

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: 2015-16 Web Transparency Report Card – Bringing Marin County's Local Governments to Light
Report Date: March 10, 2016
Public Release: March 17, 2016
Response by: Town of Ross

FINDINGS

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

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R1, R3 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.) *See response letter for details.
- Recommendations numbered R1 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.) *See response letter for details.
- 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 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 R2 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 5/13/16

Signed: _____

Kathleen Hoertkorn, Mayor

Number of pages attached 2



May 13, 2016

The Honorable Judge Kelly V. Simmons
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Dear Judge Simmons:

The Ross Town Council has received the Grand Jury Report – “2015-16 Web Transparency Report Card – *Bringing Marin County’s Local Governments to Light*” dated March 10, 2016. The Grand Jury has requested a response to Recommendations R1, R2 and R3. The Town Council response follows.

RECOMMENDATION:

R1: The agency should improve its web transparency score to “B-” (or better), by updating its website and submitting the appropriate self-audit form. The form may be obtained by emailing grandjury-audit@marincounty.org.

Response: Ross has improved its information on the website and continues to update and add new content as needed. Some of items cited in the Grand Jury Report Card for Ross do not exist, such as a “Financial Reserves Policy” and “Contracts”. The Town plans to establish a Financial Reserves Policy in the near future which will be added to the website. For Contracts, there are currently no requests for proposals or bidding opportunities for Ross to post on the website; when we do have bidding opportunities, they are posted on the website along with submittal instructions.

Another item cited in the Grand Jury Report Card is “Administrative Officials”, and this item is particularly puzzling to us, as each department on the website clearly states the administrative officials responsible and their contact information. We are unclear what additional information is needed. We have added a Town of Ross organizational chart to the Human Resources page on the website which lists all the departments, their officials, and their employees.

R2: The agency should file and keep updated its Statement of Facts with the California Secretary of State and the Marin County Clerk as required by California Code §53051.

Response: California Government Code §53050 defines “public agency” as follows:

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53050. The term "public agency," as used in this article, means a district, public authority, public agency, and any other political subdivision or public corporation in the state, **but does not include the state or a county, city and county, or city.**

Cities are not required to file a Statement of Facts, therefore Ross will not be implementing the recommendation because it is not warranted.

R3: The agency should update its website to include information of the annual compensation of its elected officials, officers and employees; and this information should also be submitted to the Controller, as required by Sections 12463 and 53909 of the California Government Code.

Response: The compensation of the Town's officers and employees has been available on the Town's website Human Resources page at: http://www.townofross.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/human_resources/page/110/salary_schedule_4.20.16.pdf, and is updated regularly as changes occur. The Town fully complies with sending compensation information annually to the State Controller's office as required by the Government Code, and a link to this information is also posted on the Human Resources page of the website. The Town's elected officials do not receive any compensation to report.

Respectfully,



Kathleen Hoertkorn
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: Victoria Harrison, Foreperson Pro Tem ✓