

Lassen County Grand Jury

2020-2021



FINAL REPORT

Table of Contents

Page 1.....	Grand Jury Foreperson’s Letter
Page 2.....	Members of the 2020 – 2021 Lassen County Grand Jury
Page 3.....	Lassen County Grand Jury Members’ Disclaimer and Signatures
Page 4.....	California Grand Juries
Page 5.....	Distribution List
Page 6.....	Responses to the Grand Jury Reports
Page 7.....	Response Procedure to Grand Jury Reports
Page 8.....	Introduction
Page 9.....	City of Susanville
Page 11.....	County of Lassen – Elections Office
Page 13.....	County of Lassen – Fair Manager
Page 15.....	Lassen County Adult Detention Facility
Page 17.....	California Correctional Center
Page 21.....	High Desert State Prison
Page 22.....	Appendix: Responses to Prior Year’s Report
Page 23.....	2019-2020 Responses



LASSEN COUNTY GRAND JURY

Hall of Justice
2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Tony Mallery
Presiding Judge
Lassen County Superior Court
2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96139

2020-2021 GRAND JURY REPORT

Dear Judge Mallery,

The 2020-2021 Grand Jury was affected, as everyone else in Lassen County by many events. Due to COVID-19, wildland fires, and everyday life events, the Grand Jury got off to a very stop-n-start, slow beginning. Many Jurors had to resign for numerous reasons, they were replaced and then some of those individuals had to resign due to COVID-19, wildland fires, etc.

I am very proud of the group that persisted and pleased with what we accomplished considering the events and restrictions we had to deal with throughout our term. I want to thank each and every Grand Juror for your contribution to this year's final report; you are true dedicated citizens of Lassen County. My deepest gratitude goes to Foreperson Pro-Tem Cher Tinston-Gore, Secretary Kathy Paulson, and Financial Officer Nancy Harris. As this year's Foreperson, it has been an honor to serve alongside each juror and I am privileged to know you. Also, a special thank you to Jury Commissioner Lori Barron for her consistency and efficiencies in supporting the Lassen County Grand Jury.

The members of the 2020-2021 Lassen County Grand Jury are pleased to submit our final report to you and the citizens of Lassen County pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933(a). This report is a product of individuals who devoted time and effort in their commitment to this critical function of government oversight by its citizens. It was our primary goal to be fair, accurate, and thorough in our investigations and hope that our recommendations are received in the manner in which they are intended and presented.

Respectfully,

Wilma L. Kominek
Foreperson

MEMBERS OF THE 2020-2021 LASSEN COUNTY GRAND JURY

Wilma L Kominek, Foreperson *

Cherilyn Tinston-Gore, Foreperson Pro-Tem *

Katherine Paulson, Secretary *

Nancy Harris, Financial Officer

Jennifer Baldwin

Martha Bonham

Armand Carrera

Theresa Fannon *

Phillips Fetterman

Sharon Fetterman

Theresa Pearson

Richard Roman

Robert Schrag

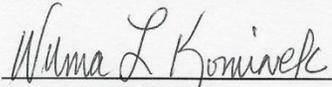
Trisha Wood

**Returning member from 2019-2020 Lassen County Grand Jury*

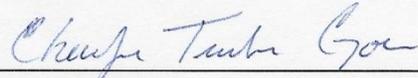
**LASSEN COUNTY GRAND JURY MEMBERS
DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURES**

The Grand Jury recognizes that a conflict of interest may arise in the course of its investigations. In such instances the juror may ask to be recused from all aspects of an investigation. Those members may choose not to investigate, attend interviews and deliberations, or assist in the making and acceptance of a final report that may result from an investigation.

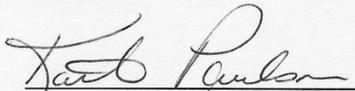
Therefore, whenever the perception of a conflict of interest existed on the part of a member of the 2020-2021 Lassen County Grand Jury, that member abstained from any investigation involving such a conflict and from voting on the acceptance or rejection of any related subject. By signing this final report, I approve it even though I may have recused myself from, or voted against, certain individual reports, which the majority approved.



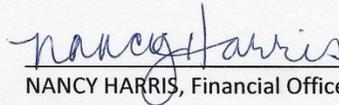
WILMA L KOMINEK
Foreperson



CHERILYN TINSTON-GORE
Foreperson Pro-Tem



KATHERINE PAULSON, Secretary



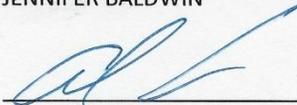
NANCY HARRIS, Financial Officer



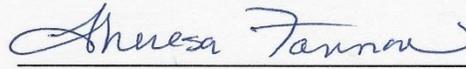
JENNIFER BALDWIN



MARTHA BONHAM



ARMAND CARRERA



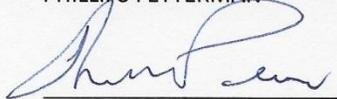
THERESA FANNON



PHILLIPS FETTERMAN



SHARON FETTERMAN



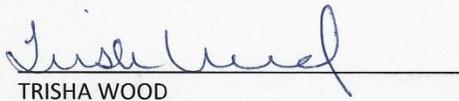
THERESA PEARSON



RICHARD ROMAN



ROBERT SCHRAG



TRISHA WOOD

CALIFORNIA GRAND JURIES

The California Penal Code describes the organization, powers, duties, and general structure of the Grand Jury. All of California's 58 counties are required to have Grand Juries.

The major function of a Civil Grand Jury is to oversee all aspects of the legislative and administrative departments that make up county, city, and special district governments. It has the power to examine and guarantee that those who are given the responsibility of managing these offices are: truthful, dedicated, and sincere in their efforts to serve the public. There are 42 states that have some form of Grand Jury, but California and Nevada mandate the impaneling of a Grand Jury each year. The Lassen County Grand Jury is a judicial body of citizens impaneled to watch over the citizens of Lassen County.

Grand Jurors are forbidden by law to disclose any evidence acquired during investigations or disclose the names of complainants or witnesses.

After investigations are completed, it is the responsibility of the Grand Jury to recommend changes that should be made in order to increase efficiency and improve services to the general public. Special commendations may also be made to departments or agencies for excellence in management. The reports that are released have been collected, voted on by at least 12 members, and the results carefully edited by the editing committee for a Final Report to be released to the public.

