

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 23, 2020**

The Detention Center Commission met this date at 3:00 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), Chief Bim Coulberson (Town of Farmerville) and John Belton (District Attorney).

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

Mr. Buckley asked that the commission remember the family of Mr. Belton. Mr. Belton's father, Willie Belton, recently passed away.

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

Motion made by Mr. Belton and seconded by Chief Coulberson to adopt the minutes of Thursday, November 14th, 2019 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Sheriff Gates, seconded by Mr. Belton to nominate Johnny Buckley to serve as Chairman of the Union Parish Detention Center Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Transitional Work Program Director's Report – The room and board as of today is **\$119,146.50**. The room and board for December totaled \$108,328.54. The room and board for November totaled \$136,037.86. Foster Farms has one pay period left in the month of January and Thomas Nursery has two pay periods left in the month of January. As of today there are eighty-five (85) work release offenders; fifty-eight (58) of those offenders are LEO's. Eighty-four (84) are employed at Foster Farms and one (1) is employed at Thomas Nursery. There are seven (7) offenders recently approved for the Transitional Work Program that are pending employment. The DOC income for November 2019 was \$206,641.78. The DOC income for December 2019 was \$208,091.22.

Warden's Comments – There are a total of 308 DOC inmates at the Union Parish Detention Center and 68 parish inmates. Thirteen (13) inmates are being housed at mental health facilities, drug/rehab facilities or in other programs. There are twelve (12) female inmates and eight (8) male inmates being housed in Madison Parish. There is a total of twenty-three (23) inmates who are parish trustees. Tiger Commissary is up and running. Securetec has finished the installation of the locking system.

Commissary profit for the month of November was \$16,315.63 and December was \$20,308.53. Phone profit for the month November was \$7,813.48 and December was \$7,926.31. The Inmate Welfare account has a balance of \$118,467.91. Food costs for the month of December were \$28,433.94. Inmate food cost are approximately \$2.36 per inmate per day.

A brief discussion was held regarding overtime and what is being done to prevent it. Mr. Belton suggested reprimands for the supervisors who are allowing the excessive overtime.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented a brief financial report. She reported that even with the success of the Transitional Work Release Program and the number of DOC inmates, there was still more expenses than revenues for the year. The police jury transferred \$400,000 in December of 2019. This transfer allowed the Detention Center to end the year in the black, but the Detention Center still has a deficit from previous years. The Detention Center has to pay for the females and males that are being housed in Madison Parish. The Madison Parish December invoice was approximately \$15,000. Also, the Detention Center has to pay for the Louisiana Employment Opportunity inmates that are being used for the Transitional Work Release Program. That invoice was \$14,320.

The Health Insurance cost for the month of December was \$41,465.61. The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the police jury is actively exploring ways to curb insurance costs. The big expenditure is salary and overtime. For the month of December, the overtime was \$16,858.68. There was a large expenditure of approximately \$102,000 for the locking system, which is not a normal expenditure. For the month of December the medical costs were in excess of \$18,000.

The Secretary/Treasurer would like to meet monthly and present a monthly financial report and an overtime report. The next scheduled commission meeting will be on March 5th @ 4:00 PM.

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

Motion made by Mr. Belton and seconded by Chief Coulbertson for the 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. Buckley declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Chief Coulbertson, seconded by Mr. Belton, on this the 23rd day of January, 2020.

Johnny Buckley, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer