

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**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), Jerry W. Taylor (UPPJ), Dusty Gates (Union Parish Sheriff) and Chief Bim Culbertson (Town of Farmerville). Absent: John Belton (District Attorney).**

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Parker 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 Sheriff Gates, seconded by Mr. Taylor and declared adopted by Roll Call vote to approve the agenda with no additions.**

**Motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Sheriff Gates to adopt the minutes of the Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 meeting. Motion carries unanimously.**

Chairman Parker addressed the committee concerning the recently hired part time kitchen staff. Chairman Parker states that a few employees are upset because of her hourly wage and whether she will become full time. *Chief Culbertson enters the meeting.* Sheriff Gates inquires as to why we need the extra personnel if we hired Lamm Foods to do the same thing. Warden Copes said the food costs have gone up to over \$2.80 a day per inmate. He said the extra person was hired to train the kitchen staff on how to order and how to save money. Lamm Foods comes up with the menus and provides pricing based off the menus. Lamm Foods does not come in and help with the day to day operations. The issue is the kitchen staff are not following the recipes correctly. That is not something Lamm can monitor. Sheriff Gates asks Warden Copes why the food costs are rising if the inmate population is down. Warden Copes states that the kitchen has been ordering the wrong amount of food. This is why he wanted to hire the additional person. She has twenty (20) years of experience in dealing with DOC kitchen issues. It was decided that the employment of the part time kitchen staff would be evaluated in three months. At the end of three months the food costs will be evaluated/reviewed to determine if the additional hiring saved any money. **No action taken.**

**Motion Mr. Taylor, seconded by Sheriff Gates to authorize one (1) RelaDyne Fuel Card to be used only when the Road Department pumps are closed. Motion carried unanimously.**

A discussion was held on the purchase of a new radio system. The present radios are a 400 system and at least fifteen (15) years old. Warden Copes states that he cannot be in his office and reach somebody using his radio. Many are broken and cannot be fixed. The detention center needs one base station and thirty (30) radios. Warden Copes presented a bid from state contract for an ATX4000 Motorola System with a three (3) year warranty. The price is \$58,000 and can be purchased using Inmate Welfare Funds. The radios will reach all over the state. Warden Copes was asked to look at other radios and see if a cheaper alternative is available. **No action taken.**

A brief discussion was held on road repairs going into the Detention Center and placing gravel in the parking lot. Warden Copes states that this is a major complaint with all of the Detention Center employees. The Secretary/Treasurer was asked to speak to the Road Superintendent. **No action taken.**

Warden Copes addresses the committee concerning the basement. He would like to sell the old parts in the basement for scrap metal. There are old washers, dryers, huge fans and kitchen blenders. The Secretary/Treasurer states that the equipment must be declared as surplus before anything can be done. Warden Copes will make a list of what should be declared as surplus and provide it to the Secretary/Treasurer. Sheriff Gates states that he is having an auction in May and the property could be sold if it has been declared as surplus. A discussion was also held on old paper files. Warden Copes was previously asked to contact a commercial shredding company. **No action taken.**

A brief discussion was held on car washes by inmates. Warden Copes states that the inmates can wash employee vehicles as long as a contract is signed and they are compensated. The money would go in the inmate's account and then that money could be used in the commissary. The inmates are already shining shoes for \$3.00 a pair. The inmates would wash the outside of the vehicles only. Sheriff Gates has some reservations concerning this. **No action taken.**

**Motion made by Chief Culbertson and seconded by Sheriff Gates for Commission to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the following: (1) Settlement Agreement between the United States of America and Union Parish Detention Center – DOJ Investigation # 204-33-117 and (2) personnel/security issues. Roll call vote: YEAS 4, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1.**

**Motion made by Chief Culbertson and seconded by Mr. Taylor 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.**

**Motion Mr. Taylor, seconded by Chief Culbertson to authorize Chairman Parker and Warden Copes to sign all necessary documents pertaining to the settlement agreement between the United States of America and Union Parish Detention Center – DOJ # 204-33-117.**

A brief discussion was held concerning the chairman position on the commission. Mr. Parker stated that he is very concerned about the situation at the Detention Center but will continue to serve as chairman. **No action taken.**

**There being no further business to come before the commission, Mr. Parker declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Sheriff Gates, on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.**

Lanny Parker, Chairman  
Paula Strickland Secretary/Treasurer