

MARCH 15, 2005
RACELAND, LOUISIANA

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF LAFOURCHE

THE LAFOURCHE PARISH DETENTION CENTER IMPROVEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005, AT 6:00 P.M. TO BE HELD AT THE LAFOURCHE PARISH DETENTION CENTER, LOCATED AT 952 HIGHWAY 3185, THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA.

Chairman Lasseigne stated that the Detention Center Improvement Subcommittee was ready for the transaction of business at 6:15 p.m. Proceedings of the meeting were called to order with the following:

PRESENT:	Dr. Tommy Lasseigne	Judge Bruce Simpson
	Mr. Stephen Baudoin	Mr. Brent Callais
	Mr. Daniel Lorraine	Ms. Jennifer Plaisance
	Sheriff Craig Webre	Mr. Ulysse Morvant
ABSENT:	Mr. Ronnie Winston	Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer
	Mr. Michael Delatte	Mr. Lindel Toups

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The first item (1) on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the March 1, 2005 Detention Center Improvement Subcommittee meeting. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Brent Callais, seconded by Mr. Stephen Baudoin, to approve the March 1, 2005 minutes, and **carried** by a vote of eight (8) yeas, zero (0) nays, and four (4) absent, that being of Mr. Ronnie Winston, Mr. Michael Delatte, Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer, and Mr. Lindel Toups.

TOUR OF THE DETENTION CENTER

The next item on the agenda was a tour of the Lafourche Parish Detention Center. Sheriff Craig Webre first presented a power point presentation comparing the Lafourche Parish Detention Center with the St. Charles Parish Detention Center. He also gave handouts of the presentation to the Subcommittee members. He said that the problems with the current facility were not all visible. Sheriff Webre stated that plumbing, electrical, air conditioning, and drainage were some examples of unseen problems. He said that the facility never closes or shuts down and that the systems have been running/operating for almost 30 years. Sheriff Webre stated that the Detention Center was built in 1976 with a capacity of 68 beds and was enlarged in 1979 to add 58 beds, for a total capacity of 126 beds. He said that the facility had expanded in small increments from 1979 to the present, adding an additional 43 beds, for a total present capacity of 169 beds. Sheriff Webre compared the two facilities' parking, security, recreation, intake/booking, commissary, storage and security of files/records, perimeters, health, and ventilation. His presentation continued with the holding area (consisting of 3 cubicles) being too small to adequately house more than one inmate at a time and fails to meet the State Fire Marshall's Office Code. He explained the concept of "pods" which St. Charles Parish used in their design. Sheriff Webre stated that pod design allowed for the center to manage with a minimum number of staff. He then went on to say that approximately \$60,000 was spent in 2004 to for repairs on detention doors and locks. Sheriff Webre

said there was limited storage for the inmates personal property. He said there was only two washers and dryers for the whole facility to use. Sheriff Webre explained the problems with the kitchen area, which was originally designed for 46 inmates. He said that they presently serve three meals a day to over 169 inmates and also prepare the meals served to Senior Citizens for the meals on wheels program. Sheriff Webre said other problems pertaining to the kitchen areas were: limited pantry space due to lack of storage area, faulty plumbing, poor equipment, hood system needed replacing as per the Fire Marshall, exterior coolers were 20 years old and broken, limited space for cleaning and janitorial supplies, and the walls needed to be refinished with nonporous materials. He then went on to say that the generator has reached its capacity. Sheriff Webre explained that the employees had no area designated for only them to dine. He said that employees could not leave the premises for lunch and that they had to use an area with multi purposes, which was used for: magistrates, inmate contact visits, lawyer overflow visitations, and a pathway for feeding the prisoners. Sheriff Webre said that citizens have to shout in order to be heard during inmate visitations because there was no phone system. He also described the law library as a multi purpose area, which was used as: visitation sitting area, inmate overcrowding, special programs, meeting room, religious services, and storage. Sheriff Webre then said that the medical department was too small to handle medical issues, the equipment was outdated, the security to store medication was inadequate, and there was a lack of storage for the medical records. He said that the air conditioner had inadequate wiring, substandard air ducts, poor ventilation, and had combinations of old and new parts. Sheriff Webre mentioned the costs associated with housing the inmates out of parish, due to overcrowding. He stated the costs were \$219,467 in the six month period of August 2004 to January 2005 (\$57,027 in St. Charles, \$140,942 in St. John, and \$21,500 in Franklin). Sheriff Webre said that the out of parish transportation costs was separate from the housing costs. He stated the transportation costs for 2,163 inmates were \$17,915.16 in the six month period of August 2004 to January 2005. Sheriff Webre mentioned a statistics study done for the comparison of five jail facilities, in the parishes of: Terrebonne, Lafourche, Ascension, St. Charles, and St. John. He stated that Lafourche Parish was the second to largest parish with the second to most yearly bookings, but had the second to smallest budget and the least inmate capacity. Sheriff Webre also said that Lafourche Parish was incurring the most cost per inmate per day. He explained the statistics of the study:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Parish Population</u>	<u>Inmate Capacity</u>	<u>Yearly Bookings</u>	<u>Staff - S.O./ Council</u>	<u>Operation Budget (million)</u>	<u>Cost per inmate day/year</u>
Terrebonne	120,000	636	9500	127/18	\$6.2	\$27/\$ 9,748
Lafourche	95,000	169	5300	70/7	\$3.4	\$55/\$20,119
Ascension	90,000	268	3300	60/4	\$3.7	\$38/\$13,805
St. Charles	49,000	638	3600	137/0	\$7.0	\$30/\$10,972
St. John	44,000	363	2720	60/0	\$3.2	\$24/\$ 8,815

Sheriff Webre continued the presentation with a video comparison of the Lafourche Parish Detention Center to the St. Charles Parish Detention Center.

Sheriff Webre responded to several questions which was asked by members of the Subcommittee and of the audience. (The questions and answers were not clear on the audio tape.)

Sheriff Webre began the tour of the Detention Center at 7:10 p.m. Warden Eddie Rodrigue explained the areas visited. Sheriff Webre and Warden Rodrigue responded to several questions during the tour and again afterwards.

Sheriff Webre reviewed and discussed the floor plans (blue prints) of the St. Charles Parish Detention Center with the Subcommittee members.

DISCUSSIONS

The next item on the agenda was a discussion concerning the Department of Corrections guidelines. A brief discussion and explanation ensued pertaining the guidelines followed by the Department of Corrections.

The Subcommittee discussed scheduling a tour of the St. Charles Parish Detention Center. The Subcommittee tentatively scheduled the tour for Monday, April 18, 2005.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next item on the agenda was any other business. Hearing none, Chairman Lasseigne moved to the next item on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

On **motion** by Judge Bruce Simpson, seconded by Mr. Stephen Baudoin, and with no further business, the Lafourche Parish Detention Center Improvement Subcommittee meeting of March 15, 2005 **adjourned** at 8:19 p.m.

**TOMMY LASSEIGNE, CHAIRMAN
DETENTION CENTER
IMPROVEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**ELLA DUPRE, MINUTE CLERK
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**