The Final Lassen County Grand Jury Report is distributed as the Distribution List indicates on the following page. Both reports and responses are available on the Superior Court website at www.lassencourt.ca.gov and in the Jury Commissioner's office at Lassen Superior Court, 2610 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130. The telephone number is (530) 251-8205. Lassen County website, www.co.lassen.ca.us also contains a link to the Superior Court and Grand Jury reports.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Lassen County:

Superior Court Judge Tony Mallery

Board of Supervisors (5)

Treasurer/Tax Collector

District Attorney

Chief Executive Officer

County Counsel

Lassen County Sherriff Growdon

Personnel and Risk Management

Lassen LAFCO

City of Susanville:

City Council (5)

City Administrative Officer

Corrections Facilities:

California Correctional Center

High Desert State Prison

FCI Herlong

Others:

State of California Attorney General's Office

California Board of Accountancy

California Grand Jurors' Association

Susanville District Library

Lassen Senior Services Center

Doyle Community Center

Westwood Nutrition Site

Bieber Library

Lassennews.com (Lassen County Times Online)

KSUE/JDX

SusanvilleStuff.com

2020-2021 Grand Jurors

2019-2020 Grand Jurors

Lassen County Elections Office

RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY REPORTS

SUMMARY OF PC §933.05

A compendium of all codes pertaining to Grand Jury was produced by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. This document is available to Grand Juries through the Superior Court in respective counties. Since the compendium was assembled the following has become law.

Penal Code §933.05 provides for only two acceptable responses with which agencies and/or departments (respondents) may respond with respect to the findings of a Grand Jury report:

1. The respondent agrees with the finding.
2. The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the findings;*in which case the respondent shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.*

Penal Code §933.05 provides for only four acceptable responses with which agencies and/or departments (respondents) may respond in respect to the *recommendations* of the Grand Jury.

1. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
3. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis, with a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency/department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. *This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report.*
4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with a detailed explanation, therefore.

RESPONSE PROCEDURE TO GRAND JURY REPORTS

SUMMARY OF PC §933.05

The governance of responses to Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within 60 days, governing bodies (for example: The Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge, the Grand Jury Foreperson, and the CEO's office.

Report Title: _____ **Report Date** _____

Response by: _____ Title: _____

Findings

I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

Recommendations

Recommendations numbered: _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report).

Recommendations numbered: _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable. (Attach an explanation.)

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Total number of pages attached: _____

INTRODUCTION

The Grand Jury is a constitutionally mandated judicial body charged to investigate civil matters but not criminal matters. The Grand Jury's responsibilities include investigating issues regarding city and county government as well as public agencies funded by the government and issuing reports and recommendations when appropriate.

All communications with the Grand Jury are confidential. Information provided to the Grand Jury to support a complaint is carefully reviewed to determine what further action, if any, is required. If it is determined that the matter is not within the investigative authority of the Grand Jury, no further action is taken. If the matter is within the legal scope of the Grand Jury's investigative powers and warrants further inquiry, the Grand Jury will contact and interview those individuals who may be able to provide additional information. During an investigation, all information and evidence will be considered, however, a review may not result in any action or report by the Grand Jury.

Each year the Grand Jury must inquire into the condition and management of all public prisons within the county. As required by law, the 2020-2021 Grand Jury toured the California Correctional Center, High Desert State Prison, and Lassen County Adult Detention Facility. After comprehensive tours and discussion, the Grand Jury found that no recommendations were necessary. As a commendation, the tours were valuable and informative. The Grand Jury enjoyed meeting, questioning, and watching presentations from institution leadership and staff that were so very knowledgeable and proud to share their procedures, facility improvements, and new and successful programs.

The Lassen County Grand Jury received twelve written complaints during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. As the letters and formal complaints were received and presented to the full Grand Jury, careful consideration was given to the validity and content of each complaint. Each grievance was inspected and acted upon in a professional and conscientious manner.

The following Grand Jury Reports are based on interviews and information which was brought to the attention of, and investigated by, the Lassen County Grand Jury.

CITY OF SUSANVILLE



Reason for Inquiry:

Complaint submitted to Grand Jury

Background Information:

A complaint raised questions into the hiring practices of the City of Susanville regarding the City Administrator position. The City Administrator was vacated when Michael Wilson retired in 2020.

Inquiry Procedures:

The Grand Jury reviewed the Susanville Municipal Code, The City of Susanville City Council meeting minutes and agendas, employment agreements, City of Susanville Financial Statements and Budgets, Salary Matrix, Recruitment and Hiring Policies, and job descriptions. The Grand Jury also conducted interviews.

Discussion:

The city created and established the City Administrator position to be ex officio Director of Finance and Budget Manager. The administrator is appointed by the City Council wholly on the basis of administrative and executive ability and qualifications, and shall hold office for and during the pleasure of the City Council. The administrator position was vacated in May 2020, and Kevin Jones, Chief of Police, was appointed as interim City Administrator on May 11, 2020. The city recruited for the administrator position but ultimately Mr. Jones was appointed as City Administrator/Chief of Police Sept 9, 2020.

Findings:

The Grand Jury concluded:

F1. The City actively recruited for the City Administrator position, made a selection, and the applicant ultimately declined the position. The City followed its policies and procedures in the recruitment efforts of the City Administrator position.

F2. The appointment of Mr. Jones by the City Council was advantageous to the City and resulted in a cost savings to the City but ultimately combining two high level managerial positions into one does not allow either position to reach its full potential.

F3. It is virtually impossible to dedicate the amount of time needed to manage both positions with only one person. This was evident by the Police Department having to assign the Police Captain with Police Chief duties.

F4. There is no long-term plan in place for position that will be vacated due to retirement, promotion, etc.

Recommendations:

R1. Actively recruit all authorized vacant positions until filled with a qualified applicant. Vacant positions should only be filled on an interim basis while the city is actively recruiting the vacant position.

R2. Combine positions only if the position requires less than 100% of the duty time and the position that it is combined with also requires less than 100% of the duty time. This will create one position that can be competently performed with 100% of the duty time, resulting in one position being eliminated.

R3. Employees should be employed in positions that match the job description. If a position is going to be combined with another position, job descriptions should be updated to reflect the correct duties of the position and the job should be recruited as such.

R4. Develop a Human Capital Strategic Plan for the City of Susanville to recruit, hire and retain qualified applicants and prioritize city funding to supplement shortfalls in the future.

Commendation:

The 2020/2021 Grand Jury would like to commend Mr. Kevin Jones for the work that he accomplished while appointed as the City Administrator/Police Chief. He not only accepted the challenge of combining both these positions but also accepted this position in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Required Response:

It is the Grand Jury's decision that we are requiring a response from the City of Susanville City Council.

County of Lassen – Elections Office

Reason for Inquiry:

Grand Jury member recommendation.

Background Information:

Financial implications associated with corrected ballots and overall functionality of the Elections Office.

Inquiry Procedures:

The Grand Jury reviewed the County Policies and/or Procedures used for ballot preparation and estimating, requesting funds for Ballot preparation, and proofreading and/or editing ballots. Also reviewed were the County Policies and/or Procedures used for budgets approved for the County Elections Office for the past 5 years, cost to print all election ballots for the past 5 years, and conducted interviews.

Discussion:

The elected County Clerk is responsible for many duties, one of which is Elections. The State does not reimburse the county for any elections, regular or special. There are 4 employees in the entire office, performing all County Clerk office duties, including election duties. Training for employees is sporadic usually depending on county funds available. Heavy workload directly impacts the frequent turnover of employees in all positions. During election cycles and special elections more time (overtime) is required of all employees to complete the workload.

Findings:

The Grand Jury concluded:

F1. The County Clerk is required to ask the County Board of Supervisors for funds regarding every aspect of Elections, whether it is a regular or special election. Election funds come out of the County Budgets general fund, so money not earmarked for a special purpose is available to any County department.

F2. During election cycles and special elections overtime is required of all employees to complete assigned tasks. Employee retention is low, causing employee knowledge of elections to be limited. Training specific to Elections is not given to employees.

F3. Employees not familiar with Ballots or elections are required to do proofreading.

F4. The Registrar of Voters is not given the staff or dollars that are required to ensure a smooth, error free election.

Recommendations:

R1. Setup a budget account line that is earmarked specifically for Elections.

R2. Methods for training of employees working with Elections should be explored, online or ZOOM training can be accomplished at a lower cost.

R3. Proofreading should be done from the original documents before computer input is completed. Proofreading should be done by the person or agency that submitted the information to be included on the ballot.

R4. Board of Supervisors should ensure that the Registrar of Voters has the necessary funds and staff to properly conduct required elections. Having appropriate staff levels and funding should increase the accuracy resulting in less corrections and/or special elections, a cost saving to the County.

Commendation:

The 2020/2021 Grand Jury would like to commend Julie Bustamante and her staff for their outstanding work accomplished under difficult situations.

Required Response:

It is the Grand Jury's decision that we are requiring a response from the County Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative Officer.

County of Lassen – Fair Manager

Reason for Inquiry:

Complaint submitted to Grand Jury

Background Information:

A complaint raised questions into the policies and procedures used in the hiring of Lassen County Fair Manager.

Inquiry Procedures:

The Grand Jury reviewed the meeting minutes and agendas of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, County personnel rules and regulations, County recruitment and selection procedures, applicant notification letters, job description, and the applicant interview questions. The Grand Jury also conducted interviews.

Discussion:

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors under the guidance of the County Administrative Officer and staff is responsible for hiring a Fair Manager based on education and experience.

- December 1, 2020, Board of Supervisors meeting minutes identifies the Fair Manager Applicants by name. Also there is “no reportable action” identified after the Public Employee Employment: Fair Manager, closed session.
- December 3, 2020, letters were written (dated) to non-selected individuals.
- December 8, 2020, Board of Supervisors agenda identifies the appointment of the Fair Manager.

Findings:

The Grand Jury concluded:

F1. The notification letters sent to non-selected applicants were dated December 3, 2020. Based on Brown Act requirements the December 8, 2020, agenda must have been publicly posted 72 hours (3 days) prior to the December 8, 2020, meeting. Depending where applicant resided the letters would not arrive before job selection was publically announced. There is no policy and procedure for non-selected applicant notification.

F2. Privacy of applicants was compromised when the names of interviewees were listed in the December 1, 2020, Board of Supervisors meeting minutes.

F3. There are no written procedures for determining which applicants are qualified and which applicants will continue in the interview process.

F4. Education and experience requirements for the position were not considered equally.

Recommendations:

R1. Ensure that all non-selection letters be sent timely before the successful applicant is announced.

R2. Never list the names of potential candidates in the agenda or minutes of any meetings.

R3. Create and use a matrix system to fairly determine the qualifications for any/all County jobs. Ensure that there are written policy and procedures, to be followed for all County job announcements.

R4. Education requirements for all County jobs should be given the same weight regardless of when education or degree was achieved. Job requirements must be followed specifically as stated and described in the job announcement.

Required Response:

It is the Grand Jury's decision that we are requiring a response from the County Board of Supervisors and County Administrative Officer.

LASSEN COUNTY ADULT DETENTION FACILITY

On January 21, 2021, the Lassen County Grand Jury toured the Lassen County Adult Detention Facility (LCADF) located in Susanville.

Sheriff Growdon briefed the Grand Jury on the accomplishments and challenges faced by the department by both officers patrolling the streets and officers working in the detention facility. Following the briefing the Grand Jury was guided throughout the facility.

Summary

Constructed in 1991, the building remains in good condition. The roof has been replaced on the jail and new kitchen equipment has been purchased. Plans are in place to remodel the kitchen facility over the next 4 years.

The LCADF offers numerous educational and participatory programs including, but not limited to, Business Career Network, Resume` and Interview Training, GED Training, college classes, Drug and Alcohol Abuse classes, and Mental and Behavioral Health classes. Computers and tablets are used as an incentive for participation in some programs. Minutes are credited by participation. The time earned is utilized for designated leisure activities.

The LCADF currently houses 130 inmates with an average stay of 8 to 12 months. Sentenced and non-sentenced inmates are housed together. The open dorm housing is not ideal and security issues are a continued concern. Inmates that demonstrate an inability to participate in the general population or are disruptive are housed in the Special Housing/Security Housing Unit.

Upon arrival to the LCADF, inmates are issued an orientation manual which includes the grievance procedure. All complaints are handled within the facility. Serious or severe allegations receive independent review by a third party.

The sheriff emphasized the importance of hiring from within the community and is working on offering qualified applicants and jailers the opportunity to receive paid training at the academy. The sheriff believes that local hiring and advancement from within the department increases the length of service and dedication to the Department. Staff shortages have caused many difficulties often resulting in operations at minimum staffing levels or below. Often times, they use patrol personnel to backfill open shifts in the Jail to augment operations. They have been under continuous recruitment since 2016 for the position of Correctional Deputy.

Sheriff Growdon stated that much effort goes into training for the officers to meet State mandated requirements and regulations that continue to increase but do not come with any funding. Jail operating costs have skyrocketed. This agency maintains strong relationships with neighboring agencies.

Virtual reality equipment is scheduled to be delivered in February 2021. This is a valuable piece of equipment for “scenario based training”. The Grand Jurt compliments the Sheriff and staff for acquiring this equipment which will save money and make training more readily available.

An upgrade has been completed to the 911 System and they are currently trying to get the GIS mapping updated for the County. The LCADF switched to a new Records Management System in November 2020, the prior system was over 18 years old. This new system when totally operational will be a big improvement.

The facility is clean and well organized but is an older building and in need of major repairs. Major repairs include the kitchen and the heating/air conditioning system. The jail needs new thermostats for the heating system. As stated before some new kitchen equipment has been purchased and there is a 4 to 5 year plan in place to completely remodel the kitchen facility. No discrepancies were noted during the tour.

The Grand Jury wishes to express appreciation to the sheriff and staff for their time and hospitality.

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL CENTER

On Wednesday, June 16, 2021, the 2020-2021 Lassen County Grand Jury (LCGJ) toured the California Correctional Center (CCC) located near Susanville. CCC currently was housing 1704 inmates. After an initial briefing by the warden and management staff of CCC's mission, there was a question and answer session.

The warden and the management team strongly emphasized the importance of rehabilitation and re-entry programs for inmates housed in the facility. Though restricted by budget, they are trying to improve the areas that house these programs.

The warden remained with the Grand Jury throughout an extensive tour through housing Facilities A, B, and C, education, vocation, Antelope camp and Fire Department and EMS. CCC management and staff were present to inform the Grand Jury of the mission of each facility in detail.

Summary:

CCC was constructed in 1963 as a minimum-security prison, which included Facilities A, B and M. In 1987 the prison was expanded to include Facility C, which houses level III inmates.

The primary mission of CCC is to receive, house, and train minimum custody inmates for placement into the 18 conservation camps located throughout Northern California. Working collaboratively with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), these camps are strategically located throughout the north state to provide fire suppression hand crews as well as an organized labor force for public conservation projects and other emergency response needs of the state.

Services provided through the conservation camp program saves taxpayers an average of over 80 million dollars per year. Work projects associated with conservation camps support municipal, county, state, and federal government agencies, including schools, parks, cemeteries, and public recreation areas.

Additionally, CCC provides meaningful work, training, educational, and substance abuse treatment programs for inmates who do not meet the criteria for assignment to a conservation camp. These alternative assignments include academic and vocational trade programs, facility maintenance jobs, food service positions, and other facility support assignments. CCC offers a wide assortment of positive leisure time activities, family relations, including numerous self-help improvement programs such as literacy, alternatives to violence, addiction recovery, veterans' affairs, religious services, and athletic programs.

On April 13, 2021, without any advanced notification CDCR announced the closure of CCC effective June 30, 2022. According to CDCR, California Penal Code Section 2067 provides guidance for determining which CDCR facilities to prioritize for closure. Factors include cost to operate at the capacity; Workforce impacts; Subpopulation and gender-specific housing needs; Long-term investment in state-owned and operated correctional facilities, including previous investments; public safety and rehabilitation; and durability of the state's solution to prison overcrowding. Along with the above factors all California inmates in out-of-state contract

correctional facilities should have been returned by Feb 2019 and the private in-state male contract correctional facilities that are primarily staffed by non-Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation personnel shall be prioritized over other in-state contract correctional facilities.

The 2020-21 Budget: Effectively Managing State Prison Infrastructure dated Feb 28, 2020 issued by California Legislature Analyst's Office 12 of the state's 34 prisons were constructed between 1850 and 1960 and a recent study found at the state's 12 oldest prisons \$11 billion was recommended on over 150 infrastructure projects. The report also recommended closing two prison instead of removing inmates from publicly operated prisons and only closing one prison. It is detailed in this report that, the recommendation goes against state law which requires all inmates be removed from privately operated contract prisons. It recommended that CDCR rank prisons for closure based on cost avoidance, operational needs and their ability to serve inmates. According the report CCC had an estimated 10 infrastructure projects needed at an estimated cost of \$503 million ranking CCC as 11th in cost of projects with 5 prisons needing more than \$1 billion in repairs each.

The 2021-22 Budget: Prison Maintenance and Repairs Proposals dated February 2, 2021, states that inmate population decline expected to reduce number of prisons needed. The report notes that due to CDCR response to Covid-19 inmate population decline 23 percent from Feb 2020 to Jan 2021. CDCR expects population to remain low after the pandemic due to the state's recent policy changes. This report stated that based on initial review they found that California Rehabilitation Center, California Men's Colony, San Quentin State Prison and the Correctional Training Facility appeared to be strong candidates for closure, primarily because they all have high estimated repair and/or operational costs relative to their inmate capacity. According to CDCR's Master Plan Annual Report for Calendar Year 2020 submitted on Jan 2021, the state has spent over 64 million dollars on improvement at CCC last year. The report listed the following active projects: Health Care Facility Improvement Program which was 96% complete with a cost of \$ 33,371,000, Health Care Facility Improvement Project – Central Health Services Building Renovation which was 5% complete with a cost of \$8,069,000, Arnold Unit – Antelope Camp Kitchen/Dining Facility Replacements completed 12/2020 with a cost of \$22,204,000, Replace Roof – Administration/Chapel which was completed 12/2020 with a cost of \$982,100. Proposed projects which include no status or obligation of funds totaled \$7,050,960.

Lassen County had an economic impact report prepared by the Center for Economic Development at California State University, Chico because either the state has not completed one or has not shared it with the county. This report showed CCC has a total impact of \$120.89 million on gross domestic product within the county.

The Grand Jury was escorted around both A and B facility. The facilities are well kept and the pride from staff and inmates was well received. The facilities are dormitories. Due to Covid-19 restrictions have been put in place which includes limiting the population in each dorm. The dorms have a cooling system. While on the tour inmates expressed how much the cooling system is appreciated after conducting firefighting training all day.

The Grand Jury was impressed with many of the daily operations of education, which range from remedial education to associates degrees and several in-depth vocational programs. In the past,

inmates that were assigned to fire camps did not have access to the education system provided at CCC. CCC has worked at great lengths to establish a education system accessible by the fire camps and is currently the only prison in the state that offers education services to camp inmates.

For the education year 2020-2021, 58 fire camp inmates were enrolled in face to face education and 137 were enrolled in correspondence education programs. CCC has recently completed a construction update to the welding program and was in the process of making major updates to the autobody shop prior to the announcement of the closure of CCC. Overall for the 2020-2021 year, CCC had 366 Physical Fitness Training Completions for Fire Camps, 14 AA Degrees completed and has almost 900 inmates enrolled in various education programs, such as vocational, college, academic and fire camp studies. The Grand Jury took special note of the enthusiastic and positive approach displayed by education and vocational staff as well as the inmates currently in these programs.

The Grand Jury toured Antelope Camp and the Fire Department. These facilities provide many valuable services to the institution and to the county. The camp provides inmate hand crews for fire suppression, emergency services, and community projects. In October 2020, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) announced the depopulation of eight of the state's 43 conservation camps. Four of these camps fall under CCC. Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp in Fort Bragg, CA, Devil's Garden Conservation Camp in Alturas, CA, High Rock Conservation Camp in Weott, CA, and Valley View Conservation Camp in Elk Creek, CA, were depopulated completely by December 2020. CalFire is attempting to replace the inmate fire crew with CalFire employees. It was estimated that it takes approximately forty (40) new employees to replace a fourteen (14) man inmate crew. At Antelope Camp, which is located on the grounds of CCC, the camp in the past has had 5 crews but currently only has 2 crews. With the past fire seasons in California and the anticipation of another bad fire year, the draw downs of the Conservation Camps is especially concerning to the Grand Jury. Lassen County had one of the largest clusters of fires in 2020 with an estimated 203,296 acres burnt. CCC has and continues to contribute to Lassen County by fundraisers which have generated over \$30,000 last year being given to local charities. CCC has also conducted winter coats and clothing drives, backpack drives and donated to the community in other ways besides monetary.

