Recap of issues, in regards to recommended removal of general fund dollars from
Glenn County Probation Departments 2017-18 budget as currently set forth in the
Preliminary 2017/18 Glenn County Budget

1. The Probation Department, while receiving general funds in the past, is not a General Fund department. Probation is overseen by the Courts and is responsible to the Courts for their work product. The Glenn County Board of Supervisors has no control over the Probation Department, other than in the area of budget and only there for the amount of general fund dollars the Board of Supervisors is willing to contribute.

2. Probation received approximately $730,000 of general fund last year (2016-17), a year in which Probation’s reserves were approximately $2.4 million. At the end of that fiscal year, Probation increased their reserves by $1.1 million, for a total of approximately $3.5 million, if status quo is maintained, this time next year their reserves will be close to $4.6 million.

3. Probation has a concern that the Budget and Finance Comm. is recommending “supplanting” i.e. directing probation to use their other money (reserves) where typically general fund dollars are spent. The Budget Comm. is not directing Probation to do anything, we are simply recommending to the Board of Supervisors that no general fund money be directed to the Probation Departments budget for 2017/18. It would be up to Probation to decide on how best to cope and manage their department. Indeed, it is the Budget and Finance Committee’s concern that while these revenues keep building up in the Probation Department’s reserves under the status quo, that there may be a better way to operate Probation to make use of these extra funds. Allowing status quo to continue while the other true general fund departments starve for funding seems shortsighted and in the end unworkable.

4. As to the last point in item 3 above; if the Board allows Probation to go back to the status quo and provides the approximately $730,000 dollars to their 2017-18 budget, all the enhancements that we have placed in this current rendition of the budget will have to be removed. One-stop shop will not happen (no planning director), County Counsel will lose her legal secretary, Ag Dept. will lose the ability to purchase a weight truck and future consideration for an CAO will have to be put on hold. This will be coupled with a demand for a 8-10% cut in all general fund department budgets. All to allow Probation to continue to operate in their present manner and preserve their $3.5 million-dollar reserve.

5. Probation’s ability to utilize the approximately $3.5 million dollars of their reserves to maintain their current process, is not the Glenn County Board of Supervisors problem. We are simply asking Probation to take a new look at their process, in light of this new situation and figure out a way to operate within their current non-general fund income streams coupled with the enormous reserves that they have accumulated. Again, how they do this is not up to the Board of Supervisors, it is a problem for both Probation and the Courts.