

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 19th day of February 2009, there was conducted a SPECIAL Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Cameron County, Texas, at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.

THE COURT MET AT:

PRESENT:

8:30 A.M.

CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

SOFIA C. BENAVIDES
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 1

JOHN WOOD
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 2

DAVID A. GARZA
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 3

EDNA TAMAYO
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 4

JOE G. RIVERA
COUNTY CLERK

Aide A. Trejo Deputy Clerk

ABSENT:

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The meeting was called to order by Judge Cascos at 8:30 A.M. He asked Ms. Martha Galarza, County Auditor, for the invocation. Mr. Ken Jones then led the Court and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge of Allegiance to the State Flag.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on February 13, 2008 at 1:18 P.M. with the Supplemental Agenda being filed for Record at 4:00 P.M.:

(5) CONSENT ITEMS.

- (JJ) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO OPEN THE FOLLOWING BIDS/RFP'S/RFP'S FOR: (MF-PURCHASING)**
- a. INSURANCE: GENERAL LIABILITY – ANNUAL RFP #1462**
 - b. MOSQUITO INSECTICIDE – ANNUAL BID #2430**
 - c. ROAD MATERIALS: DIRT & SAND – ANNUAL BID #2515DS**
 - d. ROAD MATERIALS: EMULSION OILS – ANNUAL BID #2540**
 - e. CAMERON COUNTY PARKS – REROOF PROJECT – BID #090101**
 - f. CAMERON COUNTY PARKS – POOLS RENOVATIONS (SANTA ROSA, SANTA MARIA, EL RANCHITO) – BID #090201**

Commissioner Tamayo made a motion to authorize the opening of the following Bids/RFP'S/RFP'S:

Insurance: General Liability–Annual RFP #1462, Mosquito Insecticide–Annual Bid #2430, Road Materials: Dirt & Sand–Annual Bid #2515DS, Road Materials: Emulsion Oils–Annual Bid #2540, Cameron County Parks–Reroof Project–Bid #090101 and Cameron County Parks–Pools Renovations (Santa Rosa, Santa Maria, El Ranchito)–Bid #090201.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 8:33 A.M. to discuss the following matters:

- (1) EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
- (A) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING JOE R. JONES INTERIOR RENOVATION CONTRACT FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (1)(A) & (B).**
 - (B) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING ISSUES RELATING TO POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF COUNTY OFFICES REGARDING LOT 12, BLOCK NUMBER 122, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 5, PAGE 13, MAP RECORDS OF CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.**
 - (C) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING POSSIBLE SALE OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY ON E. HARRISON AND E. TYLER STREETS IN HARLINGEN, TEXAS AND BEING LOTS 1 THROUGH 5 AND 9 & 10, BLOCK 76, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF HARLINGEN, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072**
 - (D) DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING CAMERON COUNTY AIRPORT LAND FOR THE FM 106 EXPANSION PROJECT, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.**

- (E) **DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 7, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE DIXIELAND ROAD PROJECT, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.**
- (F) **DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 6, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE WEST RAIL PROJECT, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.**
- (G) **DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 21, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FOR FM 732, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened into Regular Session at 8:49 A.M. to discuss the following matters:

(2) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- (A) **CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING JOE R. JONES INTERIOR RENOVATION CONTRACT FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (1)(A) & (B).**

Commissioner Wood motioned to acknowledge the Report by Legal Counsel.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously.

- (B) **CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING ISSUES RELATING TO POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF COUNTY OFFICES REGARDING LOT 12, BLOCK NUMBER 122, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 5, PAGE 13, MAP RECORDS OF CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072. (TABLED)**

Commissioner Benavides motioned to TABLE this item.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously.

- (C) **CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING POSSIBLE SALE OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY ON E. HARRISON AND E. TYLER STREETS IN HARLINGEN, TEXAS AND BEING LOTS 1 THROUGH 5 AND 9 & 10, BLOCK 76, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF HARLINGEN, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072**

Commissioner Tamayo motioned to acknowledge the Report by Legal Counsel.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously.

- (D) **DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING CAMERON COUNTY AIRPORT LAND FOR THE FM 106 EXPANSION PROJECT, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.**

Commissioner Garza motioned to acknowledge the Report by Legal Counsel and to proceed along the terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

(E) DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 7, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE DIXIELAND ROAD PROJECT, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.

Commissioner Wood motioned to acknowledge the approval of payment to the Harlingen Independent School District in the amount of \$4,529, the appraised value.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously.

(F) DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 6, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE WEST RAIL PROJECT, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.

Commissioner Benavides motioned to proceed along the terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session and acknowledge the Report by Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

(G) DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 21, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FOR FM 732, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.

