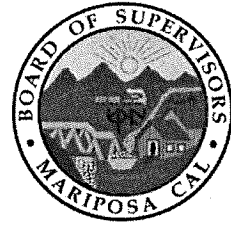




MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration · 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-499

MEETING: September 23, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

MINUTE ORDER ATTACHED

FROM: Mary Hodson, Interim CAO

RE: Mariposa Visitors' Center Agreement

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Three Year Agreement with the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce to Operate the Mariposa Visitors' Center in the Amount of \$490,500, and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement.

The Chamber has agreed to operate the Visitors' Center in Mariposa per the terms of this agreement. The Chamber will be responsible for all costs associated with this endeavor.

Although this agreement is similar to those approved in the past there are a few changes which should be noted:

1. This agreement is for the operation of the Mariposa Visitors' Center. The Coulterville Visitors' Center will be operated under a separate agreement and in all likelihood will be with a separate contractor.
2. At the request of the Mariposa County Chamber, this agreement is for three years. The term is through September 30, 2017. Included in the compensation is an automatic increase effective January 1, 2016, to account for the scheduled increase in the minimum wage. Effective January 1, 2017, a cost-of-living adjustment is included tied to an increase in the consumer price index (CPI) with a maximum of 2%.
3. Effective July 1, 2015, the Mariposa County Chamber will no longer be responsible for the operation of the Mariposa County Tourism 800-number. It is anticipated that the Mariposa Tourism Bureau will either take over the operation of the phone line or discontinue the promotion of the number.

This contract reflects an increase in cost and is for \$159,000 for the first year of operation which is consistent with your Board's direction during the 2014-15 Final Budget hearings.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Funds were appropriated during the budget process. Currently the Mariposa Visitors' Center is being operated under the Agreement approved by your Board last year which expires on September 30, 2014.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the agreement is not approved the Visitors' Centers will be closed until a new

contractor is identified.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$159,000 has been appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2014-15 General Fund - Community and Cultural budget for this purpose.

ATTACHMENTS:

2014 Chamber Contract (DOCX)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended

Mary Hodson

Mary Hodson, Interim CAO 9/17/2014

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED [3 TO 1]

MOVER: Janet Bibby, John Carrier

SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

AYES: Merlin Jones, Janet Bibby, John Carrier

NAYS: Kevin Cann

EXCUSED: Lee Stetson

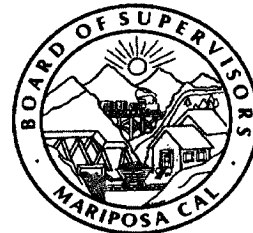


COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222


KEVIN CANN, CHAIR
MERLIN JONES, VICE-CHAIR
LEE STETSON
JANET BIBBY
JOHN CARRIER

DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT I
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT V



MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: MARY HODSON, Interim CAO
FROM: RENE' LaROCHE, Clerk of the Board 
SUBJECT: **Approve a Three Year Agreement with the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce to Operate the Mariposa Visitors' Center in the Amount of \$490,500, and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement**

Resolution: 14-499

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on September 23, 2014

ACTION AND VOTE:

1. Administration RES-2014-499

Approve a Three Year Agreement with the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce to Operate the Mariposa Visitors' Center in the Amount of \$490,500, and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement

Mary Hodson/Interim County Administrative Officer gave the staff presentation, noting that this agreement is only for the Mariposa Visitor Center as we are currently in the process of getting proposals for the Coulterville Visitor Center.

Supervisor Cann noted that he would like to add a 30 or 60 day termination clause. Supervisor Jones stated that he likes to be consistent and discussed past issues that were undertaken for the sake of consistency; remarked that there are many organizations, and he has no problem funding them if they do their jobs; noted that we don't have any guarantees on our revenues; stated that he likes to work with short term agreements; and noted that County employees haven't been guaranteed a cost of living increase, so he has a difficult time with cost of living increases for organizations. Supervisor Bibby remarked that it took many years to work towards where organizations were not coming in in advance of the budget process; noted that the County learned that long term agreements don't usually work out, and she cited the Stroming Building; and urged a year-to-year agreement. Supervisor Cann remarked that the Chamber of Commerce does not come to the Board for a donation but, rather, is responding to an RFP; thinks an elimination clause eliminates concerns for the future; discussed past issues when a payment was late; noted that the pay raise was mandated by the President; reiterated that this is a contract and not a donation; and noted that the County can terminate the agreement at any time.

Board discussion ensued.

Public comment opened.

Kathy McCorry noted that the reason that this was done is because the contract does requires a certain number of hours, and a certain level of staff; remarked that their issue was not to try something new, but to offer the County a quality of service; stated that it would be helpful if they had a little bit more than a year to plan and implement training, and discussed same; noted that they are trying to provide stability regarding hours of operation and the number of employees; and stated that this would allow them to move towards a long term vision.

Greg Kittelsen noted that no one can predict the economy in three years; and recommended a two year agreement as a compromise.

Marshall Long requested clarification regarding number 4 under the Scope of Services relative to the 800 number no longer being answered after June 30th; and referenced number 10 regarding the contractor's option to conduct courthouse and jail tours, and inquired if we can get more tours.

Public comment closed.

Supervisor Cann noted that the tours were cut when the budget was cut, but that the Chamber still conducts them from time to time when they have the volunteers available. Ms. McCorry noted that the 800 number has been around a long time; stated that it was created by the Tourism Bureau for their advertising and it ended up with the Visitor Center having the responsibility of answering and fielding those calls which requires a lot of staff time. She also noted that since the Tourism Bureau has greater funding, the request was made of them that they assume the responsibility for the phone number. As to the tours, Ms. McCorry noted that they still do the tours; stated that they have a docent program, and the tours are done by arrangement; and she discussed the docent program.

Supervisor Jones required clarification regarding communication with the Tourism Board regarding the 800 number. Ms. McCorry responded, noting that the Chamber asked them to take it back last year but kept it for another year due to the Tourism Bureau's one-time donation. Supervisor Jones inquired as to any more recent communications. Ms. McCorry stated that there had not been any more communications as the contract had not yet been approved. Supervisor Bibby inquired as to when negotiations started. Ms. McCorry responded, noting that it was right after the budget hearings; stated that they had conversations throughout the year; discussed some of the people present at earlier conversations when it was verbalized; and noted that after the budget was approved, they did request the CAO to submit it on their behalf and he agreed. Supervisor Cann required clarification that the only communications were with the CAO. Ms. McCorry affirmed.

Supervisor Jones expressed his concern regarding the unpredictability of revenues in the future. Supervisor Carrier noted that the Chamber puts heads in beds which equates to revenue for the County; noted that a three year contract gives the Chamber some guarantees, yet the County can cancel at any time; noted that the County does have long term contracts for trash service, and Mercy Ambulance; and urged adoption of a three year contract.

Supervisor Carrier moved to adopt the item as presented. The motion died for lack of second.

Supervisor Bibby noted that it can be revisited at mid-year with the new Board; noted that she doesn't support it at this time; and remarked that it is better for both partners to evaluate the dollar amounts each year. Ms. Hodson noted that their existing contract expires on September 30th, so they will not receive any funding on October 1st if the Board does not approve this item. Supervisor Bibby noted that this item could have easily been written for a single year which was what was approved; discussed what should have come forward to the Board; and noted that all of the parties participating on this knew what was approved and the contract should have reflected that.

Steven W. Dahlem/County Counsel noted that while the matter has been agendized for three years, the Board can approve a one year agreement, and modify the contract. Supervisor Cann inquired if the Board has any authority to extend the current agreement. County Counsel responded that such action would require a separate item.

Supervisor Bibby: moved to approve a single year contract from October 1, 2014, to September 30, 2015 in the amount of \$159,000. Supervisor Jones seconded. The motion passed.

RESULT: **ADOPTED AS AMENDED [3 TO 1]**
MOVER: Janet Bibby, John Carrier
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
AYES: Merlin Jones, Janet Bibby, John Carrier
NAYS: Kevin Cann
EXCUSED: Lee Stetson