The Fire Department is one of two paid fire departments in Lassen County. They provide mutual aid to 17 volunteer fire districts covering approximately 4,750 square miles. Included on the tour was the "Pups on Parole" program. There were 7 dogs at the Fire House being trained for adoption. There have been 642 dogs adopted since June 21, 2007.

Antelope Camp and the Fire Department have a long history of providing mutual aid to the residences of Lassen County and is relied on to respond promptly and provide additional staffing when needed.

Conclusion:

Each facility visited by the Grand Jury was professional, clean, and well run. Financially CCC has been operating in the black. No discrepancies were noted. The Grand Jury would like to acknowledge the hospitality, patience and professionalism of the warden and staff during our visit. The staff at the institution were warm and welcoming. All inmates that were encounter by the Grand Jury spoke highly about the prison and the staff.

Although an investigation was not completed on CCC, the annual inquiry conducted by the Grand Jury revealed some concerning issues with the closure and the decision making process surrounding it.

HIGH DESERT STATE PRISON

The 2019-2020 Lassen County GJ toured High Desert State Prison (HDSP) on October 22, 2019. Members of Lassen County Grand Jury(LCGJ) were greeted by Warden Kibler and Chief Deputy Warden Picket for a briefing and question and answer session.

HDSP's mission is to protect the public by providing humane and safe supervision of offenders and to provide offenders with quality health care through meaningful encounters with licensed medical, dental, and mental health professionals and inspire to improve patient satisfaction.

HDSP offers tools to effect change of culture, and inspire offenders to self-rehabilitate by facilitating educational opportunities, re-entry services, recreational activities, and leisure time activity group programs to reduce recidivism. The Grand Jury was escorted on a tour of the facility.

Summary

HDSP was designed to house 2259 inmates. Current inmate count is 3796 and they are at 89% of maximum capacity. HDSP currently houses general population and sensitive needs high security (Level IV), medium security (Level III), and minimum security (Level I) inmates. The Level I inmates are housed in the minimum-security facility located outside of the main institution.

HDSP has a licensed hospital with 32 beds. The Correctional Treatment Center (CTC) provides for health care needs of the inmates. The CTC has negative pressure patient rooms, which has been useful during the COVID pandemic.

HDSP faced many challenges with COVID. They currently have strict testing requirements for staff and mask requirements. HDSP proved to be resilient during the pandemic and were quickly able to adjust problems and the ever changing guidance/requirements of COVID.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) decision to close California Correctional Center (CCC) has a direct impact on HDSP. The isolated and rural setting of HDSP has resulted in fewer staff available than in more populated areas. Staffing levels were already low and now have been compounded by the closing of CCC. HDSP has been placed on a hiring freeze. CCC and HDSP will go through a State Restrictions of Appointment (SROA)/Surplus Process. CCC/HDSP staff will be provided information in January of 2022, regarding the SROA process, "bumping" based on seniority within the county. Staffing levels are not anticipated to improve until the state allows the transfer of employees from CCC. The current timeline has a Dec 2021 date to determine report dates of transfers. Staffing levels are too low to be filled with volunteer overtime and mandatory holdover overtime is required. Staff shortage is a major concern for the next year.

The LCGJ was very impressed with the overall cleanliness and organization of the prison. Both custody and support staff provided open and candid responses to our inquiries and are to be acknowledged for the job they do in a highly stressful and confined setting with many high security and sensitive needs inmates. The Grand Jury is most appreciative for the hospitality extended by the Warden and staff.

APPENDIX

Responses to Prior Year's Report

Included in this appendix are the responses to the **2019-2020** Grand Jury Report, submitted exactly as they were received. It is important that citizens are aware of the reactions to the recommendations, and any positive changes implemented as a result of the Grand Jury's efforts.

LASSEN SUPERIOR COURT

Tony Mallery
Presiding
Superior Court Judge



2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8205 Ext. 103

September 8, 2020

Julie Bustamante
County Clerk
220 S. Lassen St.
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Ms. Bustamante:

Pursuant to 933(c) of the California Penal Code, I am sending you a copy of the Response from the Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report to place on file with the County Clerk.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori Barron".

Lori Barron
Jury Commissioner

Cc: Lassen County Grand Jury
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

RECEIVED

RESPONSE PROCEDURE TO GRAND JURY REPORTS

SEP 03 2020

SUMMARY OF PC §933.05

Clerk of the Superior Court
County of Lassen
By The governance of the Board of Directors Deputy Clerk

Responses to Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within 60 days, governing bodies (for example: The Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge, the Grand Jury Foreperson, and the CEO's office.

Report Title: Lassen County Grand Jury Report Date 2019/2020
Response by: Standish Litchfield Fire Title: Board of Directors
Protection District

Findings

I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5; 1, 2, 3

Recommendations

Recommendations numbered: _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report).

Recommendations numbered: _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable. (Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8-29-2020 Signed: [Signature]
[Signature]

Total number of pages attached: 6

Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 120, Standish, CA 96128

(530)254-6601

slfd@frontiernet.net



August 29, 2020

The Honorable Tony Mallery
Presiding Judge
Lassen County Superior Court
2610 Riverside Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130

Re: SLFPD Response to Lassen County Grand Jury Report 2020

Dear Judge Mallery,

Please accept this response from the Standish Litchfield Fire Protection District. The Board of Directors believe there has been some misunderstanding as to the purpose of the Grand Jury Investigation being a "routine review" and SLFPD being chosen as the Special District this year to be reviewed; and disagrees with the findings within the 2019/2020 Lassen County Grand Jury Report.

The SLFPD Board of Directors are disappointed that the Lassen County Grand Jury was misused in such a manner to depict and publicize the accusations and opinions of a retaliatory citizen complaint whereas the validity and timeframes would have otherwise been reasonably questioned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita Luallen, Chairperson

Steve Hitchcock, Board Member

Christine Lee, Board Member

Dave Faris, Board Member

Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 120, Standish, CA 96128

(530)254-6601

slfd@frontiernet.net



Finding 1: SLFPD Board of Directors is and has been, disregarding all applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Response 1: The current Board of Directors have never willfully disregarded the Brown Act and is diligent in their efforts to operate within all relevant laws and regulations. This is shown in multiple meeting agendas and minutes as recorded. There is not a specific explanation to this finding and stating "all" seems to be too broad to formally and specifically respond to.

Finding 2: SLFPD Board of Directors is and has been, disregarding all applicable Political Reform Act.

