

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 7th, 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), Chief Bim Culbertson (Town of Farmerville) Charles Sawyer (UPPJ) and Dusty Gates (Union Parish Sheriff). Absent: John Belton (District Attorney).

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 and seconded by Mr. Sawyer and declared adopted by Roll Call vote to approve the agenda with no additions.

Motion made by Chief Culbertson and seconded by Sheriff Gates to adopt the minutes of the Thursday, January 12th, 2017 meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

Transitional Work Program Director's Report – The total number of offenders in work release as of last Thursday, was 79; 77 are at Foster Farms and 2 are at Thomas Nursery. We are losing one on Thursday and have 10 in orientation. They should start to work on Friday or Monday. Five offenders are scheduled to be released in February.

Room and board for the month of January was \$50,655.85. This is the highest total that we have had since the program's inception. The figure includes one Saturday which is overtime. The one week shut down is still scheduled for late March or early April, but we believe there will be more overtime following the re-tooling and upgrading of the plant equipment.

Transportation continues to be a problem. The vans are not in good shape. One van has a steering problem and has an issue with the side door.

TWP is approved for 100 beds. If the work release program continues to grow, then we will surpass the 100 beds. John Hawkins called and said he is working on a draft design for a separate work release facility. He is checking into the availability of land and whether it would be better to purchase the land from the Police Jury or try to purchase from private individuals. Mr. Hawkins is also checking with Chief Smith at DOC Headquarters on the status of having additional work release approved offenders sent to us.

We are continuing to address the TWP complainants regarding the cold food in the evening. Mrs. Smith has agreed to keep the steam line open so that will alleviate complaints about cold food. We noticed that many offenders were throwing their bread away and only eating the meat. We discussed the possibility of using hot dog buns rather than bread. Mrs. Smith is going to put more variety into the TWP lunches by using chicken patties and hamburgers instead of just lunch meat.

Warden's Comments – Currently there are 128 parish inmates (41 are p & p holds) and 194 DOC inmates for a total 322. We are overcrowded in the circle. I sent a request to the DA's office with a list of candidates that I thought could be released. I also sent a copy to the sheriff's office. I have inmates in the hall cells due to a major lack of space.

We are having a big problem with guards quitting and keeping their uniforms. I have drafted a letter demanding their uniforms back. From here on out, I will tell the former employees they can pick up their final check at the Courthouse Annex, but they must bring their uniforms back.

The Transitional Work Program is a high-income earner for the Detention Center. We currently do not have anything recreational for these inmates to do. They are essentially trustees. We are going to implement an "in and out rec" system. On weekends and holidays, they will be able to go out on rec when they get ready. There will be a schedule for mornings and evenings. Captain Adams will be responsible for having a security escort in the building so they don't bother anyone in a hall cell or another dorm. Once they get outside they will be on their own. They are trustees and can be trusted. Contact visits will be held on weekends providing we have the female staff available. We need the female guards because the females will have to be searched going in for a contact visit.

Sgt. Montgomery has been tasked with cleaning up the property room. The items in the property room have grown over the years. Sometimes when inmates are discharged they do not claim their property. I would like to take that property that has been left for several years and donate it to a charitable organization. I have put a memo out that after 30 days if an inmate receives a package and does not claim it then they forfeit that package.

Mrs. Smith has been doing a good job in the kitchen. I have changed her hours and she will be working Tuesday to Saturday. This is temporary. I have no kitchen coverage on the weekends and have a problem with inmates being in there on weekends. We spent \$2,250 on food this week.

Derek Kennedy Comments – With regards to the phone system, I have been in contact with Correct Solutions and they have acted on each and every complaint. The only issue that hasn't been resolved in a timely manner are the phone cards. It is taking too long to get a replacement card. They are going to have a stack of cards readily available and if one does not work then it will be replaced immediately.

Mr. Kennedy has a commissary price list from Correct Solutions. John Hemphill, Correct Solutions, maintains that with their volume of merchandise and their volume of clients, nobody can beat their prices. The Detention Center would place an order and Correct Solutions would put it together, shrink wrap and ship it to us. The price list includes the price we would pay to purchase and the price the inmates would pay. This could be another way to increase revenues.

As the work release program continues to grow we need a way to release the parish prisoners faster. It may be as simple as reducing their bond. The pretrial detainees are costing the parish a

lot of money. If it costs \$25.00 a day to house a pretrial detainee and he gets moved over to DOC then we are gaining \$25.00 a day. If you had 50 parish inmates go over to the DOC side, then that is \$2,500 a day. If you multiply that times 30 days, then you have a \$75,000 a month savings. Multiply that times 12 months and you get \$900,000.00 a year. That is almost a million-dollar income. Every five or ten inmates that we can move through the program as quickly as possible would help. This is really applying more to Mr. Belton than the sheriff. We could have 300 TWP inmates but if we have 200 parish inmates then the parish inmates are eating up all the profits.

In an effort to understand where times could be shortened, Mr. Kennedy asks if we are having any issues from the time when offenders are arrested and bond is actually set. John Hawkins' group might be willing to come in and help build extra dorms or a facility within the confines of the facility to help beef up the work release program. His group would be willing to help with the cost of construction.

Mrs. Howell – The only probation that the District Attorney has any control over is their probation. Currently there are only 7 or 8 of those at the Detention Center. The rest are on DOC probation. DOC p & p's have holds and no bonds. A lot of time you have new charges and pending charges and sometimes the inmates don't waive their probation violations. They request a hearing and that takes time – sometimes up to 2 years. That is the way the system works.

A brief discussion was held on part-time workers overlapping full-time workers.

A brief discussion was held on purchasing transportation for the Detention Center. **Motion made by Chief Culbertson and seconded by Mr. Sawyer to get quotes for two used vans. Motion carries unanimously.**

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

Motion made by Sheriff Gates, 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.

Motion made by Mr. Sawyer, seconded by Chief Culbertson to promote Sergeant Douglas Campbell to Master Sergeant. Motion carries unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the commission, Mr. Parker declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Sawyer, seconded by Sheriff Gates, on this the 7th day of February, 2017.

Lanny Parker, Chairman
Paula Strickland Sec-Treasurer