

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**The Detention Center Commission met this date at 4:00 P.M. in the Union Parish Police Jury meeting room, Union Parish Courthouse Annex, Farmerville, Louisiana. Present were: Glenn Hutto (Union Parish Police Jury President), Nathan Pilgreen (Union Parish Police Jury) and Sheriff Dusty Gates (Union Parish Sheriff). Absent: John Belton (Union Parish District Attorney) and Chief Bim Coulbertson (Farmerville Chief of Police). Also present: Warden Adams and Lisa Salley (Union Parish Detention Center Business Manager).**

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

**Motion made by Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Hutto and declared adopted by unanimous vote to approve the agenda.**

**Motion made by Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Hutto to adopt the minutes of the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Warden's Comments.**

Warden Adams reported on the following:

- DOC inmates – 267
- Pretrial inmates – 81
- Commissary, phone cards and HomeWAV profit for the month

Sheriff Gates stated that beginning in January 2026 there should be a decrease in profit for phone cards and video visitation.

**TWP/Business Manager's Comments.**

Mrs. Salley reported on the following:

- TWP Workers 52  
Marine – 1  
D&J Foods - 4  
Trash Guys – 4  
UPPJ – 1  
HOR – 42
- 3 inmates were approved today (2/25/25) to start to work

A brief discussion was held on the commissary transfer. The commissary switch will not be performed until October 1<sup>st</sup> which is when the contract with Tiger will expire. **No action taken.**

There was a brief discussion regarding the food service contract with Tiger Food Services. **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Hutto to terminate the Full Food Services Agreement signed on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with Tiger Correctional Services and authorize legal counsel to send notification to Tiger Correctional Services. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Hutto to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to solicit RFP's for Full Food Service at the Union Parish Detention Center. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Secretary/Treasurer presented an audit engagement for the years 2023/2024. The audit engagement is for the TWP AUP audit. Last year the Transitional Work Release Program went through a major audit. There was some miscommunication between the auditor and DOC. Mr. Maxwell emailed Mrs. Freeman and stated that he would take care of the 2023 TWP audit after June 30<sup>th</sup>. This did not get done. Mr. Pilgreen asked if we could get a refund from Maxwell CPA for the audit portion that was not performed. **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Hutto to approve the 2023 and 2024 TWP AUP Audit Engagement presented by Bosch and Statham. Motion carried unanimously.**

A discussion was held regarding the Transitional Work Release Program. Sheriff Gates and the two Commission members present discussed entering into a contract with Louisiana Employment Opportunity, LLC (LEO) for assistance in obtaining DOC inmates who are work release eligible.

Mr. Hutto thanked Sheriff Gates for the great job he has done in obtaining TWP inmates. Mr. Hutto stated that the facility needs more inmates. LEO is willing to come back. Mr. Hutto and Mr. Pilgreen are in favor of entering into a contract with LEO. Warden Adams stated that the facility has been at fifty (50) inmates for over a month. Warden Adams stated that it appears to be political as to whether the facility receives any inmates.

Mr. Pilgreen stated that the previous contract with LEO was \$10 a day per inmate that worked. Mr. Pilgreen stated that the following language should be deleted from the contract:

*“For each and every male inmate wherein employment is located by agency, whether said inmate is an existing inmate at Union Parish Detention Center or transported or subsequently transported to said facility, agency shall receive \$10.00 per male inmate per working day once the inmate begins work.”*

At this time, Mr. Pilgreen makes a Motion to enter into a contract with Louisiana Employment Opportunity, LLC to provide work release inmates and DOC inmates pending legal approval of the contract. There was no second, but a lengthy discussion was had.

Sheriff Gates stated that he has an issue with having to pay to get DOC TWP eligible inmates. Sheriff Gates asked for someone to call LEO and see if they are interested in coming back before approving a contract. Mr. Hutto said he has already talked to them and they are willing to come to a meeting. Sheriff Gates said he would not oppose the meeting if that is what they want to do. Sheriff Gates further stated that LEO should address the entire commission. Sheriff Gates requested that either Mr. Hutto or Mr. Pilgreen contact LEO so the entire commission can hear their proposal before entering into a contract. Sheriff Gates stated that this can be done quickly and another meeting can be scheduled. Sheriff Gates stated that before the Commission enters into a contract the Commission should know what the contract says. Mr. Hutto agreed, but said that any motion should have language that states the contract must be approved by legal. Sheriff Gates again requested that Mr. Hutto or Mr. Pilgreen contact LEO and set up a meeting.

The Secretary/Treasurer asked Mr. Pilgreen if he wished to withdraw his motion. Mr. Pilgreen declined to withdraw and restated his motion.

Mr. Pilgreen stated that he wants to use the language in the original contract with the paragraph removed that pertains to paying for non-LEO inmates. **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Hutto to enter into a contract with Louisiana Employment Opportunity, LLC to provide work release inmates and DOC inmates pending legal approval of the contract. Motion carried with Sheriff Gates abstaining.**

**Motion made by Mr. Pilgreen and seconded by Mr. Hutto for the Commission to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel/security issues. Roll call vote: YEAS 3, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2.**

**Motion made by Mr. Pilgreen and seconded by Mr. Hutto 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 3, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2.**

In accordance with Union Parish Police Jury Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given. No public comments were made.

**There being no further business to come before the commission, Sheriff Gates declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Hutto, on this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.**

**Sheriff Dusty Gates, Chairman  
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer**