

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 30th, 2017**

The Detention Center Commission met this date at 3:30 P.M., in the Union Parish Police Jury meeting room, Union Parish Courthouse Annex, Farmerville, Louisiana. Present were: Lanny Parker (UPPJ), Charles Sawyer (UPPJ), John Belton (District Attorney), Dusty Gates (Union Parish Sheriff) and Chief Bim Culbertson (Town of Farmerville).

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Sawyer led the group in prayer. Roll call was taken. Mr. Parker asked if anyone in the audience would like to register for public comment. No one registered for public comments.

Motion made by Chief Culbertson seconded by Sheriff Gates and declared adopted by Roll Call vote to approve the agenda with no additions.

Motion made by Sheriff Gates and seconded by Mr. Sawyer to adopt the minutes of the Thursday, March 16th, 2017 meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

Transitional Work Program Director's Report – Warden Copes gave the report for Mrs. Howell. The total number of offenders in work release today is 78; 75 are at Foster Farms and 3 are at Thomas Nursery. (*Mr. Belton enters the room during the report*). There are ten inmates waiting for approval. A few inmates will be released next month. Room and board for the month of March is **\$60,826.00**. In April Foster Farms' will shut down for a week. Warden Copes would like to start strip searching inmates when they return from work release. He would also like to increase the work release program to one hundred inmates. There is plenty of room to house one hundred work release inmates. He is concerned with the forty-nine LEO workers and how much they are costing the Detention Center. Mr. Belton suggested that research be done to see if we can get inmates without going through the LEO program. Warden Copes has talked with DOC and they would be more inclined to give us more inmates if we had more employers for the work release inmates.

Warden's Comments

➤ **Inmate Welfare Fund**

There is an excessive amount of money in the inmate welfare fund. The warden is proposing to transfer some of the excess funds out of that account. The Secretary-Treasurer has already checked with the auditor and that is acceptable to her as it has been done in the past. Another option he is proposing is to pay a couple of salaries out of the Inmate Welfare account. He is proposing to pay two kitchen workers and/or a transportation officer. This money comes from commissary sales and the commission from phones. We are already paying the commissary clerk out of this money. The Secretary-Treasurer will check with the auditor concerning the legalities of paying the extra salaries out of Inmate Welfare. **Motion Mr. Belton, seconded by Mr. Sawyer to authorize the payment of a transportation officer and two kitchen workers out of Inmate Welfare contingent upon approval from the auditor. Motion carries unanimously.**

➤ **Trustee Drug Screens**

Monday morning there were six off compound trustees who tested positive for drugs. Those six inmates will not be allowed to go off compound. The drug testing procedure is going to be changed. Currently there are twenty-nine inmates going out as trustees. The procedures are being changed on who can be a trustee. We had thirty-two inmates go out one day and six tested positive. Trustees should never be allowed to be alone. They should always be with a “free” person.

➤ **Visitation**

There are too many people working visitation. Changes have been made to the inmate area in the visitation room. The changes will eliminate the need for so many visitation guards. It will also cut down on contraband. Now we only need two guards; one male and one female.

➤ **Radios**

All radios are being repaired. Most of the radios are still under warranty. If possible, the warden would like his, the deputy warden and the two shift commanders to be on the same frequency as the sheriff’s office.

➤ **Tasers**

There are seven tasers at the Detention Center. The warden would like to get rid of those. If possible, he would like to donate those tasers that aren’t being used to the Town of Farmerville. There was also a brief discussion on used vehicles. The vehicles are costing a lot of money to maintain. The warden will provide a list of vehicles to the Secretary-Treasurer that need to be surplus.

➤ **Jail Management Program**

The commissary merchandise is being supplied by Jeff Britt. We make about \$5,000 a month off commissary. The warden has a written proposal from Correct Solutions for five years. They will take over the commissary and reduce our cost by 17% and they will put in a jail management system. This will cover each inmate from the time that they are booked, commissary, work release and all of the other files associated with each inmate. This company will put the whole system in and train everybody. There is no cost to the Detention Center. Another company has also furnished a proposal, but it is too expensive compared to the other one. Currently we have no contract with Jeff Britt. (*John Belton leaves the meeting for a previous engagement*) Warden Copes will ask for another proposal from Jeff Britt and then we can compare the three quotes.

➤ **Budget**

Commissary profit for this month is \$4,700.00 and the profit from the phone system is \$11,000. The vending machine profit is only \$60.00. We were getting 10% and now we will be getting 20%. They only come once a month to fill the machines and the warden is looking for another company to use. There is a company out of Monroe that will come once a week or more if needed. The two machines that are located in the front are going to be moved. Machines will also be added in the visitation center.

A discussion was held on transportation. The commission would like to purchase another van. Sheriff Gates is looking for another used van. He will obtain three quotes to present to the commission. There are sixteen vehicles at the detention center; two of which are buses. The warden is keeping up with the costs associated with each vehicle and he will recommend which

vehicles need to be surplused by how much money it is costing to operate them. There is a need for a lot of vehicles because of work release and court dates. The warden would like to take the car that has been set aside for him and use it for transporting inmates to court or to doctor visits. It is cheaper to operate the smaller vehicle than use a van. A car allowance was discussed for the warden. **No action taken on transportation.**

A discussion was held on changing commissary to another company. Warden Copes will get three quotes and the commission will compare. **No action taken on commissary.**

Motion made by Mr. Sawyer and seconded by Sheriff Gates for Commission to enter into executive session for personnel/security issues. Roll call vote: YEAS 4, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1.

Motion made by Chief Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Sawyer for Commission to come out of executive session and to return to meeting; no action taken in executive session. Roll call vote: YEAS 4, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1.

There being no further business to come before the commission, Mr. Parker declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Chief Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Sawyer, on this the 30th day of March, 2017.

Lanny Parker, Chairman
Paula Strickland Sec-Treasurer