

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19th, 2019**

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 (Union Parish Police Jury), Jerry W. Taylor (Union Parish Police Jury), Dusty Gates (Union Parish Sheriff) and Chief Bim Coulbertson (Town of Farmerville). Absent – 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 to speak.

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

Motion made by Sheriff Gates, seconded by Chief Coulbertson to adopt the minutes of the Thursday, August 8th, 2019 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Transitional Work Program Comments – Jessica Shoemaker, Administrative Captain, addressed the Commission regarding the Transitional Work Release Program. There are currently 105 TWP inmates participating in the work release program. 102 of those inmates are employed at Foster Farms and three (3) are employed at Thomas Nursery. Fifty-seven (57) of the TWP participants are LEOs. There are seventeen (17) TWP potentials recently approved for the transitional work program. Room and board for the month of July was \$81,546.12. Room and board for the month of August was \$174,808.53. That was an increase of \$93,262.41 over July. Foster Farms has one pay period left for the month of September and Thomas Nursery has two pay periods remaining. As of today the room and board for September is \$60,043.69. By the end of September room and board is anticipated to be approximately \$120,000. The DOC state invoice income for August 2019 was \$204,075.55.

Warden's Comments – The Detention Center inmate count for the month of August averaged 410 inmates. Today the total count is 397 and 131 of those are work release approved with fifteen (15) of them waiting on their IDs to be obtained to begin work. Food cost for the month of August was \$31,886.36. The food cost breaks down to \$2.12 per day per inmate. The overtime for the month of August was an increase from previous months because four officers were doing their post training at Winn Correctional Center. In addition to the training we started a night shift at Foster Farms which required a bus driver and guard. Hunt Brothers Pizza sales generated approximately \$4,296.00. There is a total of 75 positions at the facility and there are 4 security positions that are vacant.

Foster Farms - Tim Biron, General Manager at Foster Farms and Richard Davis, HR Manager at Foster Farms addressed the commission concerning the need for more inmate labor at the Detention Center. Foster Farms uses work release inmates out of necessity and they are good workers. In order to keep up with the supply and demand Foster Farms is working a lot of Saturdays to fulfill their orders. Mr. Biron states that if Foster Farms does not do something to get more employees then they may have to shut down. Mr. Biron states that Foster Farms is operating with approximately 100 less employees since other correctional facilities have started taking in ICE inmates. Even without the work release inmates the facility struggles with keeping the plant staffed. Mr. Biron states that he reads the papers and he can see that over the years the police jury has decreased the amount of money it sends to the Detention Center fund. Mr. Biron states that he can take all the work release people the Detention Center can send and put them to work. Mr. Biron further states that if Foster Farms shuts down the impact would be catastrophic

to Union Parish. Mr. Parker thanks Mr. Davis and Mr. Biron for addressing the commission and says that the Detention Center Commission is doing everything possible to supply Foster Farms with work release inmates. Mr. Parker states that there are certain criteria that must be met before an inmate is deemed eligible to participate in the work release program.

Warden Hanson addressed the commission and said he had an idea that could possibly increase the inmate count and increase the number of work release inmates. Warden Hanson said with the commission's approval he is going to check into the feasibility of using the visitation room as a work release dorm. He is going to check with DOC, the Health Inspector and the Fire Marshal to see if there is a possibility of using the visitation shed as a dorm. The Detention Center is moving towards video visitation so there won't be a need for a dedicated visitation room.

Mr. Taylor states that it was not that long ago that the Detention Center was supplying about 75 inmates and now the Detention Center is supplying approximately 105 inmates. It sounds like somebody else is falling short and it is not the Detention Center.

Jail Management System - The Secretary/Treasurer gave a brief report on the Jail Management System research. Three quotes were obtained for a new Jail Management System at the Detention Center.

Tyler Tech proposed an initial investment of \$125,000 to \$250,000. The annual maintenance would cost between \$37,000 and \$46,000. This system is not financially feasible for the detention center to purchase.

The second system is from Correct Commissary. There are no up-front costs and the annual maintenance fees are \$5,490. Correct Commissary is providing two workstations and a server. They are also willing to provide an extra 10% increase in the Detention Center phone profit through their sister company, Correct Solutions. The Detention Center is averaging about \$7,500 a month in phone profits so that would generate an extra \$750 per month. LaSalle Management, who is affiliated with Correct Commissary has supplied the Detention Center with DOC and work release inmates. Correct Commissary is also able to provide profit/loss statements, inmate balances, etc. via email. They will provide a four-year contract if the Detention Center purchases at least 80% of their janitorial and paper products from them, or they will provide a five-year contract if the Detention Center does not wish to purchase the janitorial and paper products from them. At the end of the contract the Jail Management System will belong to the Detention Center.

The third system is from Tiger Correctional. There are no up-front costs and the annual maintenance fees are \$5,500. Tiger Correctional is supplying two workstations, a server, bar code scanner, camera, signature pad and fingerprint reader. Tiger Correctional is also going to pay the Detention Center \$1,000 a month for processing the commissary. Tiger Correctional system is also compatible with HomeWav Video Visitation. If problems arise with the system, Tiger Correctional would be able to remote in and fix any issues that might be going on. Tiger Correctional is also able to provide profit/loss statements, inmate balances, etc. via email.

Derek Kennedy, a former police juror asked to be recognized. Mr. Kennedy addressed the commission regarding the Correct Commissary proposal. Mr. Kennedy has known the LaSalle group for approximately three years. Mr. Kennedy states that from a service standpoint if anything were needed the LaSalle group would be notified and they could be on site within 30 minutes. Mr. Kennedy says both bids are comparable, but the comparison ends when you look at the inmates that LaSalle Management is supplying to the Union Parish Detention Center. For the month of August LaSalle Management supplied the Detention Center with 14 DOC prisoners which amounts to \$10,500. They provided 29 TWP inmates for August which amounts to \$12,000. With LaSalle Management supplying those inmates, that put approximately \$22,000 in the Detention Center fund for the month of August.

Mr. Kennedy states that the John Hawkins group is working on a proposal to build a dorm inside the detention center facility that will hold TWP inmates. The group is proposing to house another sixty (60) or sixty-five (65) inmates. They are asking for a lease purchase agreement and at the end of the lease purchase the building would be owned by the Detention Center. The only stipulation they will ask for is a five-year contract. They would also stipulate in the lease agreement that if something happens to Foster Farms then they would forego the lease. They will be asking to present their proposal soon.

A motion was made by Chief Coulbertson to accept the proposal from Tiger Commissary for a Jail Management System, but no second was made. Sheriff Gates said he would like to see further research done regarding Correct Commissary and Tiger Commissary. Mr. Taylor said he will abstain from any vote due to the fact that LaSalle Management is getting involved in the local election process. Mr. Taylor is also recommending that the board take a serious look at this. Mr. Taylor states that he has never heard of a company getting involved in a police jury election. Chief Coulbertson withdraws his motion to accept the proposal from Tiger Commissary. **No action taken.**

Motion made by Chief Coulbertson and seconded by Sheriff Gates 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 Mr. Taylor and seconded by Chief Coulbertson for the Commission to come out of executive session and to return to the 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 Coulbertson, seconded by Jerry W. Taylor, on this 19th day of September, 2019.

**Lanny Parker, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer**