

**Communication "C" March 3, 2009 Calistoga City Council Meeting  
Item # 11: Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Calistoga Affordable Housing Inc.**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jim and Linda Hunter** <[jimandlindahunter@gmail.com](mailto:jimandlindahunter@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, Mar 2, 2009 at 5:34 PM

Subject: Proposed amendments to Professional Service Agreement with CAH

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March 2, 2009

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers;

The purpose of my communications is twofold.....

First and foremost is the Staff's proposed changes to the currently suspended Professional Services Agreement between the City and CAH. I have just reviewed the proposals set forth by staff and see nothing that eliminates the current "conflict of interest". Rather, I see a "biased" written document that serves only to "daylight" the impropriety and hold the City harmless at the expense of the citizenry while grandfathering in a favorite son. It is clear, in my humble opinion, that the City needs to look for a competent consultant that does not violate the adopted policies as written and would pose no threat in regards to the conflict of interest issue. While I agree that CAH has done an admirable job within the City of Calistoga over the years, this does not mean we can ignore the issues. For these reasons, I plead that you immediately terminate the PSA with CAH and look for a consultant elsewhere.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the "State of the City".

Everyday I read the newspaper and watch the morning news only to learn about the devastation to the economy and to the economies of more and more California cities each day. As a municipal firefighter for 31 years I have seen good and bad times. These ARE NOT good times. We all know the growing list of cities that have filed for, or face bankruptcy.

Every employee group in every major city has had to make concessions in order for their cities to tread water. Services have been cut and needed improvements have been deterred, jobs are lost and taxes are increased and the entire community suffers. I can only hope that you, our City leaders, take appropriate steps to insure this does not happen in Calistoga. We need to insure that vital services, such as Police, Fire, Water, Sanitation, Flood Control continue to be a high priority. Should we even be concerning ourselves with affordable housing and the financial commitments required during this economic downturn? ( If it continues at this rate, my home and yours may soon meet the criteria.) While the City of Calistoga does not appear to be in imminent danger of collapse, is it not time to take appropriate steps to insure our economic and community future?

I can only hope that each and every one of you, as elected officials, feel the importance of your roll in delivering hard working, honest government to the citizens. I hope that you will decide matters of importance based on what is "right" and not on what is "acceptable" or least offensive.

Finally, I commend you all for the job you have undertaken and wish you all the best.  
Respectfully,

James Hunter  
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