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TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

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TO: The Honorable Elizabeth Johnson,
Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors

CC: Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2012-13
Grand Jury Judicial Committee Final Report
Re Trinity County Detention Facility
JUR-2012-2013-003

DATE: September 24, 2013

10/25/13
Read & considered
ECWJ

The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report number JUR2012-2013-003. Since sitting on the Board of Supervisors for the past 5.5 years I'm certainly familiar with this issue and please see my responses below. Thank you.

Finding #1: *The County Jail is funded primarily by the County General Fund in a time of diminishing financial resources and many competing needs. This has limited the ability of the County to make the necessary improvements to the facility. Simply not having the funds does not release the county of its obligation to improve the status quo.*

Response: I agree in part. With limited General Fund dollars it does make addressing this issue a very slow process. However, the Sheriff, CAO and the Board of Supervisors along with working with General Services have and will continue to address the immediate maintenance needs of the jail. For the past several years, the County has spent well over \$100,000 for maintenance and repairs/improvements to the Jail. In addition, the Sheriff and his staff continue to look for other funding sources that could help with repairs in the short term.

Recommendation #1: *In the litigious state we are in, a well thought plan to address the needs of the jail will go a long way to improve the untenable situation that the jail presents. The Board of Supervisors with the Sheriff should convene an advisory committee to explore funding options and develop a five-year plan for the implementation of improvements to address the needs of the jail facility. This plan could do a great deal to not only improve the condition of the jail but also reduce the potential liability of the county. Putting forth the effort to procure alternative sources*

JUDY PFLUEGER
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

KARL FISHER
DISTRICT 3

DEBRA CHAPMAN
DISTRICT 4

JOHN FENLEY
DISTRICT 5

of funding combined with incremental improvements will not only help reduce liability of the county it will also improve the jail.

Create a plan to address Finding 1 and provide an update of progress to each future Grand Jury in December of each year.

Response: There is a preventative plan in place with General Services; in addition to the efforts to seek other possible funding for repairs. The Sheriff, CAO and Board are actively pursuing the next grant application for funding to build a new jail. If granted, a new jail will solve many of the issues we have been discussing and provide for a safe facility for staff and inmates.

Finding #2: *The new video system has been purchased but is not installed.*

Response: I agree in part. A system was purchased but installation was delayed due to dependence on volunteer labor. Again, funds have been limited but General Services is in the process of getting quotes for installation and the Sheriff has recently identified new funding for installation.

Recommendation #2: *Putting the video system into operation should be a top priority. The safety and well-being of the employees and inmates is dependent on it.*

Response: I agree.

Finding #3: *There is not an adequate battery back-up for the computer-aided dispatch system. The emergency dispatch system needs to have at least two fail safe back-up systems.*

Recommendation #3: *Procure an adequate back-up system for the computer-enhanced dispatch system.*

Response: Has been partially implemented. Batteries have been upgraded thus increasing capacity. An additional battery will be purchased to increase redundancy as well. There is at least an additional approach to increase power and provide preemptive action but additional funding will be required.

Finding #4: *The oxygen concentrator is too noisy.*

Recommendation #4: *Service or replace it.*

Response: I do not know if it is noisy or not however, the oxygen concentrator has been replaced.