

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
January 21, 2022

Subject: Helping Hands of Haywood next Handout of \$8,750 from Waynesville Aldermen.

One of the topics of next Tuesday's Board of Aldermen meeting is called: "Helping Hands of Haywood Second ARP Installment.", page seven (7) of the Agenda Packet for that meeting.

[re: <https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/220120-01.25.2021BoardOfAldermanAgendaPacket.pdf>]

Here it is...

**TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
Meeting Date: January 25, 2021**

SUBJECT: Helping Hands of Haywood Second ARP Installment

AGENDA INFORMATION:

JAN 20 2022

Agenda Location: Old Business
Item Number:
Department: Administration
Contact: Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager
Presenter: Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager

BRIEF SUMMARY:

At the previous Board of Aldermen meeting the Board motioned to postpone until January 25, 2022 their decision to approve the second installment of American Recovery Plan funding to Helping Hands of Haywood. This second installment amounts to \$8,750 and is required by the Town of Waynesville to be earmarked by Helping Hands of Haywood for the sole purpose of providing temporary housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. If the Board is satisfied with the report provided to them by Helping hands of Haywood, then staff is asking for their direction in whether to provide Helping Hands of Haywood the second installment of American Relief Plan funding.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

Motion to approve the second installment of American Recovery Plan funding to Helping Hands of Haywood for the purpose of providing temporary housing to individuals experiencing homelessness in the amount of \$8,750

FUNDING SOURCE/IMPACT: \$8,750 in American Recovery Plan funding

ATTACHMENTS:

MANAGER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Background.

The following link was posted on www.haywoodtp.net

[Connection between Helping Hands of Haywood \(Nicole Kott\) and Our Place Inn \("All Cops are Bastards"\)? Let's Follow the Money. 1/13/2022...](#)

or

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/220113FollowTheMoney.pdf>

Immediately prior to the last Aldermen Meeting, I received the following from Rob Hites, Town Manager.

Subject: Fwd: Request for Public Information - Donations to Helping Hands of Haywood.
Date: Tue, 11 Jan 2022 22:25:40 +0000
From: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>
To: Monroe Miller

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Misty Hagood <mhagood@waynesvillenc.gov>
Date: January 11, 2022 at 3:18:41 PM EST
To: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Public Information - Donations to Helping Hands of Haywood.

Rob,

The payments that Gail has in the system to Helping Hands are as follows –

8/4/2020	\$5,041.00
7/9/2021	\$7,500.00
10/12/2021	\$8,750.00
1/11/2022	\$8,750.00

Misty

From: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Misty Hagood <mhagood@waynesvillenc.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Request for Public Information - Donations to Helping Hands of Haywood.

Gail should have the payments we have made. The Board appropriated a set amount to help them. They provide short term housing for homeless folks. Mostly in local hotels.

Sent from my iPhone

This email from Rob Hites was sent to me thirty-five (35) minutes prior to the start of the last Aldermen meeting on 1/11/2022.

Can I draw your attention to the last payment listed by “Gail” for Helping Hands. It is \$8,750.00 on 1/11/2022, the very same day as my Request for Public Information.

What a coincidence!

Well, during the last meeting, Aldermen blocked the disbursement during the meeting, saying they should look into what the original \$8,750.00 was originally spent on. That triggered two (2) Requests for Public Information, to which I have yet to receive a response, other than go talk to the Town’s lawyer, Martha Sharpe Bradley.

Here they are.

Subject: Request for Public Information - Confidentiality Agreement, #1

Date: Wed, 12 Jan 2022 09:19:08 -0500

From: Monroe Miller

To: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>

CC: Chuck Dickson <cdickson@waynesvillenc.gov>, Gary Caldwell <gcaldwell@waynesvillenc.gov>, Julia Freeman <jfreeman@waynesvillenc.gov>, Anthony Sutton <asutton@waynesvillenc.gov>, Jon Feichter <jfeichter@waynesvillenc.gov>, Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>, Eddie Ward <eward@waynesvillenc.gov>, Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>, Nicole Kott <helpinghandsofhaywood@gmail.com>

Mr. Hites,

It was brought to my attention (by Jesse Fowler in last nights Alderman Meeting after I left) that there exists a confidentiality agreement between the Town of Waynesville and Nicole Kott of Helping Hands of Haywood. Therefore, the Town of Waynesville could not disclose what Nicole Kott was spending the \$8,750 on, her first installment of \$70K.

