MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: JANET HOGAN, County Administrative Officer

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: REVIEW FIRST QUARTER BUDGET REPORT AND CONSIDER BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS IN THE CLERK OF THE BOARD AND JAIL BUDGETS (4/5THS VOTE REQUIRED)

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTED THIS Order on October 28, 1997

ACTION AND VOTE:

Review First Quarter Budget Report and Consider Budget Adjustments in the Clerk of the Board and Jail Budgets (4/5ths Vote Required) (Administration)

BOARD ACTION: Report was given and discussion was held. (M)Parker, (S)Reilly, Res. 97-418 adopted approving budget adjustment in the Clerk of the Board budget by transferring $500 from General Fund Contingency for legal publications/Ayes: Unanimous. Discussion was held concerning request for budget adjustment in the Jail budget for medical costs. Supervisor Stewart suggested that the County work with CSAC and our legislators relative to relieving counties of this liability. Motion by Pickard to appropriate unanticipated PILT revenue to cover the projected shortfall in the Jail budget for medical costs, with the remainder of funds to go to General Fund Contingency, died for lack of a second. Discussion was held relative to holding this request for further consideration during the mid-year budget review. Board concurred with requesting the County Administrative Officer to ask the Sheriff attempt to find funding within their own budgets to cover these costs, and if necessary, to bring the matter back at a later date.

cc: Roger Matlock, Sheriff
Ken Hawkins, Auditor
File
October 19, 1997

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Janet Hogan, County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: First Quarter Budget Report

CC: All Department Heads

RECOMMENDATION:

Review information and provide direction regarding unanticipated federal Payments In Lieu of Taxes revenue and budget shortfalls for publications in the Clerk of the Board budget and medical costs in the Jail budget.

BACKGROUND:

Mariposa County is now nearly thirty percent through our 1997-98 fiscal year. While it is somewhat early to make definite statements about the status of our finances at year-end, there is pertinent information available regarding key revenues. Unfortunately, there are also two areas where unexpected demands have drained appropriations.

General Fund General Purpose Revenue:

Our Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue continues to reflect the loss of 250 rooms in Yosemite National Park, but there is an improving trend. When compared against the year before, TOT collections were down 9.5 percent in June, down 5.7 percent in July but only down 1 percent in August. For the current year, July and August were both ahead of budgeted estimates. Yosemite Concession Services is at the estimate while other
properties are doing better than expected. Also, the Apple Tree Inn opened in August with sixty additional rooms.

Sales Tax revenue for the first quarter of FY 1997-98 is down 13 percent from the prior year, but it is tracking with the budgeted estimate.

The annual Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) from the federal government has been received in the amount of $275,030. Congress acted to fully fund payments this year, so we received $75,030 more than our budgeted estimate.

There are no other significant collections at this relatively early stage. By the mid-year report, we will have information regarding property tax payments and TOT collections for the shoulder season.

**General Fund Expenditures:**

Despite the best efforts of departments to accurately estimate costs, things happen that cannot be anticipated. The Clerk of the Board budget for publishing legal notices is 67 percent expended due to both an unexpected number of new ordinances and their relatively long length. With the upcoming revisions to the Zone Code, it is expected an additional $500 is needed.

Undersheriff Pelk Richards has advised that medical costs at the County Jail are far exceeding traditional (and budgeted) levels. His memo describing the situation and its causes is attached. It is recommended the Board consider adding $30,000 to the Jail budget to insure costs can be met until mid-year.

If the Board concurs with these recommendations, either the General Fund Contingency may be reduced or the unanticipated revenue from the PILT could be recognized in the budget.

At this time, there are no other expenditure issues that I am aware of that require Board attention prior to mid-year.

Attachment
October 16, 1997

TO: Janet Hogan, County Administrative Officer
FROM: Pelk Richards, Undersheriff
RE: Runaway Inmate Medical Costs

We are experiencing an overwhelming use of our medical/dental/prescriptions services by inmates. To date we have spent approximately $54,000 from our medical line item, which has an annual allocation of $75,000. If this alarming trend continues throughout this fiscal year, we will experience a deficit nearing $125,000.

Our annual medical budget was prepared using past common denominators that traditionally were fairly accurate. Past experience shows that each inmate of an average daily population incurs medical costs of $1,666.00 annually. Multiplying those known medical costs by an anticipated annual average daily population (45 inmates) we arrived at an annual cost of $75,000 for fiscal year 97/98.

Breaking the above formula down even further will help to demonstrate what currently is occurring in our jail. Cost associated to medical problems in the past averaged approximately $139.00 per month for each inmate. Our inmate individual costs have escalated to $333.00 per month. Additionally, the average daily population is exceeding 50 inmates.

In reviewing our current medical problems, we have found that our jail demographics have substantially changed. We are housing older inmates, most having a prior history of substance/alcohol abuse. These older inmates have chronic and serious health issues. Adding to the problem is an average daily inmate population that was not anticipated.

Obviously we have a (budget busting) problem to deal with, that will demand close scrutiny throughout this remaining fiscal year. I’m of the opinion that this is not just
an unusual event. Citizens across our State are demanding tougher sentencing laws, especially directed towards the career type criminal, who are, more often than not, someone in his/her mid-thirties to fifties.

If this is truly the case, jurisdictions are going to need additional financial support. In 1994, legislative Senate Bill 163 was enacted, allowing jurisdictions to charge an inmate a fee in the amount of three dollars for each inmate-initiated medical visit.

With support from our local and/or state representatives, authority could be given to jurisdictions to substantially raise this fee. An additional assessment could also be placed on all criminal users of our criminal justice system. This too would take local and state legislative support.

I would appreciate your assistance in this matter, particularly, any suggestions that you may have for additional short and long term funding.
### BUDGET ACTION FORM

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**TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS**

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**ACTION REQUESTED:** (Check all that apply)

( ) Budget appropriation by Board of Supervisors (4/5ths Vote Required): Amending the total amount available in the county budget, or in any one fund of the budget, or appropriating Reserve for Contingencies;

( ) Transfer by Board of Supervisors (3/5ths Vote Required): Moving existing appropriations from one budget another, or between categories within a budget unit;

**JUSTIFICATION:** First Quarter adjustment due to unexpected level of ordinances.

**DEPT HEAD SIGNATURE**

**APPROVED BY RES NO.**

**CLERK**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**AUDITOR’S USE ONLY**

BA #

Budget Revision Form Revised 11/95