Response 2: The current Board of Directors have never willfully disregarded the Political Reform Act. The current Board of Directors do not have any conflict of interests and do not receive any financial gain as board members. There is not a specific explanation to this finding and stating "all" seems to be too broad to formally and specifically respond to.

Finding 3: SLFPD Board of has blatantly and willfully disregarded the Uniform District Election Law.

Response 3: The current Board of Directors has never willfully disregarded the Uniform District Election Law. This is shown by the Roster of Public Agencies filings that have been filed with the State of CA Secretary of State and the Lassen County Clerk's Office. The current board consists of members whom have been both elected and appointed in compliance with laws and regulations. Despite requesting information and assistance from the Lassen County Clerk's Office, Lassen County Bord of Supervisors, and Lassen County Counsel, SLFPD board members have received no assistance.

Finding 4: SLFPD is not compliant with SB1207 OSHA Training and Safety Standards.

Response 4: SLFPD staff is compliant with the OSHA Training and Safety Standards. Volunteer Firefighters consistently receive training and appropriate safety equipment. SLFPD volunteer firefighters have received more training under the authority of the current Board of Directors than in years past. This is shown in personnel files, college transcripts, department training records, etc.

Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 120, Standish, CA 96128

(530)254-6601

slfd@frontiernet.net



Finding 5: SLFPD is not compliant with the following:

a. Roster of Public Agencies Filing

Response 5a: The current Board of Directors and SLFPD staff is compliant with Roster of Public Agency Filing and has submitted the Statement of Facts to both the CA Secretary of State and the Lassen County Clerk.

b. Sexual Harassment Training

Response 5b: The current Board of Directors has implemented a Sexual Harassment Policy into the new Standard Operating Procedures and has provided training to the Fire Chief and Volunteers.

SLFPD has displayed sexual harassment informational posters and has provided sexual harassment training; in addition, the recently adopted SOP's include a sexual harassment policy with an employee signature required for acknowledgement.

SLFPD has NOT implemented an "abusive conduct" portion of training; the current Law (AB2053 and Government Code § 12950) states its application is for "an employer having 50 or more employees". SLFPD has one (1) paid employee. This is NOT APPLICABLE.

SLFPD has NOT implemented an "transgender rights" portion of training; the current Law (AB2053 and Government Code § 12950) states its application is for "an employer having 50 or more employees". SLFPD has one (1) paid employee. This is NOT APPLICABLE.

c. Reimbursement Policy

Response 5c: SLFPD has never had a formal reimbursement policy implemented though the current Board of Directors have been working on it; due to the COVID19 Pandemic situation and social gatherings and meetings being restricted, this never got finalized. SLFPD will make this a priority to be implemented by January 1, 2021.

d. Enterprise System Catalog

Response 5d: SLFPD does NOT use computer software to collect public information. This is NOT APPLICABLE.

e. Website

Response 5e: The SLFPD Board of Directors approved Board Resolution 2019-4 claiming exemption from SB 929, due to lack of funding, high speed internet services, and staffing. Therefore, SLFPD is in compliance with SB 929.

Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 120, Standish, CA 96128

(530)254-6601

slfd@frontiernet.net



f. Board Member and Employee Reimbursement Disclosure

Response 5f: SLFPD is in compliance with Reimbursement Disclosure, as all financial records are accessible and disclosed to the public through the Lassen County Auditors Office and at <http://co.lassen.ca.us/dept/auditor/auditor/special-district-reports>

g. Conflict of Interest

Response 5g: The current Board of Directors do NOT have any conflict of interests and has NEVER experienced any financial gain or effect on their economic interests as serving as board members of SLFPD.

h. Contracting and Bidding

Response 5h: SLFPD has NOT had any new construction in order to require bidding and contracting procedures as stated in the Local Agency Public Construction Act. This is NOT APPLICABLE.

i. State Constitution Gifting of Public Funds

Response 5i: The current Board of Directors has NEVER gifted any public money to any person, association, or corporation. This is NOT APPLICABLE.

j. Incompatibility of Office Doctrine

Response 5j: The current Board of Directors do NOT have a conflict with their employment and their duties as board members. Each member of the current Board of Directors has their own various knowledge, education, experience, expertise, and skill set that is utilized as a board that can be beneficial and an asset to SLFPD. This is NOT APPLICABLE.

k. Public Records Act

Response 5k: SLFPD is in compliance with the Public Records Act and has fulfilled approximately 16 Public Records Requests since August of 2019.

l. Surplus Real Property

Response 5l: SLFPD is in compliance with Government Code § 50568, 54220 Surplus Real Property. There have been Two (2) old Fire Apparatuses that were put up for open bids to be sold by the previous Fire Chief. Both of those fire apparatuses have been sold/donated/discarded/disposed of in accordance with current laws and regulations.

Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District

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slfd@frontiernet.net



m. Ethics Training

Response 5m: The current Board of Directors have all completed their biennial Ethics Training and are in compliance with current laws and regulations.

n. A District Board Shall Keep a Record of All It's Facts

Response 5n: The current Board of Directors and staff are diligent in keeping records in accordance with current laws and regulations. Previous staff (Chief and Secretary) were not, as there were many documents, records, and files that were missing when they left.

o. Subject to Uniform District Election Laws

Response 5o: The current Board of Directors have been in compliance with the Uniform District Election Laws, the current board members are on file as serving for 4 year terms and expiring in 2022. This was also responded to in Finding/Response 5a.

p. Adopt a Preliminary Budget

q. Publish Notice Regarding Budget

r. Adopt of Final Budget

Response 5p-5r: The current Board of Directors have had best intentions to work on preliminary and final budgets. The Chairperson and Secretary trained with the Lassen County Auditor's Office in 2019. There were multiple discrepancies regarding District Property Taxes distribution to the Special Districts. The current Board of Directors did submit budget appropriations for the fiscal year 2019/2020 to the Lassen County Auditor's Office. This report specifies fiscal year 2018 which was prior to any current staff.

The current Board of Directors has noted appropriately on meeting agendas and minutes, any and all discussions regarding budget preparation and approval and is in compliance with Health and Safety Code § 13895.

s. Follow the Brown Act

Response 5s: The current Board of Directors has been diligent in following any and all Brown Act laws and regulations and has NEVER "willfully or egregiously" violated the Brown Act. This is repetitive with the Government Code already listed in this report and responded to in Finding/Response 1.

Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 120, Standish, CA 96128

(530)254-6601

slfd@frontiernet.net



t. Train Employees

Response 5t: The current Board of Directors has promoted, provided, and has sought out training opportunities for volunteer firefighters on a consistent basis, including, but not limited to: CPR, EMR, S130, S190, Auto Extrication, etc. Therefore, SLFPD is in compliance with Health and Safety Code § 13969. This is repetitive with the Government Code already listed in this report and is also responded to in Finding/Response 4.