Please provide a scanned copy of the executed confidentiality agreement between the Town of Waynesville and Helping Hands of Haywood.

Thank you,

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subject: Request for Public Information - Helping Hands Quarterly Reports

Date: Wed, 12 Jan 2022 13:41:53 -0500

From: Monroe Miller

To: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>

CC: Chuck Dickson <cdickson@waynesvillenc.gov>, Gary Caldwell <gcaldwell@waynesvillenc.gov>, Julia Freeman <jfreeman@waynesvillenc.gov>, Anthony Sutton <asutton@waynesvillenc.gov>, Jon Feichter <jfeichter@waynesvillenc.gov>, Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>, Eddie Ward <eward@waynesvillenc.gov>, Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>, Nicole Kott <helpinghandsofhaywood@gmail.com>

Mr. Hites,

Helping Hands of Haywood was given a financial pledge of \$70K by the Town of Waynesville back in June 2021, the reason being "The money will be used for temporary lodging in hotel rooms, with the \$70,000 covering roughly 1,000 room nights for homeless people over two years."

This quote is from an article in the Mountaineer:

https://www.themountaineer.com/news/waynesville-antes-up-to-house-homeless-people-in-hotels/article_24c3b208-cd98-11eb-a173-63093b646f0e.html

or, now on www.haywoodtp.net

[FLASHBACK. Waynesville antes up to house homeless people in hotels, By Becky Johnson, Jun 16, 2021. Helping Hands of Haywood awarded \\$70,000 by Waynesville Aldermen. "The money will be used for temporary lodging in hotel rooms, ..." . 6/16/2021. 1/12/2022...](#)

The article also states:

"For the first year, Helping Hands will receive a quarterly allocation. As a condition of the funding, Helping Hands will have to make quarterly presentations to the board on its activities. It will get a lump sum of \$35,000 the second year."

You indicated that the first installment for Helping Hands of Haywood was 10/12/2021 -

From: Misty Hagood <mhagood@waynesvillenc.gov>

Date: January 11, 2022 at 3:18:41 PM EST

To: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>

Subject: RE: Request for Public Information - Donations to Helping Hands of Haywood.

Rob,

The payments that Gail has in the system to Helping Hands are as follows –

8/4/2020	\$5,041.00
7/9/2021	\$7,500.00
10/12/2021	\$8,750.00
1/11/2022	\$8,750.00

Misty

Please provide the quarterly report, as a condition of continued funding, submitted by Nicole Kott.

Thank you,
Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Additionally, I posted an Open Letter to Nicole Kott of Helping Hands of Haywood -

[Open letter to Nicole Kott, Helping Hands of Haywood - Request for copies of Hotel receipts for temporary lodging. 1/12/2022...](#)

or

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/220112OpenLetterToNicoleKott.pdf>

I have yet to receive a response from Nicole Kott.

So this should be interesting at the next meeting to see what happens. Evidently, the Town of Waynesville is hampered by a confidentiality agreement (which I have yet to see) on what they can disclose from Helping Hands of Haywood, so how are the Aldermen going to publicly going to disclose “the report provided to them by Helping Hands of Haywood” as stated in the agenda? Staff will be waiting for an answer asking Aldermen for their direction in whether to provide Helping Hands of Haywood with the second (2nd) installment of the American Relief Plan Funding.

Wow.

In another remarkable coincidence, another mysterious item popped up on the agenda for this meeting.

**TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
Meeting Date: January 25, 2021**

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Whistle Blower Policy

AGENDA INFORMATION:

Agenda Location:	New Business	JAN 21 2022
Item Number:		
Department:	Administration	
Contact:	Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager	
Presenter:	Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager	

BRIEF SUMMARY:

While attempting to apply for grants in the Police Department, staff realized that we lacked an adopted Whistle Blower Policy. This draft policy aims to protect Town employees when they believe they have witnessed fraud, waste, or abuse. This policy outlines the procedures for reporting such incidences and the procedures for the investigation of these incidences. Following adoption, this policy will be added to the Personnel Policy and will be distributed to all staff for review

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

Motion to adopt the Town of Waynesville Whistle Blower Policy

FUNDING SOURCE/IMPACT: No budgetary impact

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Town of Waynesville Whistle Blower Policy

MANAGER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

WTF?

Why is it that all of a sudden they feel the need to create a Whistle Blower Policy at the next Board of Aldermen meeting? Do they think there is a rash of Town employees witnessing fraud, waste, or abuse, and they need protection?

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
Haywood County Taxpayer

LetsGoBrandon