

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
January 11<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), Chief Bim Culbertson (Town of Farmerville), Dusty Gates (Union Parish Sheriff) and John Belton (District Attorney).**

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Taylor 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 and seconded by Chief Culbertson 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, November 16, 2017 meeting. Motion carries unanimously.**

**Motion made by Sheriff Gates, seconded by Chief Culbertson to nominate Lanny Parker to continue to serve as Chairman of the Union Parish Detention Center Commission. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Transitional Work Program Director's Report** – The total number of offenders in work release as of today, January 11, is 71 offenders; 12 offenders are scheduled to start tomorrow (Friday, January 12) which will bring the total number of offenders in the work release program to 83 offenders. The room and board as of today is **\$39,180.71**. Three inmates are pending approval at DOC. There is one more pay period at Foster Farms left in this month and three more pay periods at Thomas Nursery. *Mr. Belton enters the meeting at 3:41 P.M.*

**Warden's Comments** – Currently there are 130 parish inmates and 197 DOC inmates.

The total profit for phone sales through January 11, 2018 is \$8,397.73 and the commissary profit through January 11, 2018 is \$7,746.17. The profits are slightly down due to the decrease in DOC inmates. Food costs are still holding at about \$2.40 a day per inmate. Overall food costs are down because of the lack of inmates. The Inmate Welfare Fund has a balance of \$225,000. There is a Certificate of Deposit at Origin Bank in the amount of \$10,128.67. Warden Copes would like to transfer the monies in the CD. The CD has matured and it will be a perfect time to transfer it to the Inmate Welfare Fund. The Secretary/Treasurer was instructed to find out more information about the CD.

Warden Copes is asking for assistance with Betty Street, which is the road that goes into the Detention Center. The Secretary/Treasurer explains that an agreement is in place with the Town of Farmerville. The Town of Farmerville has agreed to pay for the materials/supplies if the Police Jury will do the work. The Secretary/Treasurer will check with the road superintendent and get a status update. The project will involve laying new asphalt and not just patching holes.

Warden Copes is in the process of cleaning out the basement. He would like to dispose of the old washers/dryers after Mr. Brantley, Maintenance Supervisor, has verified that the machines no longer work and cannot be used for parts. Warden Copes states that there are files dating back as far as 1990. The commission recommends contacting a company that will shred on site instead of throwing the old files away. Warden Copes would like to create a hobby/craft room to give the inmates something to do. They could sell their crafts and use that money in the commissary.

Five guards are registered to attend the training academy which will start on January 18<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost to the Detention Center, but it will take people away from their shifts which might result in overtime.

Warden Copes states that a couple of years ago, the state had left a TV and a video recording machine to be used for the re-entry program. A representative from the State of Louisiana came to the facility the other day and inquired about the equipment that was left over two years ago. Warden Copes informed the Commission that he took the TV to a repair shop to see if it could be fixed. The TV could not be fixed so Warden Copes left it there. Nobody has seen the video recording equipment. The approximate cost for both items is around \$6,000. No documentation has been provided that shows who signed for the equipment. Warden Copes will keep the Commission apprised of the situation.

Warden Copes is having a problem with inmates at the landfill changing into regular/street clothes. The inmates are finding the clothes when they are out in the parish picking up garbage. Warden Copes is asking that the Landfill employees help police the inmates. If they see an inmate on their detail in street clothes then that inmate should be made to change back into their black and white uniforms. If the weather is an issue then they can wear additional clothes under their black and whites.

A brief discussion was held on electronic gates. The main gate is automatic, but once you get past that gate then the second gate is not. If anyone uses the second set of gates then a guard has to be pulled from their post and then wait while the Sheriff's department or police department finishes their business and then leaves. There is no room for a sliding gate so Warden Copes is suggesting a double gate. Sheriff Gates had a gate installed recently and the approximate cost was \$10,000. Warden Copes said he will ask Mr. Brantley about getting a quote. **No action taken.**

A brief discussion was held on paying transportation workers out of the Inmate Welfare Fund. We are already paying salary and benefits for a few of the transportation workers. Warden Copes is asking to pay the remaining transportation workers out of the Inmate Welfare Fund. **Motion Mr. Belton and seconded by Chief Culbertson to pay two more transportation employees out of the Inmate Welfare Fund with Warden Copes providing the employees information to the payroll department. Motion carried unanimously.**

Warden Copes is asking to retire two vehicles – a 2008 Mercury Marquis and a 2008 Dodge Caravan. The Dodge Caravan has no air conditioning and a bad front end. Warden Copes would like to purchase a bigger van and pay for the van out of inmate welfare. Sheriff Gates will obtain

quotes and look for a van. The commission would like to keep the 2008 Dodge Caravan in service a little while longer. **Motion Sheriff Gates and seconded by Mr. Belton to declare the 2008 Mercury Marquis as surplus and authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to advertise its sale to the highest bidder.**

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the 2018 budget and gave a brief update on the 2017 revised budget. Overall the 2017 revenue was more than budgeted. The budget for state funds was \$1,600,000.00 and the Detention Center ended up collecting \$1,937,843.75 which is a difference of \$337,843.75. The Transitional Work Release program brought in more money than anticipated. The Transitional Work Release program had projected revenues in the amount of \$600,000 and the program generated \$917,631.30. After paying Louisiana Employment Opportunity the Transitional Work Release program netted \$798,331.30. The Detention Center has made significant progress in decreasing the deficit. **Motion Mr. Belton, seconded by Chief Culbertson to approve the 2018 budget. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion made by Chief Culbertson and seconded by Sheriff Gates for Commission to enter into executive session for personnel/security issues. Roll call vote: YEAS 5, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0.**

**Motion made by Chief Culbertson and seconded by Sheriff Gates for Commission to come out of executive session and to return to meeting; no action taken in executive session. Roll call vote: YEAS 5, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0.**

**There being no further business to come before the commission, Mr. Parker declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Chief Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Belton, on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.**

Lanny Parker, Chairman  
Paula Strickland Sec-Treasurer