



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: General Services
Department No.: 063
For Agenda Of: June 15, 2010
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: General Services Robert Nisbet, Director (805-560-1011)
Contact Info: Paddy Langlands, Assistant Director (805- 568-3096)
**SUBJECT: Authorize Improvements to SB Courthouse Clock Room
First Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the improvements to the Santa Barbara Courthouse Clock Room by the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation and accept the gift of improvement in excess of \$10,000.

Summary Text:

In accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU-Attachment A) between the County of Santa Barbara (County) and the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation (CLF), CLF is requesting Board authorization to undertake the improvement of the Santa Barbara Courthouse Clock Room. CLF has undertaken the effort of raising funds for conservation, preservation and restoration projects at the Santa Barbara Courthouse, and the clock room improvement project is one such effort.

In 2006 the County and CLF entered into an MOU that provides a framework to execute projects at the Santa Barbara Courthouse. The subject project falls within the scope of the MOU. Over the past 2 years a member of the National Watch and Clock Collectors Association (Mostyn Gale—Courthouse Clock Master) has been caring for the tower clock, making needed adjustments, re-setting the time and providing maintenance of the clock works.

Background:

The Santa Barbara Courthouse (a National Historic Landmark) contains many works of art, architectural features, furniture and the only accessible Seth Thomas tower clock in the country. The Courthouse Legacy Foundation has identified the restoration of the Seth Thomas Clock as an important project to complete. It has received financial contributions to complete the restoration and conversion of the room to allow the general public to view the clock-works and learn about the art of horology.

Improvements to the clock room include: patching & painting the room, installation of security features, complete restoration of the Seth Thomas clock, installation of horological didactic materials and glass enclosure of the time piece. The project is organized into three phases: Phase I is the construction related improvements; Phase II includes the horology exhibit materials and Phase III is the complete restoration of the time-piece. Phase III includes the removal of all exterior clock hands, replacement of leading-off rods (bars that turn the clock face hands), installation of the bell hammers and timing devices.

The exterior clock hands will be removed, the clock piece relocated to improve accessibility to the room and all components restored and reinstalled. It is expected to be out of operation for at least a month between July and September 2010. The project is expected to be completed and open to the general public by January 2011.

Background on Seth Thomas:

Seth Thomas was born in Wolcott Connecticut on August 19th 1785, just nine years after the United States won its Independence. After completing an apprenticeship as a carpenter he went to work for a clock maker (Eli Terry) in 1807. In 1810 Seth Thomas and Silas Hoadley purchased Eli Terry's clock factory and in 1813 sold his interest in the clock factory. Always wanting to own his own clock factory he purchased another clock factory in Plymouth Hollow Connecticut. His business prospered and produced fine clocks, making the *Seth Thomas* brand one of the most well known clock companies in the world. On May 5, 1853, nearing his retirement, he organized his business into the Seth Thomas Clock Company, a joint stock corporation, in order to assure continuity of operation after his death. A few years after his death the town he had called home to his clock company changed its name from Plymouth Hollow to Thomaston. Of the thousands of clocks made by the Seth Thomas Clock Company, few were "tower clocks". A tower clock is one that is installed in a variety of tower configurations. All become inaccessible to the general public due to the confined spaces allocated to their operation.

Performance Measure:

None

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Private Funding through the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 California Corporation, at no cost to the County.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other: Private			\$ 60,000.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00

Narrative:

The funding for this project is being provided by the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 California Corporation. Any amount in excess of the \$10,000 gift threshold must be accepted by the Board of Supervisors as a gift to the County of Santa Barbara.

Special Instructions:

Please send a copy of the minute order to Robert Ooley, AIA County Architect, GS Support Services Division, Courthouse East Wing.

Attachments:

Memorandum of Understanding

Authored by:

Robert Ooley, AIA County Architect (805) 568-3085