

CHIMNEY ROCK VILLAGE

GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN RESPONSE TO TROPICAL STORM HELENE

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a Tropical Storm Watch/Warning for Chimney Rock Village (hereinafter “Village”) beginning on September 25, 2024, Tropical Storm Helene, which included heavy rainfall, flash flooding, significant flooding of streams/rive, high winds, downed trees, power outages, and hazardous travel conditions for which the declaration of a state of emergency will trigger the ability to take measures to address all of the following conditions as necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Village has suffered excessive damage due to Tropical Storm Helene, with multiple buildings either damaged or simply removed due to the impact of Tropical Storm Helene; and

WHEREAS the Village and its residents are receiving donations from the public-at-large through a “GiveSendGo” account (“Account”) that was set up to allow for private citizens to make monetary donations to be given directly to the Village for hurricane relief and rebuilding efforts, and the Account continues to be active, with over \$ 100,000 donated to date; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-11, the Village “may acquire and hold any property, real and personal, devised, sold, or in any manner conveyed, dedicated to, or otherwise acquired by them, and from time to time may hold, invest, sell, or dispose of the same...”; and

WHEREAS, the Village has received money from private citizens for the purposes of assisting the Village and its residents overcome the devastation of Tropical Storm Helene; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-20.1, the Village has the authority to “appropriate money to any person, association, or corporation...[,]” however, said appropriations must be used to carry out any public purpose that the Village is authorized to engage in; and

WHEREAS the Village wishes to use the donations from the public-at-large to support its citizens, residents, and other individuals residing in the Village along with businesses with their basic necessities, such as groceries, water, electric, clothing, housing, and healthcare;

WHEREAS the Village wishes to create a special appropriation using the donations from the public-at-large in the manner discussed below.

I. SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS GENERALLY

The Chimney Rock Village values the needs of its citizens and residents. For this reason, the Chimney Rock Village appropriates funds to the citizens and residents of the Village for their basic necessities that are in alignment Village Council's mission and core values for the Village and which Village Council believes responds to current challenges faced by our community. These appropriations are referred to as "Special Appropriations."

A. The Village's Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Statement of Core Values and Beliefs

Vision Statement: Chimney Rock Village is a vibrant mountain Village where the government, residents, citizens and businesses work together for a high quality of life.

Mission Statement: The Chimney Rock Village is committed to providing quality, efficient services to all citizens, visitors and businesses through open communication, timely responses, and quality results.

Purpose: Chimney Rock Village, emergency care and relief fund, is used to support citizens, residents and businesses located or operating within the Village municipal limits with reasonable and necessary personal, family, living or necessities lost during the catastrophic event, Helene, when these have incurred a hardship beyond their control. The Fund assist the Chimney Rock Village community in meeting the basic needs when all other resources have been lost or used.

Chimney Rock Village Core Values and Beliefs:

1. The Chimney Rock Village believes municipal government should be non-partisan.
2. The Chimney Rock Village values open, transparent communication and trust with the community and each other.
3. The Chimney Rock Village values providing assistance to its citizens and residents during times of crisis.
4. . Chimney Rock Village values the lives of all community members and must protect them through collective action.

B. What is the purpose of the Village’s Special Appropriations program?

The purpose of the Village’s Special Appropriations program (“program”) is to provide monetary relief to those adversely impacted by Tropical Storm Helene and are either citizens, residents or businesses of the Village. This Program provides support with hurricane relief and rebuilding efforts. The Village feels that the best way to pursue this purpose is by providing its citizens and residents with monetary relief in order to purchase necessities. Lastly, it provides a way in which citizens and their government can work together to provide a higher quality of life within our community for each and every member, inclusive.

II. ELIGIBILITY

State law limit the kinds of activities that the Village and its funded nonprofits may carry out with Village funds. In addition to carrying out a public purpose, programs and services are funded through the Special Appropriations. A project or program must also be consistent with the Village’s Vision and Mission Statements, and its Statement of Core Values.

A. Ineligible Expenditures

The general rule is that the Village funds shall not be used for any activity or program, directly or indirectly, not authorized by the Policy. Village funds may never be used for any of the following, but not an exhaustive list:

- Political activities or campaigns
- Religious activities or other faith-based activities
- For the benefit of an ineligible beneficiary or recipient
- General operational expenses of a nonprofit
- Operational expenses of another program or service
- Indirect expenses
- Operating and Maintenance expenses of any for-profit company

B. Eligible Candidates

The Candidates that are eligible for receipt of any grant money are those who are citizens, residents, businesses and other individuals residing or located in the Village who need assistance with their basic necessities, such as groceries, water, electric, clothing, housing, and healthcare.

The Village will not provide more than \$ 5,000 per individual recipient. It will be at the direction of the Village Council of who shall receive these special appropriations and the amount of which provided will be determined on the application as discussed below. This distribution will be issued one-time to a recipient unless unique circumstances are evident and in the interest of the Village, a recipient may receive a second allocation to be approved by the Village Council.

III. THE APPLICATION AND SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGREEMENT

A. Application

An eligible candidate (hereinafter referred to as either “Individual” or “Applicant”) must apply for benefit pursuant to these guidelines. They shall provide the following information:

1. Initial Information: Name, number in household, address, and contact information (telephone and email)
2. Rental information (if applicable)
3. Statement on the Impact of Tropical Storm Helene
4. Statement on Need for Essentials
5. Certification (Signature) that all information provided in application or letter to the Council are true and accurate to the best of the Applicant’s knowledge and that they have reviewed this declaration and consent to all the requirements of how said monies provided by the Village can be used.
6. Signing of the Special Appropriations Agreement application.

B. Special Appropriations Agreement

The Special Appropriations Agreement shall be a contract between the Village and the individual requesting funds for the Village's special appropriations that in exchange for the Village providing the Applicant/Individual any funds, the Applicant agrees that if Applicant provides false information or uses the monies for any purposes not allowed in Section II(A) above, then the Applicant/Individual agrees to compensate the Village with a return of all funds provided and to pay the legal expenses of the Village pursuing said claim. Additionally, the Village shall have the right to audit any Individual requesting assistance.

IV. DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

A. Criteria for Providing Need

The Village Council at a regular meeting or a special called meeting will make decisions on providing funding and assistance to the residents and citizens of the Village. These meetings may or may not be in executive session, protecting the privacy of individual applicants. The Village Manager will prioritize spending based on the following criteria:

1. Amount of Demonstrated Need Conveyed by Applicant
2. Whether the Individual is a citizen or resident of the Village
3. Whether the applicant's residency or business is within the Village limits
4. Number of people in the Applicant's household
5. Whether the Certification was signed by Applicant

The Village Council shall not discriminate based on race, religious affiliation, age or other protected classifications. Nor shall the Village provide monetary relief to the members of the Council or their families that is more than the rest of the residents and citizens.

B. Decision Making Authority.

The Village Council shall make decisions as soon as possible for the amount of Monetary Relief that the citizens and residents of Chimney Rock obtain.

These may be in allocations based upon immediate need of \$ 500, \$ 1,000, \$ 2,500 and or \$ 5,000. The Village Administrator will review and report all requests to the Village Council and will may make a recommendation of expenditure until either a new ordinance is made to the contrary or the amount raised by Chimney Rock Village’s Account reaches zero dollars.

V. UPDATES OR AMENDMENTS:

These guidelines for the collection and allocation of the Relief Funds may be reviewed, updated or amended at any time by the Chimney Rock Village Council.

These General Guidelines for the collection and the allocation of Relief Funds are approved this the 15th day of October 2024.

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PETER O’LEARY, MAYOR

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STEPHEN G DUNCAN, CLERK TO THE COUNCIL