each request.

The Board of Aldermen discussed the non-profit funding applications at length.

Mayor Scott – I think the overwhelming qualification for the non-profit funding pool requests should be the public purpose definition.

Alderman McRae – I think any agency that wants funding needs to define what they are using their money for.

Summer Woodard – Mr. Mayor and Board, there is a non-profit checklist that each group completed that should help you identify the criteria for how the money will be used.

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Alderman Collins – Okay. I'm talking about a concept and I think maybe others are thinking about a specific project. Maybe we need a motion or some type of action to vote for some of these applications, since we really do believe they are operating expenses.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Kimsey to utilize the public purpose letter as the framework for the Board's decision on non-profit funding pool applications. No vote was taken.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – Before we move on with this we need to understand that this letter simply addresses whether or not the funding is legal. It will not answer the question that Alderman Collins is referring to regarding operating expenses.

Alderman McRae withdrew her previous motion to use the public purpose letter as the framework for the Board's decision on non-profit funding pool applications.

Alderman McMahan – I don't think that should be an automatic disqualifier. I think we need to go through and look at each one on a case by case basis.

Alderman Mashburn – For example if we get an application that states they are only going to use the money to pay their power bill, and that's all they are going to use it for then that's' a disqualification. If they say they will use it to pay for electric bills and they are going to use the money for something else as well, then we don't throw it out entirely. That's how it has worked in the past to my knowledge.

Alderman McMahan – I agree 100 percent with that policy. If what their daily things are operating expenses, but they still benefit the people, I think we should look at it on a case by case basis.

Alderman Mashburn – And much of this has a lot to do with how you define operating expenses.

Alderman Kimsey – I really think we need to go through these on a case by case basis, because I don't think we need a policy. Let's keep doing what we are doing.

Alderman Collins – Let's just try that and see.

The Town Board continued to discuss the non-profit funding pool applications at length.

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Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Abel to fully fund requests from Boy Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, Kids Place, Hospice Foundation of WNC, Macon County REACH and Macon New Beginnings' second request for $4,000.00, and to reduce all other requests by 57.8%; in addition to authorizing Town Manager Summer Woodard to work with the County Manager to seek a funding avenue for the water project at Wesley's Park for Friends of the Greenway. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. Attached is the copy of the non-profit funding pool grants.

Arts Council	**$1,734.00**
Community Care Clinic of Franklin	**$2,890.00**
Literacy Council of Highlands	**$2,890.00**
Macon County Art Association	**$2,890.00**
Macon County Care Network	**$2,890.00**
Macon County Public Library	**$2,890.00**
Read2Me	**$2,312.00**

Boy Scouts	**$1,000.00**
Habitat for Humanity	**$5,000.00**
Kids Place	**$5,000.00**
Hospice Foundation of WNC	**$1,500.00**
Macon County REACH	**$5,000.00**
Macon New Beginnings Second Request	**$4,000.00**

<u>Adjourn</u>

Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by Abel to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

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Robert S. Scott, Mayor

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Chad B. Simons, Town Clerk