

The Mammoth Museum

Southern Mono Historical Society

Board of Directors

Robert L. Joki – President

Dan Lyster

Kevin Green

Tony Rojas

November 1, 2022

Town of Mammoth Lakes
Mr. Dan Holler – Town Manager
Town Council Members

Dear Mr. Holler and Town Council Members,

In my capacity as President of The Southern Mono Historical Society / Mammoth Museum, and with full support of the Museum's Board, I am writing this letter to request your consideration for an **Emergency Funding Grant** in the amount of **\$25,000** dollars for the Southern Mono Historical Society.

In May of 2021, our highly competent long-time accountant, bookkeeper, and Board Treasurer Mariann O'Connor retired from her position with the SMHS and moved out of state. Marianne left the museum's books in good order at that time.

The Museum Board then followed recommendation to hire a local accountant with whom the Board then placed its trust to pay the bills, employees, and to keep the books in order. It has now come to our attention that this individual misrepresented herself, deceived us, and committed malfeasance throughout the 12-month period that she worked for the Museum.

The Board was shocked to recently learn that through the negligence of this bookkeeper, many of the financial obligations of the museum were not being paid, as the museum clearly had funds in its account to pay these obligations at the time they were incurred.

The bookkeeper was recently fired by the Museum Board, and the highly reputable CPA Kyle Spiewak at the accounting firm of Torrey Pines has now been hired to put the Museum's books back in order. Torrey Pines will now handle accounting needs of the Museum going forward.

It has now been discovered by internal audit, that the bookkeeper has paid herself a total of **\$14,225.00** over the past 12 months – which the Board believes is a massive overpayment based on the inaction of this bookkeeper, and the actual and reasonable number of hours that would be required to do this job. The Board has also now learned that through the gross negligence of the bookkeeper, many of the Museum's financial obligations are still outstanding, and as a result, the Museum has accrued a sizable financial liability. The Museum is now performing its own internal audit through the work of Torrey Pines Accounting, and the depth of this liability is just now becoming apparent to the Board.

The Museum now faces a financial deficit going forward. In order to meet the Museum's current liabilities - and to be able to function through the Museum's scheduled 2023 opening next Memorial Day weekend, the Museum will need Emergency Funding Assistance.

Thank you for your assistance in this highly unfortunate but important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Joki

Robert Joki – President
Mammoth Museum SMHS

