

TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
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TO:

The Honorable Mike Harper

Judge of the Superior Court

FROM:

Trinity County Board of Supervisors

CC:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT:

Response to Recommendations of 2015/2016

Grand Jury Judicial Committee Final Report JUR 2015-2016-002 Inmate Welfare Fund

DATE:

September 6, 2016

The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report on the Inmate Welfare Fund. The response of the Trinity County Board of Supervisors is as follows:

Finding #1: At the April 7th, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting the Sheriff reported on the past five years of expenditures from the IMWT, not annually as required by penal code. This potentially qualifies as misfeasance on the part of the Sheriff.

Response: Disagree in part. The term "misfeasance" defined though carelessness is not an accurate description of why the reports were given in this manner.

Finding # 13: B.O.S. visits to jail facilities are rare.

Response: Agree

Recommendation #1: Beginning with FY 2015-16, per State law, the Sheriff must submit annual budget reports detailing expenditures of the inmate welfare fund.

Response: Will be implemented in the FY 2015/2016 annual budget report.

Recommendation # 2: The Sheriff should include a justification to the Board of Supervisors for the expenditures of IMWT funds that are left to his discretion-such as mattresses, food carts and clothing. While items should be documented along with the annual budget as discretionary expenses.

Response: Requires further analysis. There was discussion during budget meeting, FY 2016-17, to bring the IMWT outside account into the county accounting system; after their budget is finalized this will be looked at again.

Recommendation # 12: The Board of Supervisors should conduct yearly visits of the jail facility and inspect corrections procedures and policies-including commissary practices and inmate welfare.

Response: Requires further analysis. If the Board as a whole was to tour the jail this, of course, would have to be a noticed meeting, open to the public. If you are asking for an ad-hoc committee to be convened, that would be at the discretion of the Chairman to convene by the end of the year.