Legislation Text

File #: 19-33, **Version:** 1

TITLE:
Hurricane Florence Public Assistance Program.

PURPOSE: The purpose is to request permission from the Board of Aldermen for staff to proceed with the application process for federal funding through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for damages resulting from Hurricane Florence.

DEPARTMENT: Fire-Rescue Department and Public Works Department

CONTACT INFORMATION: Susanna Schmitt Williams, Fire Chief, 919.918.7349, Heather Holley, Stormwater Specialist, 919.918.7426

INFORMATION: The Town sustained approximately $630,000 in costs relating to Hurricane Florence. These cost estimations consist of FEMA qualifying categories of debris removal, emergency protective measures pre storm, road damages, facility and equipment damages, park damages, and personnel rates.

The FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program allows for municipalities to submit for federal funding related to damages and mitigation efforts sustained from Hurricane Florence. This application begins the process to qualify for reimbursement and potential hazard mitigation funds to strengthen and fortify the Town for future events.

The applications require the governing body (Board of Aldermen) to designate an agent to facilitate the application process for the Town and to signify desire to proceed through the FEMA PA process. Additionally, the Applicant Disaster Assistance Agreement denotes the Town will abide by the requirements of the funding program throughout the application process and, if awarded funds, will adhere to requirements of the program.

FISCAL & STAFF IMPACT: The fiscal impact to the Town of Carrboro is $630,000 in unexpected and unfunded expenditures for Hurricane Florence disaster mitigation should the Town opt not to pursue applying for FEMA funding. Staff impact has included one hour meetings once a week since mid-December and a small percentage of worktime spent on the application process gathering information. Staff are able to document and track hours working on the application and will be able to submit for funding reimbursement for administrative expenses to include: meetings, assembling documents, and administrative costs to support the claim. There is a cap of administrative cost reimbursement at 5% of the estimated claim.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen proceed with granting permission for staff to proceed with the FEMA Public Assistance Program application process for Hurricane Florence and sign the Designation of Applicant Agent and Applicant Disaster Assistance Agreement.