Finding 1: SLFPD knowingly and intentionally submitted false, inaccurate, or misleading information to ISO attempting to affect their assigned ISO number.

Response 1: The current Board of Directors and current staff has not contacted ISO to affect the current ISO Rating. This was done by previous staff (Chief and Secretary), prior to any of the current board members being on the board, and the current board members were made aware of this after the said previous chief was terminated. ISO Ratings are not routinely updated every year, and it is not possible for just anybody to call up someone to change the district's current ISO rating.

Finding 2: SLFPD arguably violated HIPPA Privacy Rules, exposing individually, identifiable Health Information to possible fraud and theft.

Response 2: The current Board of Directors and current staff has NEVER violated HIPAA Privacy Laws and Regulations. It is not common practice for the current Board of Directors to even have knowledge of any Private Health Information. This is NOT APPLICABLE.

Finding 3: Board of Directors consistently ignores, disregards, or does not follow its own established bylaws, policies, and procedures.

Response 3: The current Board of Directors has NEVER ignored or disregarded the district's bylaws, policies, and procedures. The current board members have developed and implemented new policies to promote, improve, and ensure efficiency for department operations. Each current board member has a copy of the bylaws and Department SOP's.

LASSEN SUPERIOR COURT

Tony Mallery
Presiding
Superior Court Judge



2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8205 Ext. 103

September 8, 2020

Julie Bustamante
County Clerk
220 S. Lassen St.
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Ms. Bustamante:

Pursuant to 933(c) of the California Penal Code, I am sending you a copy of the Response from the Lassen County Board of Supervisors to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report to place on file with the County Clerk.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Barron".

Lori Barron
Jury Commissioner

Cc: Lassen County Grand Jury
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

County of Lassen
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



CHRIS GALLAGHER
District 1
DAVID TEETER
District 2
JEFF HEMPHILL
District 3
AARON ALBAUGH
District 4
TOM HAMMOND
District 5

RICHARD EGAN
County Administrative Officer
email: cadmin@co.lassen.ca.us

County Administration Office
221 S. Roop Street, Suite 4
Susanville, CA 96130
Phone: 530-251-8333
Fax: 530-251-2663

August 31, 2020

The Honorable Tony Mallery
Presiding Judge, Lassen Superior Court
2610 Riverside Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Judge Mallery,

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933(c), please accept the Lassen County Board of Supervisors response to the 2019-2020 Lassen County Grand Jury report. Our response is attached.

While we may or may not be able to implement every recommendation as a result of other limitations, the Board of Supervisors welcomes the constructive criticism offered by the Grand Jury, considers it seriously, and takes to heart the recommendations brought forth. The Board of Supervisors joins the Grand Jury in trying to make local government as efficient and effective as possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Court and the 2019-2020 Lassen County Grand Jury for a job well done.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Teeter".

David Teeter, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

Introduction

The California Grand Jurors Association states that the mission of a civil Grand Jury is to "help local government be more accountable and efficient." They also state that their mission is to "facilitate positive change....". The Lassen County Board of Supervisors applauds this goal and would like to thank the citizens who have given of themselves to serve as Lassen County Grand Jurors. The Lassen County Board of Supervisors recognizes the considerable contribution of time and energy by private citizens for the benefit of Lassen County as a whole.

The Board of Supervisors welcomes the constructive criticism offered by the Grand Jury, considers it seriously, and takes to heart the recommendations brought forth by the Grand Jury. The Board of Supervisors joins the Grand Jury in trying to make local government as efficient and effective as possible.

Grand Jury Report: Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District

Recommendation Number 1: The entire SLFPD Board of Directors be removed from office for nothing less than egregious conduct. Gov Code section 3060. (sic)

Response/Comment: The recommendation will not be implemented by the Board of Supervisors.

Section 3060 of the California Government Code, and those sections surrounding it, authorize a grand jury to lodge an "Accusation" against a sitting member or members of an elected body for malfeasance in office. An "Accusation" contemplates, if proven, removal from office and disqualification from holding future public office. The procedure outlined in the law for prosecuting an "Accusation" is remarkably similar to that of prosecuting someone for a crime, except the punishment does not involve the possibility of incarceration. The accused is entitled to, among other things, be represented by counsel, to a jury trial, and may only be removed from office if all twelve jurors find him or her guilty beyond any reasonable doubt.

The process for prosecuting an "Accusation" begins with the Grand Jury lodging with the court and the District Attorney a formal "Accusation" (a formal document with very specific requirements). The Board of Supervisors is informed and believes that no such "Accusation" has ever been presented by the Grand Jury to either the court or the district attorney.

Even if there had been, no part of the process that follows such a presentation involves the Board of Supervisors.

Recommendation Number 2: Lassen County Board of Supervisors assumes the role of SLFPD Board of Directors per Health and Safety Code PART 2.7. FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT LAW OF 1987 (13800-13970) 13841. *Except in the case where a county board of supervisors has appointed itself as the district board.*

As stated above, the Board of Supervisors has no authority to remove the elected board of directors of the Standish Litchfield Fire Protection District. The section cited by the Grand Jury, Health and Safety Code section 13841, certainly does not provide for that. That section simply enunciates the requirement that any member of a board of directors of a California fire protection district must be a resident of that district in order to be eligible to serve. The only exception to that rule is where a Board of Supervisors

serves as the district's board of directors, a decision which may only be made at the time of formation of the district. From a review of all available authority, that decision cannot be changed once made. It should also be recognized that the initial board of directors of the SLFPD (three persons NOT members of the Board of Supervisors) was appointed on the same date the district was formed, May 7, 1951. The only means by which the structure of this district could be changed at this point is through dissolution or consolidation, both LAFCo processes discussed below.

Moreover, at time of writing this reply, the election cycle is underway pursuant to the California Uniform District Election law (UDEL). SLFPD is subject to UDEL. As a result of the normal rotation of staggered elections for special districts, plus the existence of vacancies on the SLFPD which have been filled by appointments, all 5 seats on that elected board are up for election this coming November 3, 2020. As of the writing of this reply, the filing period within which to become a candidate to run for these seats has closed. The Board of Supervisors is informed that none of the existing board of directors of the SLFPD have, as of the last date to do so, filed to run for re-election. Consequently, their terms will end at the end of November of this year. Additionally, 3 members of the community have come forward to run for those seats. The 3 members that have signed up to run for those seats will be appointed in lieu of election and will be eligible to be sworn in on the first Friday of December of this year, all according to UDEL.

It would appear that the pressure brought to bear by the simultaneous publication of the 2019/2020 Lassen County Grand Jury report regarding the SLFPD, in conjunction with a white paper published shortly prior thereto by the Lassen County District Attorney, Susan M. Rios, may have caused a political change in the leadership of that district.

Recommendation Number 3: Lassen County Board of Supervisors to direct staff to determine and present consolidation options/strategies.