Commissioner Garza motioned to acknowledge the Report by Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

(3) PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Mr. George Paterson thanked the Court for supporting the Laguna Heights Crimewatch Program. He noted that the program is seeing results as confidence is returning to the business community and residents are feeling more secure in their homes.

The Documentation is as follows:

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS

(1) PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS.

- (A) PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CAMERON COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ORCA FUNDS ALLOCATED TO CAMERON COUNTY. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)**
23-51 min

Commissioner Tamayo motioned to acknowledge the Presentation regarding Recommendations of the Cameron County Commissioner's Court for the Distribution of ORCA Funds allocated to Cameron County.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

(4) PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS.

- (A) PRESENTATION ON THE ABATEMENT PROCEDURES AS OUTLINED IN CAMERON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ORDER ADOPTING PROCEDURES FOR THE ABATEMENT OF REFUSE AND OTHER NUISANCES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 343 OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, V.T.C.A. (YS-HEALTH DEPT.)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously, the Presentation on the Abatement Procedures as Outlined in Cameron County Commissioners' Court Order adopting Procedures for the Abatement of Refuse and Other Nuisances pursuant to Chapter 343 of the Health and Safety Code, V.T.C.A. was acknowledged.

The Documentation is as follows:

(B) PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST QUARTER REVENUE REPORT FOR THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT. (JM-PARKS)

Commissioner Garza motioned to acknowledge the Presentation of the First Quarter Revenue Report for the Parks & Recreation Department.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

(5) ALL ITEMS UNDER THE CONSENT AGENDA ARE HEARD COLLECTIVELY UNLESS OPPOSITION IS PRESENTED, IN WHICH CASE THE CONTESTED ITEM WILL BE CONSIDERED, DISCUSSED, AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING CONSENT AND TRAVEL ITEMS:

Consent Item No. 5 (E):

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator, asked to TABLE this item.

Consent Item No. 5 (LL):

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator, asked to discuss this item separately.

Consent Item No. 5 (CC):

Ms. Dylbia Jeffries-Vega, Legal Counsel, advised the Court that Consent Item No. 5 (CC) reads "License Agreement" and the Agreement is in fact a Construction Agreement.

Consent Items No. 5 (C), (D), (F), (L), (S), (V), (X) and (AA):

Commissioner Garza asked to discuss these items separately.

Consent Items No. 5 (B) and (BB):

Commissioner Wood asked to discuss these items separately.

Commissioner Benavides motioned to approve the "Consent and Travel Items", excluding Consent Items No. 5 (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (L), (S), (V), (X), (AA), (BB), (JJ) and (LL).

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

(A) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AN A4 SKY HAWK FROM THE TEXAS FACILITIES COMMISSION FOR STATIC DISPLAY AT CAMERON COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02098)

The Documentation is as follows:

(B) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM CASA ENGINEERING AT THE CAMERON COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)

(C) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND TAF AERIAL SERVICES, LLC FOR THE USE OF THE COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)

(D) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND NATIONAL SKY SIGNS FOR THE USE OF THE COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)

(E) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REGARDING THE FM 509 PROJECT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)

- (F) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF PORT ISABEL IN EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE QUEEN ISABELLA MEMORIAL CAUSEWAY AND TO CERTIFY ITS CONTINUED USE FOR AN ADDITIONAL 50 YEAR LIFESPAN. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)
- (G) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE REGARDING MORRISON ROAD. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02102)
The Agreement is as follows:
- (H) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND ALEJANDRO J. GARCIA FOR A SIX MONTH PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 2009 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2009. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (I) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR RIGHT OF WAY PROCUREMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02103)
The Agreement is as follows:
- (J) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT RIGHT OF ENTRY AND POSSESSION FOR PARCEL 5, WEST RAIL PROJECT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02104)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (K) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT RIGHT OF ENTRY AND POSSESSION FOR PARCEL 6, WEST RAIL PROJECT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02105)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (L) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT DONATION (3 SMALL PALLETS OF 2X2 GRASS SQUARES) FROM HOME DEPOT. (RL-ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)
- (M) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE DRAWING PROCESS ON LETTER OF CREDIT FOR MATT'S SUBDIVISION, PCT. 3, FOR UNBUILT SEPTIC SYSTEMS. (EH-CCDoT)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (N) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE THE DRAWING PROCESS ON LETTER OF CREDIT FOR VICTORIA ESTATES SUBDIVISION, PCT. 3, FOR UNBUILT SEPTIC SYSTEMS. (EH-CCDoT)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (O) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO INITIATE THE DRAWING PROCESS ON LETTER OF CREDIT FOR SLEEPY PARROT SUBDIVISION, PCT. 4, FOR UNBUILT SEPTIC SYSTEMS. (EH-CCDoT)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (P) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FROM JANUARY 22, 2009 TO JANUARY 22, 2010 FOR PROVIDING SEWER FACILITIES (SEPTIC SYSTEMS) AT HERNANDEZ-IBARRA SUBDIVISION, PCT. 2. (EH-CCDoT)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (Q) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2009 TO FEBRUARY 27, 2011 FOR PROVIDING SEWER FACILITIES (SEPTIC SYSTEMS) AT VILLA DE RAMOS SUBDIVISION, PCT. 4. (EH-CCDoT)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (R) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FROM APRIL 30, 2009 TO APRIL 16, 2010 FOR PROVIDING SEWER FACILITIES (SEPTIC SYSTEMS) AT THOMAS SUBDIVISION, PHASE I, PCT. 3. (EH-CCDoT)
The Documentation is as follows:

- (S) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ADD TWO LINES AND PURCHASE TWO iC502 NEXTEL CELL PHONES FROM HGAC/SPRINT STATE CONTRACT. (PA-CONSTABLE PCT. 2) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)
- (T) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CLOTHING EXPENSE OF \$500.00 FOR INVESTIGATOR DAGOBERTO PERALES (PCT. 6) AND INVESTIGATOR RUDY DELGADO (PCT. 7) TO BE PAID OUT OF DEPARTMENT FUND 90. (MB-CONSTABLE PCT. 6)
- (U) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL FOR TWO CELL PHONES TO BE USED BY HIDTA EMPLOYEES. (AV-DISTRICT ATTORNEY)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (V) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR JURY CONSULTANT SERVICES BIDS. (AV-DISTRICT ATTORNEY) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)
- (W) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT TO LEASE (5) COPY MACHINES FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE FROM XEROX CORPORATION USING THE STATE OF TEXAS DIR-515 CONTRACT NO. 072391200. (AdelaG-DISTRICT CLERK) (Contract No. 2009C02106)
The Contract is as follows:
- (X) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DISTRICT CLERK'S JANUARY, 2009 MONTHLY FEE, FINES AND CRIMINAL REPORTS. (AdelaG-DISTRICT CLERK) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)
- (Y) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR A "LOCKED PEDESTRIAN GATE" AT THE SOUTH EAST END OF THE CAMERON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ARBORETUM LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE SAN BENITO ANNEX BUILDING. (EP-EXTENSION OFFICE)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (Z) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF EATING AND DRINKING PROGRAM FEES WITHIN THE CAMERON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM. (YS-HEALTH)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (AA) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE REJECTION OF DONATION OF EASEMENT FOR BARROW DITCH FROM JUAN F. VILLARREAL. (DJV-LEGAL) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)
- (BB) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH OLMITO WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION TO COLLECT FEES FOR STREET LIGHTS IN SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISSI SUBDIVISION. (DJV-LEGAL) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)
- (CC) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TOM DOUGHERTY D/B/A ABILITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR REPAIRS AT THE SANTA MARIA COMMUNITY CENTER. (JM-PARKS) (Contract No. 2009C02108)
The Agreement is as follows:
- (DD) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO PAY/REIMBURSE EMPLOYEE FOR CLASS D LICENSE, LICENSED IRRIGATOR. (JM-PARKS)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (EE) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BULKHEAD AND SIDEWALK AT THE SOUTH END OF SEA RANCH MARINA. (JM-PARKS)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (FF) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MANUEL FLORES, P.E. D/B/A FRESNO SYSTEM SERVICES TO CONDUCT WINDSTORM CERTIFICATION INSPECTION. (JM-PARKS) (Contract No. 2009C02051)
The Agreement is as follows:

- (GG) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR CAMERON COUNTY TO CONTRACT WITH AEP TEXAS CENTRAL COMPANY TO INSTALL 17,250 WATT STREET LIGHTS IN CAMERON PARK. (FB-PD&M) (Contract No. 2009C02109)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (HH) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO CONTRACT WITH CUBCO CONSTRUCTION FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICES IN EL SALADO AREA (TCDP CONTRACT NO. 727035). (FB-PD&M) (Order No. 2009O2005)
The Order is as follows:
- (II) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION FOR A TECHNOLOGY CENTER NEAR SANTA ROSA. (FB-PD&M) (Contract No. 2009C02110)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (JJ) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO OPEN THE FOLLOWING BIDS/RFP'S/RFQ'S FOR: (MF-PURCHASING) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)
- a. INSURANCE: GENERAL LIABILITY – ANNUAL RFP #1462
 - b. MOSQUITO INSECTICIDE – ANNUAL BID #2430
 - c. ROAD MATERIALS: DIRT & SAND – ANNUAL BID #2515DS
 - d. ROAD MATERIALS: EMULSION OILS – ANNUAL BID #2540
 - e. CAMERON COUNTY PARKS – REROOF PROJECT – BID #090101
 - f. CAMERON COUNTY PARKS – POOLS RENOVATIONS (SANTA ROSA, SANTA MARIA, EL RANCHITO) – BID #090201
- (KK) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD BIDS/RFP'S/RFQ'S FOR THE FOLLOWING: (MF-PURCHASING)
- a. ARMORED CAR SERVICES – ANNUAL BID #1180 (ROCHESTER ARMORED CAR)
- The Tabulation is as follows:
- (LL) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD BIDS/RFP'S/RFQ'S FOR THE FOLLOWING: (MF-PURCHASING) (ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY)
- a. ROAD MATERIALS: EMULSION OILS – ANNUAL BID #2540.
- (MM) CONSIDERATION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RACIAL PROFILE REPORT FROM JANUARY THRU DECEMBER, 2008. (OL-SHERIFF)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (NN) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW COMPASS BANK TO RELEASE SECURITIES PLEDGED AS COLLATERAL BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK ON THE COUNTY'S BEHALF. (DAB-TREASURER)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (OO) CONSIDERATION AND ISSUANCE OF ORDER APPROVING THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE DECEMBER 2008 TERM. (DAB-TREASURER) (Order No. 2009O2006)
The Documentation is as follows:
- (PP) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR THE FOLLOWING BIDS/RFP'S/RFQ'S: (MF-PURCHASING)
- a. FARM LAND LEASE – ANNUAL BID #1477-14
- (QQ) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HUMBERTO BARRERA, LEROY FLORES AND SERGIO CONTRERAS RESERVE DEPUTY CONSTABLES FOR PCT. #4 IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINDING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO APPOINT THE RESERVE DEPUTY IN ORDER TO PROPERLY HANDLE THE BUSINESS OF THE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE THAT ORIGINATES IN THE CONSTABLE'S PRECINCT. (MV-HUMAN RESOURCES)
The Documentation is as follows:

TRAVEL ITEMS

- (6) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL/OR APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENSE FOR THE FOLLOWING (PLEASE NOTE: TRAVEL REQUESTS ARE SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE COUNTY POLICIES):**
- (A) **COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO TRAVEL TO AUSTIN, TEXAS, ON 2/17/09, TO ATTEND THE LAGUNA MADRE DAY AT STATE CAPITOL.**
 - (B) **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, D.C., ON 3/10 TO 3/12/09, TO ATTEND THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER COUNTIES COALITION LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE.**
 - (C) **COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1 JUDGE AND COURT ADMINISTRATOR TO TRAVEL TO SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS ON 3/4 TO 3/6/09 TO ATTEND THE TEXAS COLLEGE OF PROBATE JUDGES 2 DAY REGIONAL WORKSHOP.**
 - (D) **COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 3 STAFF (1) TO TRAVEL TO SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS, ON 3/4 TO 3/6/09, TO ATTEND THE TEXAS COLLEGE OF PROBATE JUDGES 3-DAY REGIONAL WORKSHOP.**
 - (E) **EXTENSION OFFICE STAFF (1) TO TRAVEL TO McALLEN, TEXAS, ON 2/11 TO 2/12/09, TO ATTEND THE BINATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR FAMILIES.**
 - (F) **HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF (3) TO TRAVEL TO WACO, TEXAS, ON 3/2 TO 3/4/09, TO ATTEND THE 17TH ANNUAL TEXAS ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL CONFERENCE.**
 - (G) **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 3 PLACE 1 STAFF (2) TO TRAVEL TO SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, ON 3/16 TO 3/18/09, TO ATTEND THE EXPERIENCE COURT PERSONAL SEMINAR.**
 - (H) **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 4 STAFF (1) TO TRAVEL TO SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, ON 3/16 TO 3/18/09, TO ATTEND THE EXPERIENCE COURT PERSONAL SEMINAR.**
 - (I) **PARKS SYSTEM STAFF (2) TO TRAVEL TO WESLACO, TEXAS, ON 2/25/09, TO ATTEND A ONE DAY SEMINAR TO COMPLETE CEU HOURS IN ORDER TO RENEW THEIR PESTICIDE LICENSE.**
 - (J) **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT STAFF (1) TO TRAVEL TO MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, ON 4/26 TO 4/29/09, TO ATTEND NATIONAL AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.**
 - (K) **SHERIFF'S OFFICE STAFF (1) TO TRAVEL TO BASTROP, TEXAS, ON 2/4 TO 2/5/09, TO ATTEND THE ENFORCEMENT OF UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS: ONE DAY COURSE.**
 - (L) **SHERIFF'S OFFICE STAFF (2) TO TRAVEL TO AUSTIN, TEXAS, ON 2/16 TO 2/18/09, TO ATTEND THE SHERIFF'S EN MASSE MEETING AT THE CAPITOL.**

- (A) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AN A4 SKY HAWK FROM THE TEXAS FACILITIES COMMISSION FOR STATIC DISPLAY AT CAMERON COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02098)**
The Documentation is as follows:

- (G) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE REGARDING MORRISON ROAD. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02102)**
The Agreement is as follows:

- (H) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND ALEJANDRO J. GARCIA FOR A SIX MONTH PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 2009 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2009. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)**
The Documentation is as follows:

- (I) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR RIGHT OF WAY PROCUREMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02103)**
The Agreement is as follows:

- (J) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT RIGHT OF ENTRY AND POSSESSION FOR PARCEL 5, WEST RAIL PROJECT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02104)**
The Documentation is as follows:

(K) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT RIGHT OF ENTRY AND POSSESSION FOR PARCEL 6, WEST RAIL PROJECT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02105)
The Documentation is as follows:

- (M) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE DRAWING PROCESS ON LETTER OF CREDIT FOR MATT'S SUBDIVISION, PCT. 3, FOR UNBUILT SEPTIC SYSTEMS. (EH-CCDøT)**
The Documentation is as follows:

- (N) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE THE DRAWING PROCESS ON LETTER OF CREDIT FOR VICTORIA ESTATES SUBDIVISION, PCT. 3, FOR UNBUILT SEPTIC SYSTEMS. (EH-CCDoT)**

The Documentation is as follows:

- (O) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO INITIATE THE DRAWING PROCESS ON LETTER OF CREDIT FOR SLEEPY PARROT SUBDIVISION, PCT. 4, FOR UNBUILT SEPTIC SYSTEMS. (EH-CCDoT)**

The Documentation is as follows:

- (P) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FROM JANUARY 22, 2009 TO JANUARY 22, 2010 FOR PROVIDING SEWER FACILITIES (SEPTIC SYSTEMS) AT HERNANDEZ-IBARRA SUBDIVISION, PCT. 2. (EH-CCDoT)**
The Documentation is as follows:

- (Q) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2009 TO FEBRUARY 27, 2011 FOR PROVIDING SEWER FACILITIES (SEPTIC SYSTEMS) AT VILLA DE RAMOS SUBDIVISION, PCT. 4. (EH-CCDøT)**
The Documentation is as follows:

- (R) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FROM APRIL 30, 2009 TO APRIL 16, 2010 FOR PROVIDING SEWER FACILITIES (SEPTIC SYSTEMS) AT THOMAS SUBDIVISION, PHASE I, PCT. 3. (EH-CCDoT)**

The Documentation is as follows:

**(U) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL FOR TWO CELL PHONES TO BE USED BY HIDTA EMPLOYEES. (AV-DISTRICT ATTORNEY)
The Documentation is as follows:**

- (W) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT TO LEASE (5) COPY MACHINES FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE FROM XEROX CORPORATION USING THE STATE OF TEXAS DIR-515 CONTRACT NO. 072391200. (AdelaG-DISTRICT CLERK) (Contract No. 2009C02106)**
The Contract is as follows:

- (Y) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR A “LOCKED PEDESTRIAN GATE” AT THE SOUTH EAST END OF THE CAMERON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ARBORETUM LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE SAN BENITO ANNEX BUILDING. (EP-EXTENSION OFFICE)**
The Documentation is as follows:

- (Z) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF EATING AND DRINKING PROGRAM FEES WITHIN THE CAMERON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM. (YS-HEALTH)**
The Documentation is as follows:

(CC) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TOM DOUGHERTY D/B/A ABILITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR REPAIRS AT THE SANTA MARIA COMMUNITY CENTER. (JM-PARKS) (Contract No. 2009C02108)
The Agreement is as follows:

(DD) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO PAY/REIMBURSE EMPLOYEE FOR CLASS D LICENSE, LICENSED IRRIGATOR. (JM-PARKS)
The Documentation is as follows:

- (EE) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BULKHEAD AND SIDEWALK AT THE SOUTH END OF SEA RANCH MARINA. (JM-PARKS)**
The Documentation is as follows:

(FF) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MANUEL FLORES, P.E. D/B/A FRESNO SYSTEM SERVICES TO CONDUCT WINDSTORM CERTIFICATION INSPECTION. (JM-PARKS) (Contract No. 2009C02051)
The Agreement is as follows:

(GG) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR CAMERON COUNTY TO CONTRACT WITH AEP TEXAS CENTRAL COMPANY TO INSTALL 17,250 WATT STREET LIGHTS IN CAMERON PARK. (FB-PD&M) (Contract No. 2009C02109)
The Documentation is as follows:

(HH) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO CONTRACT WITH CUBCO CONSTRUCTION FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICES IN EL SALADO AREA (TCDP CONTRACT NO. 727035). (FB-PD&M) (Order No. 2009O2005)
The Order is as follows:

- (II) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION FOR A TECHNOLOGY CENTER NEAR SANTA ROSA. (FB-PD&M) (Contract No. 2009C02110)**

The Documentation is as follows:

**(KK) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD BIDS/RFP'S/RFQ'S FOR THE FOLLOWING:
(MF-PURCHASING)**

a. ARMORED CAR SERVICES – ANNUAL BID #1180 (ROCHESTER ARMORED CAR)

The Tabulation is as follows:

(MM) CONSIDERATION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RACIAL PROFILE REPORT FROM JANUARY THRU DECEMBER, 2008. (OL-SHERIFF)
The Documentation is as follows:

(NN) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW COMPASS BANK TO RELEASE SECURITIES PLEDGED AS COLLATERAL BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK ON THE COUNTY'S BEHALF. (DAB-TREASURER)
The Documentation is as follows:

(OO) CONSIDERATION AND ISSUANCE OF ORDER APPROVING THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE DECEMBER 2008 TERM. (DAB-TREASURER) (Order No. 2009O2006)
The Documentation is as follows:

(QQ) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HUMBERTO BARRERA, LEROY FLORES AND SERGIO CONTRERAS RESERVE DEPUTY CONSTABLES FOR PCT. #4 IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINDING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO APPOINT THE RESERVE DEPUTY IN ORDER TO PROPERLY HANDLE THE BUSINESS OF THE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE THAT ORIGINATES IN THE CONSTABLE'S PRECINCT. (MV-HUMAN RESOURCES)
The Documentation is as follows:

(5) CONSENT ITEMS.

(B) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM CASA ENGINEERING AT THE CAMERON COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2009C02099)**

Commissioner Wood asked for clarification as to the address listed on the proposal as 805 W. Price Rd.

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator, replied that the address is correct.

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the Professional Services from Casa Engineering at the Cameron County Airport.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously.

The Documentation is as follows:

(C) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND TAF AERIAL SERVICES, LLC FOR THE USE OF THE COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

(D) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND NATIONAL SKY SIGNS FOR THE USE OF THE COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

Commissioner Garza inquired as to the reason that there is no deposit required and recommended that language be included under "Obligations" that states a committee is to be responsible for approving the content of the banners.

Judge Cascos noted that at a previous Commissioners' Court Meeting, Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator, Mr. Javier Mendez, Parks Director, and Ms. Martha Galarza, County Auditor, were designated as those persons responsible for reviewing the content of the banners.

Commissioner Garza recommended that a deposit of \$250 be included in the contract.

Judge Cascos noted that the deposit will be refundable once the vendor complies with the terms of the contract.

Commissioner Garza motioned to approve the Agreement between Cameron County and TAF Aerial Services, LLC and the Agreement between Cameron County and National Sky Signs for the use of the County Airport with the changes as stated.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously.

(E) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REGARDING THE FM 509 PROJECT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (TABLED)

Commissioner Tamayo motioned to TABLE this item.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously.

(F) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF PORT ISABEL IN EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE QUEEN ISABELLA MEMORIAL CAUSEWAY AND TO CERTIFY ITS CONTINUED USE FOR AN ADDITIONAL 50 YEAR LIFESPAN. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Resolution No. 2009R02057)

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, Authorization To Support The City Of Port Isabel In Efforts To Ensure The Continued Maintenance By The Texas

Department Of Transportation Of The Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway And To Certify Its Continued Use For
An Additional 50 Year Lifespan was approved with the issuing of the lighting to be brought back to the Court.

The Resolution is as follows:

(L) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT DONATION (3 SMALL PALLETS OF 2X2 GRASS SQUARES) FROM HOME DEPOT. (RL-ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES)

Commissioner Garza asked if there is a designated location for the donation.

Mr. Robert L. Lopez, Director of Administrative Services, replied that there is no designated location at this time and noted that the donation could be used for small projects around the County or in coordination with the Parks Department.

Commissioner Garza motioned to accept the Donation (3 small pallets of 2x2 grass squares) from Home Depot.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously.

(S) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ADD TWO LINES AND PURCHASE TWO iC502 NEXTEL CELL PHONES FROM HGAC/SPRINT STATE CONTRACT. (PA-CONSTABLE PCT. 2) (TABLED)

Judge Cascos motioned to TABLE this item.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously.

(V) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR JURY CONSULTANT SERVICES BIDS. (AV-DISTRICT ATTORNEY)

Commissioner Garza motioned to approve the Advertisement of Jury Consultant Services Bids.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously.

The Documentation is as follows:

(X) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DISTRICT CLERK'S JANUARY, 2009 MONTHLY FEE, FINES AND CRIMINAL REPORTS. (AdelaG-DISTRICT CLERK)

Commissioner Garza asked to see a comparison between what has been collected versus what was budgeted.

Mr. Eric Garza, District Clerk's Office, stated that future reports would be formatted to include a comparison.

Commissioner Garza asked that future reports include a "year-to-date" column.

Commissioner Garza motioned to acknowledge the District Clerk's January 2009 Monthly Fee, Fines and Criminal Reports.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

The Documentation is as follows:

(AA) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE REJECTION OF DONATION OF EASEMENT FOR BARROW DITCH FROM JUAN F. VILLARREAL. (DJV-LEGAL)

Commissioner Garza motioned to reject the donation of easement for Barrow Ditch from Juan F. Villarreal.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

(BB) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH OLMITO WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION TO COLLECT FEES FOR STREET LIGHTS IN SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISSI SUBDIVISION. (DJV-LEGAL) (Contract No. 2009C02107)

Upon motion by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously, the Interlocal Agreement with Olmito Water Supply Corporation to collect fees for Street Lights in Saint Francis of Assissi Subdivision was approved, subject to any modifications to be made by the Olmito Water Supply Corporation.

The Agreement is as follows:

(LL) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD BIDS/RFP'S/RFQ'S FOR THE FOLLOWING: (MF-PURCHASING) (Contract No. 2009C03132)
a. ROAD MATERIALS: EMULSION OILS – ANNUAL BID #2540.

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously, authorization to award Road Materials: Emulsion Oils – Annual Bid #2540 was approved.

The Contract is as follows:

ACTION ITEMS

(7) ACTION ITEMS.

**(A) BUDGET AMENDMENTS, LINE ITEM TRANSFERS
AND/OR SALARY SCHEDULES.**

NOTE: Judge Cascos stepped out of the Meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously, the Budget Amendments, Line Item Transfers and/or Salary Schedules were approved.

The Budget Amendments, Line Item Transfers and/or Salary Schedules are as follows:

(B) APPROVAL OF CLAIMS.

Commissioner Benavides motioned to approve the Claims.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried as follows:

AYE: Commissioner Benavides, Commissioner Wood and Judge Pro-Tem Garza

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Tamayo as to Warrant No. 00215025, made payable to Red River Service Corp., in the amount of \$265.32.

The Claims and Affidavit are as follows:

**(C) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR:
JANUARY 22, 2009 – REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2009 – SPECIAL MEETING**

Commissioner Tamayo motioned to approve the Minutes for the January 22, 2009-Regular Meeting and the January 29, 2009-Special Meeting.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

NOTE: Judge Cascos returned to the Meeting at 10:49 a.m.

(D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON BUDGETING/ACCOUNTING ISSUES REGARDING DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FUND 900-475, FUND 600-475, AND THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FORFEITURE ACCOUNT. (AV-DISTRICT ATTORNEY) tabled 2/10/09 (TABLED)

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator, informed the Court that the District Attorney's Office has resolved this issue and has requested that this item be tabled.

Commissioner Wood motioned to TABLE this item.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously.

(E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE COUNTY PARK RANGER DEPARTMENT AND THE TRANSFER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY PARK RANGERS TO OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENTS. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

Judge Cascos-"Item 'E', 'Consideration and action on the abolishment of the County Park Ranger Department and the transfer of Law Enforcement Services currently provided by the County Park Rangers to other Law Enforcement Departments'. Do I hear a motion to, just so we can discuss it, do I hear a motion and a second for discussion purposes only?"

Commissioner Garza-"So moved."

Commissioner Tamayo-"Second."

Judge Cascos-"Moved by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo for discussion. Ok, let's open it up for discussion. This item was placed on the agenda for several reasons; 1) is to provide a more efficient way of utilizing our law enforcement services, 2) is to save us a little bit of money and 3) to expand the jurisdiction of patrolling of the Park Rangers. What I've asked to do is to place this on the agenda. The other items would be moot if this item does not pass. So at this point, let me open it up to discussion from any member of the

Court and then I'd like to ask at some point maybe the Constable, maybe the Chief (Park Ranger) and if the Sheriff's Office is here for their input as well. Commissioners?"

