December 14, 2018

Jerry Parker, Chairman
Wapello County Supervisors
215 N. Court
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Re: Wapello County Jail Inspection

Dear Chairman Parker,

The Wapello County Jail was inspected by the Iowa Department of Corrections on November 21, 2018, as required by Iowa Code Section 356, to ensure compliance with Chapter 201-50 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The inspection included an examination of staff training records, required documentation, prisoner files, jail policy and procedures and a tour of the jail. Please note the following Iowa Administrative Code Sections, comments and recommendations for corrective actions:

IAC 201—50.13(356,356A) Admission/classification and security.

50.13(2) Security and control. The jail administrator shall develop and implement written policies and procedures for the jail which provide for the control of prisoners and for the safety of the public and the jail staff. The policy and procedures shall include:

a. Supervision of prisoners.

(3) At least hourly, personal observation of individual prisoners shall be made and documented. Prisoners considered to be in physical jeopardy because of physical or mental condition, including apparently intoxicated persons, as indicated by the medical history intake process and by personal observation, shall be checked personally at least every 30 minutes until the condition is alleviated. A CCTV-audio monitoring system may supplement but shall not replace personal observations. In order to use a CCTV-audio monitoring system, the following requirements must be met: CCTV and audio must be operational at all times. Visual and audio must be clear and distinct. Observation of shower and restroom activities shall be at the discretion of the jail administrator.

Comment: Audio and video equipment is getting old and showing signs of deterioration.

Comment: Wapello County should develop a plan of action to repair or replace the current audio and video equipment to enhance safety and security of the facility.

IAC 201—50.14(356,356A) Cleanliness and hygiene.

50.14(1) Housekeeping.

a. The jail shall be kept clean and sanitary. Toilets, wash basins, showers and other equipment throughout the facility shall be maintained in good working order. Walls, floors and ceilings shall be well maintained.

Comment: Several areas of the jail, including but not limited to the cells and showers, are in need of a thorough cleaning and maintenance.

Corrective action: Wapello County shall develop a maintenance plan and cleaning schedule to ensure the jail is clean and maintained, promoting sanitary living and working conditions.

Additional comments:

Documentation was readily available and complete for inspection.

I wish to thank Jail Administrator Chris Swope, Assistant Jail Administrator Jason Fuller, and the entire staff at the Wapello County Jail for their cooperation and assistance during the inspection.

Sincerely,
Delbert G. Longley
Chief Jail Inspector

cc: Sheriff
County Attorney
File