Response/Comment: The recommendation will be reviewed approximately 60-90 days after the new board of directors takes office (expected to be the first week of December 2020).

Recommendation Number 4: Lassen County Board of Supervisors initiate a resolution of consolidation and request consolidation between SLFPD and an adjacent district.

Response/Comment: This recommendation requires further analysis. Any action the Board of Supervisors takes, if at all, is dependent on what conclusions can be drawn from the study session outlined in the response to recommendation 3 above.

Response/Comment: This recommendation will not be implemented.

SLFPD is adjacent to both Susan River FPD and also Janesville FPD. Presumably, the Grand Jury was thinking of these two districts when it asked the Board of Supervisors to consider adopting a resolution of application requesting consolidation with an "adjacent district".

Interestingly, both of these other two districts retain authority to ask LAFCo to consolidate themselves with SLFPD. The Board of Supervisors is not aware that any such request has ever been made; neither by Janesville FPD, nor Susan River. The Board of Supervisors is left to conclude that, because they haven't asked to do so, that neither of those two adjacent districts is interested.

The Board of Supervisors is of the abiding belief that if such a consolidation is to have any chance of success, it must start with the parties who seek to join with each other; that is, either Janesville FPD or Susan River FPD are going to have to want to join with SLFPD for such consolidation to succeed.

Recommendation Number 5: Lassen County Board of Supervisors directs the County Auditor to fully and completely review and audit all accounts and financial activities of SLFPD and report back with the findings.

Response/Comment: The recommendation will not be implemented by the Board of Supervisors.

The Lassen County Auditor is an elected official whose office is provided for in the California Constitution. The Board of Supervisors possesses no specific authority to "direct" her to "...fully and completely review and audit all accounts and financial activities of SLFPD...". If she chooses to do so, it must be of her own volition.

Recommendation Number 6: Lassen County Board of Supervisors, acting as the SLFPD Board of Directors, cure and correct past actions/violations of the SLFPD Board of Directors.

Response/Comment: The recommendation will not be implemented by the Board of Supervisors.

As stated above, the Board of Supervisors has no authority to assume the role as the board of directors of SLFPD; consequently, it has no authority to "cure and correct" past perceived wrongs.

Conclusion

The Board of Supervisors would like to once again take this opportunity to thank those who have served as Grand Jurors for the 2019-2020 year. It is a considerable commitment, and can, from what we have seen, be frustrating at times. This Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge our shared interest in making Lassen County a safer, happier and more productive place to live and work. We pledge to continue to work with future Grand Juries in reaching this goal.

LASSEN SUPERIOR COURT

Tony Mallery
Presiding
Superior Court Judge



2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8205 Ext. 103

October 20, 2020

Julie Bustamante
County Clerk
220 S. Lassen St.
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Ms. Bustamante:

Pursuant to 933(c) of the California Penal Code, I am sending you a copy of the Response from the CCC Fire Department to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report to place on file with the County Clerk.

Thank you,


Lori Barron
Jury Commissioner

Cc: Lassen County Grand Jury ✓
CCC Fire Department



Fire Chief Chris Hallmark
 CCC Fire Department
 711-045 Center Rd
 Susanville, CA 96130
 530.257.2181 x5000
 Cell # 530.249.9697



September 4, 2020

The Honorable Tony Mallery
 Presiding Judge, Lassen Superior Court
 2610 Riverside Drive
 Susanville, Ca. 96130

RECEIVED

SEP 11 2020

Clerk of the Superior Court
 County of Lassen

By _____, Deputy Clerk

Dear Judge Mallery,

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933(c), please accept my invited response to the 2019-2020 Lassen County Grand Jury report regarding the Standish Litchfield Fire Protection District (SLFPD) and consolidation of said fire district.

It is my opinion that every volunteer fire district in the area including the SLFPD would benefit from consolidation of their fire district with surrounding fire districts. Consolidation of the volunteer fire districts would allow for better oversight of all aspects of the fire and rescue service provided by local volunteer fire departments. It would allow for the standardization of training. Currently all volunteer fire departments in the area conduct in house training which in most cases does not follow any standardized guideline or policy. Consolidation would allow for one central location for all appropriate paperwork (ie: training records, budget paperwork, ect.). This would streamline any audits in the future and make the area fire departments more transparent. It would also allow for a more evenly distributed budget for all fire departments and a larger pool of personnel for the departments to utilize where needed. Additionally, consolidation would allow for a more thorough oversight of all volunteer fire districts area wide. If you were to appoint a Fire Chief to oversee all of the volunteer fire departments/districts and re-title the current Fire Chiefs as Battalion Chiefs for each district they could retain their district boundaries which would save the cost of updating district maps and still allow some oversight by current district Fire Chiefs. It is also my belief that in order to ensure that local area fire departments/districts are adhering to all laws, regulations and policies they should be governed by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors. Thank you to the Lassen County Grand Jury for inviting my comment on this matter and thank you Judge Mallery for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Hallmark

Fire Chief

CCC/HDSP Fire Department

LASSEN SUPERIOR COURT

Tony Mallery
Presiding
Superior Court Judge



2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8205 Ext. 103

October 20, 2020

Julie Bustamante
County Clerk
220 S. Lassen St.
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Ms. Bustamante:

Pursuant to 933(c) of the California Penal Code, I am sending you a copy of the Response from the Janesville Fire Protection District to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report to place on file with the County Clerk.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Barron".

Lori Barron
Jury Commissioner

Cc: Lassen County Grand Jury ✓
Janesville Fire Protection District

JANESVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 40
JANESVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96114
TELEPHONE (530) 253-3737 FAX (530) 253-3783

RECEIVED

SEP 15 2020

Clerk of the Superior Court
County of Lassen

By _____, Deputy Clerk

September 9, 2020

The Honorable Anthony Mallery
Presiding Judge
Lassen County Superior Court
2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96139

Subject: Invited Response to the 2019-2020 Lassen County Grand Jury Report

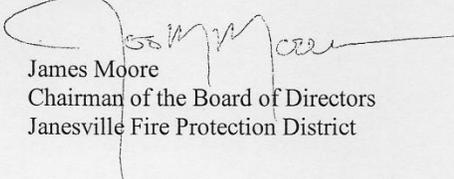
Dear Judge Mallery,

On behalf of the Janesville Fire Protection District (JFPD) Board of Directors I am submitting our invited response to the Consolidation of the Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District (SLFPD) section of the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report.

The JFPD Board of Directors has no intention of consolidation with the SLFPD until such time that said District and its residents request a consolidation.

It is understood that the Lassen County Grand Jury has worked diligently on this report including its findings and recommendations. The JFPD Board of Directors would like to express our sincere appreciation for the Grand Jury's acknowledgement of the efforts put forth by the volunteer fire protection districts serving Lassen County.

Respectfully,


James Moore
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Janesville Fire Protection District