

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**The Detention Center Commission met this date at 2:00 P.M. in the Union Parish Police Jury meeting room, Union Parish Courthouse Annex, Farmerville, Louisiana. Present were: Johnny Buckley (Union Parish Police Jury), Nathan Pilgreen (Union Parish Police Jury), Dusty Gates (Union Parish Sheriff) and Chief Bim Coulberson (Town of Farmerville). Absent: John Belton (District Attorney).**

Mr. Buckley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Sheriff Gates led the group in prayer. Roll call was taken. Mr. Buckley asked if anyone in the audience would like to register for public comment to speak.

**Motion made by Chief Coulberson, seconded by Sheriff Gates and declared adopted by Roll Call vote to approve the agenda as written.**

**Motion made by Chief Coulberson seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to adopt the minutes of Thursday, January 23, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

A lengthy discussion regarding work release inmates paying union dues was had. Richard Davis, Foster Farms, addressed the commission regarding union dues for work release inmates. Foster Farms is a union plant and the jobs that the inmates are filling are union positions. Mr. Davis said the agreement was when the plant started taking work release inmates that the union fees would cost \$8.50 per week per employee. Louisiana is a right to work state so the employees cannot be forced to join the union.

Warden Hanson said that according to DOC the work release offenders can join a union and the union fees can be deducted from the inmates check. The major issue at hand is how the back fees are going to be paid. Moving forward the dues can be held out of the inmates check.

**Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Sheriff Gates to table the union fee discussion until further research can be done. Motion carried unanimously**

Johnny Creed addressed the Detention Center Commission and would like to offer his consulting services at zero cost to the Detention Center. Mr. Creed has an extensive corrections background and would like to share his expertise. Mr. Creed says there are ways that the Detention Center could possibly save money on overtime. Sheriff Gates offered his support and said Mr. Creed is one of the utmost authorities on DOC. Sheriff Gates stated that the commission would be getting a great benefit at no cost; what could be better than that? **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Sheriff Gates to accept the proposal from Johnny Creed. Motion carried unanimously.**

Tiger Correctional Services presented a brief proposal regarding inmate food services. The Detention Center currently has 4 kitchen employees. Tiger is proposing to bring in their own kitchen staff. The current kitchen employees would have first choice at those jobs or they would be absorbed into the facility elsewhere. Tiger's price would depend on how many inmates the

facility houses. There would be no additional food cost. Tiger would supply the food and labor to run the kitchen. There would be ten (10) officer trays provided at no cost. Tiger would provide \$5,000 to purchase new meal trays. **No action taken.**

**Motion made by Chief Coulbertson and seconded by Mr. Pilgreen for the Commission to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel/security issues. Roll call vote: YEAS 4, NAYS 0, ABSENT 1.**

**Motion made by Chief Coulbertson and seconded by Sheriff Gates for the 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. Buckley declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Chief Coulbertson, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen, on this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.**

Johnny Buckley, Chairman  
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer