



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: February 16, 2016

Agenda Item #: 9

TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Bonnie Schwerd, Finance Director
THRU: Susan Parker, Town Administrator
TITLE: Outside Agency Funding Requests
ATTACH: Outside Agency Funding Guidelines

Background: The Town of Sunset Beach has customarily received funding requests from non-profit agencies as a part of the annual budget planning process. Awards were made to various agencies to perform activities within the community, at the discretion of the Town Council. For Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget purposes, the Town Council opted to delay awards until a funding policy could be put into place, but created a set-aside amount of \$40,000 for Tourism-related expenditures to be funded by Accommodations Tax. The Council did not fund any non-profit funding from General Fund dollars. The Town Council adopted Outside Agency Funding Guidelines in August of 2015 (see attached).

FY 2015-2016 Awards of funding were made as follows:

Sunset Beach Merchants Association	\$15,000
Sunset Beach Concert Series	\$ 5,000
Old Bridge Preservation Society	\$ 500
Ingram Planetarium	\$ 7,500

Summary: The current policy prescribes that an application period be open through March 31 for agency funding requests to be submitted to the Town for FY 2016-2017 budget consideration. Multiple non-profit agencies have contacted staff to inquire whether or not the Town Council has indicated any plans to award (or even consider) outside agency funding requests this year. Considerable effort is necessary on the part of the non-profit agencies to prepare their funding requests.

Thus, Town Staff seeks guidance from the Town Council as to whether or not non-profit agency funding requests should be sought as a part of the FY 2016-17 budget process. In light of the recent Town Council direction to work on the draft Town budget with a target reduction of 10 percent of its expenditures, staff has not solicited non-profit agency requests this year. However, the staff will do so if it is the Town Council's desire to consider them.

Recommendation: No staff recommendation is included. The Town Council may decide to accept funding requests or not to accept them at its pleasure.