



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

HEIDI E. WASHINGTON  
DIRECTOR

February 23, 2018

Sheriff Brian Begole  
Shiawassee County Sheriff's Office  
201 E. McArthur St.  
Corunna, MI. 48817

RE: Physical Plant Evaluation

Dear Sheriff Begole,

A physical plant evaluation of the Shiawassee County Jail was conducted by the Michigan Department of Corrections, County Jail Services Unit on February 22, 2018.

The evaluation was conducted by Larry Abraham and Ronald Trachet, Regulation Agents with the County Jail Services Unit.

Aspects of the facility that were evaluated included plumbing and plumbing fixtures, heating and cooling, electrical, roofing condition, generator condition, perimeter fencing, walkways, kitchen, fire alarm systems, facility layout, camera systems, inmate cell conditions, ventilation, laundry equipment and energy efficiency.

Areas of liability and security concerns were also analyzed taking into consideration the Administrative Rules for Jails and Lockups.

### **Background**

The Shiawassee County Jail was constructed in 1963 with a rated design capacity of 47 beds.

In 1983, an addition increased the rated design capacity to 69 beds.

In 1988, an addition increased the rated design capacity to 132 beds.

In 2002, a building was purchased by the County and renovated to provide a work release center with 33 beds increasing the rated design capacity for Shiawassee County to 165 beds.

**Plumbing:**

Several major issues with plumbing include:

1. Original plumbing chases and pipes from 1963 that are corroded.
2. Pipes have asbestos covering present.
3. Several cells are unusable due to plumbing issues.
4. Flush restrictors are placed and being used improperly.
5. Several parts are no longer available for repair.
6. Cross section of original pipe was almost completely occluded by corrosion and debris.

**Plumbing Fixtures:**

1. Plumbing fixtures (Commode/Sink) is being pushed away from the wall due to corrosion.
2. Most cells have leaking fixtures including showers.
3. Showers have large amounts of corrosion at fixture locations and leak.
4. High levels of mold and standing water inside plumbing chases.

**Heating and Cooling:**

1. Heating and cooling sensors are not working properly causing a 20 degree difference in cell temperatures.
2. Roof mounted air conditioning units were several years old.

**Electrical:**

1. Electrical panels unlocked.
2. Breakers are not labeled.
3. Old dispatch center has wiring that is hazardous and a fire code violation of NFPA.

**Roofing:**

1. Several noted leaks in roof.
2. Water collection from roof inside cell (Cell 18) with inmates present.
3. Water intrusion from roof inside cell at light fixture – ceiling level. Fire hazard/violation. (Cell 18).
4. Leaks on roof had ineffective patches allowing water into building.
5. Standing water on roof.
6. Electrical lines running through standing water.
7. Past repairs to roof leaks were done incorrectly leaving exposed membrane.

**Generator:**

1. No issue.

**Perimeter Fencing:**

1. Only a portion of the jail is covered in fencing.
2. Current fencing is inadequate in height, structure, and design.
3. No security deterrent options like razor ribbon, flex-alert, or concertina.
4. Ineffective locking gates pass-through.

**Walkways:**

1. Perimeter concrete is in poor shape.
2. Uneven
3. Severe crack and spalling.

**Fire Alarm Systems:**

1. Work release does not have sprinklers or availability which will be required in the near future.

**Facility Layout:**

1. Facility layout is antiquated and not efficient.
2. Staff is required to be present on each floor with inmates present.
3. Medical is located on the second floor which not a best practice.
4. Booking area does not provide for a direct line of site for all holding/detox cells.

**Camera Systems:**

1. No cameras in any cells other than booking.
2. No cameras in any of the housing units- poses a tremendous security risk.

**Cell Conditions:**

1. Cells are in terrible condition.
2. Standing water.
3. Mold.
4. Visible rust/corrosion.
5. Unable to flush toilets when required.
6. No access to natural daylight. Boarded over windows.
7. Peeling paint.

**Ventilation:**

1. Ventilation was poor.
2. No air movement.
3. High humidity levels which contribute to mold growth.
4. Cell ventilation ducts terminate inside closed plumbing chases.
5. High levels of mold and standing water inside plumbing chases.

**Laundry Equipment:**

1. No concerns.

**Energy Efficiency:**

1. Shiawassee county jail is not efficient by any means.

**Security Concerns:**

1. Lack of cameras increase risk of suicide attempts, assaults, and medical crisis issues.
2. Lack of cameras to track inmate movement.

**Locks:**

Some of the locks in the facility are so outdated that there isn't anyone in the State of Michigan that can repair them. A locksmith from another state would have to be hired. Recently one lock repair cost \$500.

**Administrative Rule Concerns:**

1. Staffing- There aren't enough Officers at times to maintain all areas of the facility.
2. Classification- Jail design makes it difficult to properly separate inmates based on classification.
3. Security - There are times inmates are on the second floor with no Officer present.
4. Safety and Maintenance of Equipment- There are a lot of issues with the physical plant itself as noted above.

**Summary:**

The Shiawassee County jail is the 9<sup>th</sup> oldest jail in the State. It has a variety of costly issues as outlined in the report. A tremendous amount of the maintenance staff's time is spent on this one facility. This facility generates between 500 and 700 maintenance requests annually. It is the opinion of the MDOC that a new facility is warranted. If designed properly, a new facility will save a significant amount of money over time in areas such as heating, cooling, repairs, and staffing. In addition to a cost savings, a new facility can help reduce the County's liability in many areas.

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