



July 10, 2020


The Honorable Judge Andrew Sweet
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Dear Judge Sweet:

The Town of Ross has received the Grand Jury Report "Follow-Up Report on Web Transparency of Agency Compensation Practices" dated April 28, 2020. The Grand Jury has requested a response to Findings F3, F5, and Recommendations R3, R4 and R6. The report was reviewed and considered by Ross Town Council at their July 9, 2020 regular meeting. Enclosed please find the Town's response.

Please extend the Town's appreciation to the 2020 Grand Jurors for the important work they do on behalf of all the citizens of Marin County.

Sincerely,


Julie McMillan
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: Lucy Dilworth, Foreperson ✓

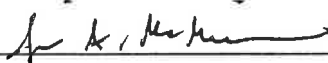
RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Follow-up Report on Web Transparency of Agency Compensation Practices

Report Date: April 28, 2020

Agenda Date: July 9, 2020

Response by:


Julie McMillan
Mayor, Town of Ross

Findings:

F3: Any link to *publicpay.ca.gov* on an agency's website that fails to go directly to the agency's current compensation data on that website does not satisfy the intent of the Government Code that information be easily located.

We agree and have updated the links posted on the Town's website to ensure they are directed to the latest data.

F5: Regarding detailed disclosure of total compensation paid, most public agencies do not break out all components of compensation paid to their elected officials, including salary, meeting fees or stipends (including compensation for serving as liaison to other advisory committees, councils and forums), reimbursements, health and retirement benefits, and other benefits such as equipment.

Agree. The Town of Ross' elected officials do not receive any compensation, benefits or stipends from the Town for their service. Agencies issuing stipends for Council Members to participate on outside Boards or Commissions should report this information.

Recommendations:

R3: No later than 90 days after the date of this report, agencies should modify their existing *publicpay.ca.gov* links so that they provide a direct link to their current compensation data on the state site. To eliminate the need for annual updates, the URL used for the link should exclude any parameter specifying a year. Formatted URL examples are shown on Appendix A.

This recommendation has been implemented. We have updated the Public Pay links for both employees (<https://publicpay.ca.gov/Reports/Cities/City.aspx?entityid=254>) and Elected Officials (<https://publicpay.ca.gov/Reports/Cities/City.aspx?entityid=254&rpt=5>) and removed the specifying year from the links. The links now go directly to the latest compensation data.

R4: No later than 90 days after the date of this report, in addition to any other compensation links, agencies should include a link on their board or council web pages that leads directly to their "Elected Officials" page on the *publicpay.ca.gov* site, conforming to the format suggested on Appendix A.

This recommendation has been implemented. The website Town Council page has been updated to include a direct link to the Public Pay Elected Officials page (<https://publicpay.ca.gov/Reports/Cities/City.aspx?entityid=254&rpt=5>) .

R6: No later than 120 days after the date of this report, agencies should adopt a practice to compile and publish each year an annual report detailing the compensation actually paid to their elected officials for the previous calendar year. Compensation disclosures should include, at a minimum, salary, meeting fees or stipends (including compensation for serving as liaison to other advisory committees, councils and forums), reimbursements, health and retirement benefits, and other benefits such as equipment. A link to this report should be posted on the agency's board or council web page.

This recommendation will not be implemented. As stated before, the Town of Ross does not provide any compensation or benefits to its elected officials, and this information is published annually on publicpage.ca.gov with a direct link to it from the Town's website *Town Council* page.