

I was trying to determine whether GSA paid for the NPS Park Rangers during the 2013 shutdown. Were they furloughed through the duration of the 2013 shutdown?

From: Jeff Post - S [<mailto:jeffrey.post@gsa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 6:33 PM
To: Doomes, Elliot <Elliot.Doomes@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional Background on the OPO Observation Tower

Hi Elliot,

The 2012 MOA runs through 10/1/13 and the 2014 MOA picks up from that date.

Jeff

On Mon, Jan 7, 2019 at 6:13 PM Doomes, Elliot <Elliot.Doomes@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Jeff,

Thank you for providing this information. I will review the MOUs.

Did GSA pursue the same arrangement for the operation of the Observation tower in 2013?

From: Jeff Post - S [<mailto:jeffrey.post@gsa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Doomes, Elliot <Elliot.Doomes@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Additional Background on the OPO Observation Tower

Hi Elliot,

As we discussed on the phone, attached please find four of the most recent MOAs with NPS regarding the Old Post Office observation tower. As you will notice in the documents, while there are some minor differences between the documents, in general they are pretty consistent and very few, if any, changes have been made over the years to the responsibilities section. I'd also note that there is a gap for 2015, which I have been told is due to construction temporarily closing the tower. With regard to the decision to reopen the tower, that decision was made by regional PBS leadership (and you can see on the new MOA that it was signed by the NCR PBS Regional Commissioner).

Additionally, I wanted to provide share a prepared statement we have on this issue:

The recent closing and reopening of the observation tower at GSA's Old Post Office facility was unrelated to the facility's tenant.

Since 1983, GSA has been required by law (P.L. 98-1) to enter into an agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) for operating the observation tower. The law also authorizes GSA to pay NPS for this service from the Federal Buildings Fund. Balances within the Federal Buildings Fund remain available to operate federal facilities, as needed, until they are expended,

notwithstanding a lapse in appropriations.

As a result, NPS operations of the observation tower remained funded even though NPS experienced a lapse in appropriations.

Upon realization of the observation tower closure, GSA advised NPS that operations at the observation tower would continue to be funded. In this process, it was discovered that the interagency agreement required by the 1983 law had expired earlier in the year. GSA and NPS subsequently renewed the interagency agreement, and NPS resumed operation of the tower as required by law.

To clarify one part of the above, the available balances refers to carryover funds in the building operations account within the FBF.

Thanks,

Jeff

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