

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 1st, 2016**

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. 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 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 Mr. Sawyer to adopt the minutes of Thursday, November 3rd, 2016 meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

Transitional Work Program Director's Report – The total number of offenders in work release as of today is 62; 59 are at Foster Farms and 3 are at Thomas Nursery. We lost one position at Thomas Nursery last week when one of the offenders was released, but kept his job.

Mrs. Hoyle talked to John Hawkins last week. He assured Mrs. Hoyle that DOC was committed to helping UPDC get the numbers up. The number of offenders eligible for work release is low throughout the system. DOC is obligated to fill contract beds first and a number of those had to be filled prior to the end of the year. This shortage of eligible offenders is affecting all the Detention Centers.

To try and reduce the introduction of contraband into the facility, we have implemented a couple of new procedures. Foster Farms requested we begin selling electronic or e-cigarettes in the Commissary. This should cut down on the substitution of synthetic marijuana for regular tobacco. Also, all TWP offenders pick up their trays from the kitchen upon return from work. This eliminates the need to have the food cart taken to the dorm which reduces the possibility of passing contraband within the facility. Room and board for the month of November totaled **\$44,216.85**

Warden's Comments – Currently there are 113 parish inmates and 187 DOC inmates. Diane Smith was hired to work in the kitchen and she has her certification. She has been working part time and will start full time after a two week notice to her current employer. Kelly Carpenter notified the warden the UPDC has passed its reaccreditation for the three year audit.

Electronic cigarettes are now being sold and the inmates are being allowed to smoke in the dormitories. The inmates are complaining about the cost (10.00 per electronic cigarette vs. 6.50 for a regular pack of cigarettes). As soon as the remainder of the tobacco has been sold, there will be no more bagged tobacco. The only tobacco allowed will be smokeless tobacco. The

reason for this is that the smokeless tobacco has not been a problem with the inmates trying to alter it. Chief Culbertson requested that he and Sheriff Gates be notified as soon as the remainder of the tobacco is gone.

The installation of the camera system has been finalized. At this time, the warden is not able to view the system from his phone due to the speed of the internet. The employees have had extra training in report writing, pill call, key control and use of force. All four shifts participated in extra training. Warden Ward thanked Sheriff Gates for the firearms training. Mr. Burdine and Mr. Campbell were the only two employees who passed their firearms training.

Food Costs – There was a \$13,000 increase from October to November. Sheriff Gates addresses the commission and said that he has been in contact with Merchants. Merchant's advises the Detention Center on what to order and there should not be a major fluctuation. According to the warden, the food costs have decreased. The Detention Center is on a two cycle menu which is supposed to save money. He will check into the food costs and investigate to see if there is any food waste.

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 1st day of December, 2016.

Lanny Parker, Chairman
Paula Strickland Sec-Treasurer