

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 2nd, 2021**

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) and Dusty Gates (Union Parish Sheriff). Absent – Chief Bim Coulbertson (Farmerville Chief of Police) and John Belton (District Attorney). Also present: Warden Adams and Ruby Stanley, TWP Director.

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 Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Sheriff Gates and declared adopted by Roll Call vote to approve the agenda as written.

Motion made by Sheriff Gates, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to adopt the minutes of the Thursday, December 10th, 2020 meeting (February 16th, 2021 meeting cancelled due to weather conditions). Motion carried unanimously.

Transitional Work Program Comments – Ruby Stanley, TWP Director, addressed the Commission regarding the Transitional Work Release Program. There are currently 91 TWP inmates participating in the work release program. Sixty-six (66) of the TWP participants are LEOs. There are fifteen (15) inmates who are already approved for the program, but are currently in the mandatory fourteen (14) day quarantine period. Room and board for the month of January was \$98,173.73. The room and board for February was \$115,256.73. Foster Farms will have two pay periods in March. Thomas Nursery now has one offender and they will have four pay periods in March.

Warden's Comments – The Detention Center inmate count as of today is 255 DOC inmates and 110 parish inmates. Inmate welfare has a balance of \$98,472.70. Inmate banking has a balance of \$215,016.30. Nine (9) parish females are now being housed at the Detention Center. Those females were being housed in Madison Parish. Warden Adams reported that by having the females back it will save money for the parish. Warden Adams reported that the staff did an excellent job during the ice storm and he praised their efforts for continuing to work.

Trash Pick-up Discussion – A lengthy discussion was held regarding trash being picked up on state highways and parish roads. Mr. Pilgreen stated he was elected by the people of Union Parish and his first priority and only concern is picking up on parish roads and around the dumpsters. Mr. Pilgreen further stated that Wade Correctional has the contract for state highways and they should be picking up on the highways, not the parish.

Brenda Abercrombie, Police Juror District 8, addressed the Commission. Mrs. Abercrombie stated that she does not agree with the inmates picking up on parish roads only. She said the

state highways come through our parish and the trash is horrible. Mrs. Abercrombie has reported state roads to the Secretary/Treasurer who in turn reports to Warden Adams. Warden Adams then turns in the request to Wade, but the roads are never picked up. Mrs. Abercrombie wants the inmates to pick up the whole parish and not just one particular area. Mrs. Abercrombie questioned the commission regarding how the areas that are picked up are determined.

Ben Bridges, Police Juror District 5, addressed the Commission. Mr. Bridges stated that he has had several adjacent land owners contact him regarding the dumpsters on Highway 15. The trash from that dumpster site is getting on their land and on Highway 15. Mr. Bridges feels like the parish has an obligation to get at least 100 feet either way picked up on the state highways if a dumpster is located on a state highway. Mr. Bridges stated that he does not think it is the obligation of the parish to pick up on state highways, but the parish should definitely keep the dumpster sites clean and the area on the roads where they are located.

Sheriff Gates said he has no issues with state roads being picked up if there is a specific area that needs picking up. He stated that maybe target areas could be picked up two days a month, if there was a need.

Tiger Correctional – Bryan Hall from Tiger Correctional was in attendance to answer any questions the commission had regarding the kitchen and commissary. Mr. Hall provided a report on the \$5,000 that was given to the Detention Center. Out of the \$5,000 there is \$498.98 left. Mr. Hall also provided an Order Sales Summary relating to commissary sales. Warden Adams addressed the following issues with Mr. Hall:

- Portion size
- Sample trays
- Diabetic meals
- Tiger kitchen staff leaving kitchen unattended
- Inmate kitchen workers receiving double portions and where they are supposed to eat
- Dock door
- Sack lunches (cookies are wet, meat is greasy, always the same)

Executive Session – Commission did not enter into Executive Session.

There being no further business to come before the commission, Mr. Buckley declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Sheriff Gates, on this 2nd day of March, 2021.

Johnny Buckley, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer