

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO approve allocating \$25,000 to the Sitka Historical Society and Museum from revenues over expenditures for FY2010.



Sitka Historical Society and Museum

330 Harbor Drive Sitka, Alaska 99835

Voice: 907 747 6455 Fax: 907 747 6588

<http://www.sitkahistory.org> / sitka.history@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Doris Bailey,

President

Jerry Dzugan,

Vice-President

Jere Christner,

Secretary

Ernestine Massey,

Treasurer

Sabra Jenkins

Pat Alexander

John Stein

Jim Case

Chris Todd

May 17, 2010

Dear Mayor McAdams and Assembly Members:

This is a follow-up communication to our April 17th letter, related to the FY11 budget. During the appropriate budget work-session, we were not prepared to address you as earlier in the week I had been told that the public would not be allowed to testify. Therefore we would like to ask for the opportunity to formally address the Assembly regarding our FY11 allocation via an agenda item at the next regular assembly meeting.

At our May 13 board meeting, we reviewed our most current financial status and options. We found that we cannot cover the funding of a curator with the city's proposed allocation. With a \$70,000 city allocation, we would end the FY11 year with at least a loss of \$43,704 that would put us in peril of suspending operations. Clearly we could not hire a curator for FY11. We would be more than willing to share our financial reports with the assembly, or city staff.

Keeping our curator is the Board's highest priority in terms of the protection and care of Sitka's history. As our only professionally trained museum staff person, Ms. Kircher has done an outstanding job. With the implementation of our Rasmuson Organizational Improvement Grant, and the securing of the USFS White House for collections storage and curatorial services (10-year special use permit @ \$100/year), the Society and City of Sitka are finally at a stage that we can care for and value the artifacts, documents, and photos that are Sitka's Heritage and History. The support of the Assembly and City over the past two years has made this forward progress possible.

Without a curator, our Executive Director and current Curator do not believe we can meet the current requirements of our \$60,000 Rasmuson Grant, and this was confirmed by a Rasmuson program officer this week. Rasmuson wants to be informed as soon as we know the status of our curator position.

Even though Ashley Kircher is leaving us, we have a qualified candidate interested in assuming the position, continuing our core mission, and continuing our Rasmuson Grant and the priority objective- the CMAP (Collections Management Assessment Program), and fulfilling study findings/recommendations.

In addition, we are including as an attachment, the survey of museum funding amounts and associated municipal support. We may have an update soon from Scott Carrlee of the Alaska State

Museum. This will allow you to compare our numbers to our sister cities and museums across the state.

Our FY 09 budget request was \$120,000, with the priority being the addition of a curator. We were allocated \$53,000 and asked by the Assembly to request the remainder of the funding later in the year. This request was made, and eventually granted, with the remaining \$67,000 disbursed late in the final quarter of the fiscal year. A hiring search was completed with the hiring of Curator Ashley Kircher who started June 1st of 2009.

For our FY10 functional operations, \$120,000 would technically be needed but because of the final quarter FY09 bump of \$67k, and obvious carryover, we reduced our FY 2010 request and we were allocated \$73,000. Therefore, we operated FY 2010 with city funding of \$120,000, although the C&B actually only allocated \$73,000.

On Feb. 19th of this year, board member Ernestine Massey and Executive Director Bob Medinger met with City Administrator Jim Dinley and Finance Director Dave Wolff. We made our FY 2011 request with the justification to keep existing positions. We were informed that the administration's proposed allocation would be based on a 5% cut of our reduced allocation for FY 10 of \$73,000. This would in fact constitute a 42.2% cut, from our functional city allocation for FY 10.

In order to keep a curator, we respectfully request that our allocation be restored to an operational staffing level of \$120,000 for FY 11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris Bailey".

Doris Bailey, President