Commissioner Benavides-"Judge, I would like to state for the record that I am against this and I'm against it not because I don't want it to go to the Sheriff or to the Constable, but I really believe that by letting go of our Park Rangers we would-the service out at the Island and our Parks would suffer. I had been trying to see if I can find a way of extending that service to Boca Chica Beach but because it's not considered a State Park or part of a State Park it would not be feasible. While it might, well while it would probably save money in the budget, I really feel that once we make this move, then we would lose control of any service to the Parks because if the Constable or the Sheriff's Department decided that they needed to send them to take care of some other priority issue, then the Parks are going to suffer. That is my stand on this issue."

Commissioner Garza-"It would seem though to me that that fact that today we don't have a State park in Boca Chica and therefore our Rangers are not authorized to patrol that area that to me would be even another motivating reason for making sure that whoever we have, that we designate as responsible for that area, have the personnel and the ability to be able to patrol that area and if these individuals would be under the Constable's Office, it doesn't matter if it's a State park, a County park, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife park or whatever, they would have the authority to be able to go there and to patrol and to issue citations and things of that matter."

Commissioner Benavides-"And I understand that but by the same token, we would not have any authority over what a Constable or a Sheriff would want to do with that personnel if they had another pressing issue."

Judge Cascos-"Well, we really do. We really do have some authority as to what they do, albeit not on a day-to-day operational aspect but you know, with the power that this Court has is that of funding and if-we'll get into that, but I think that if we do have the authority to ask Constables or Sheriffs to patrol and up to this point every Constable or Sheriff that I've asked to patrol a certain area, I mean we've seen it in the Laguna Heights area. You know, we've asked them to go in there and they've done that. It's just a matter of just asking where there is trouble spots, but you know that's a good point right now that there's nobody with the ability, other than the Sheriff's Office or the Constable, to patrol the Boca Chica area. Park Rangers can't do that so I think expanding the jurisdiction of these officers can only benefit us and you know-Commissioner Tamayo, would you like to make some comments now or Commissioner Wood or you want to wait until after?"

Commissioner Wood-"The idea of expanding jurisdiction I don't think is an idea we need to be considering because what we're talking about is not expanding their jurisdiction to any area. It's actually eliminating the Park Rangers Department and putting those personnel under someone else which gives that elected official more personnel to possibly cover a larger area but when we do that we also-if they take personnel that are dedicated to the

Park now, the County Park Rangers, eliminate that Department and put them under whomever it might be, we've got well qualified people to manage them and to oversee them and to direct them and to attend to their needs but if we put those persons under whomever it might be, then my fear is that they're going to be pulled from the Park, from South Padre Island, from the other two County Parks that they actually serve in and be utilized in other areas because there's needs all over the County. Ever Constable is short-staffed, maybe I shouldn't say that. I'm not sure if every Constable is short-staffed, but Constables tend to have a larger area than they can normally take care of with the staff that they have and the Sheriff is in the same situation so my concern is the lack of coverage that we would be possibly, possibly getting. We don't know that because we don't have day-to-day control over how another elected official handles their job and takes care of their employees and how they direct their employees. I have some concerns about doing away with the Park Rangers Department. I have concerns about the safety of the people on South Padre Island."

Judge Cascos-"Well, when you say, 'South Padre Island', its strictly the Parks System within South Padre Island and the unincorporated areas, not the Island because the Island has..."

Commissioner Wood-"The Island is only 1.5 miles long..."

Judge Cascos-"Correct but they have their own Police Department."

Commissioner Wood-"...and it's by itself; thirty-some miles is covered by Park Rangers and Constables and Sheriff."

Judge Cascos-"Well, by virtue you've admitted that they would have expanded jurisdiction, expanded authority then it is in fact expanding the jurisdiction."

Commissioner Wood-"It's not expanding any jurisdiction of the Park Rangers because you're eliminating them."

Judge Cascos-"No, no, no we're talking about the personnel within the-and I don't want to get into semantics about this but I think we do have some authority and I agree that we do have a lot of need in law enforcement and the Park Rangers do a good job. In speaking with the Constable yesterday and what I'd like to hear aside from those concerns that you all have and they're valid concerns, what is the downside to doing this? If we can be assured that the patrols are going to be adequate within the Parks System, would that satisfy you all if we had some commitment from the Constable or the Sheriff that they're going to patrol but at the same time, during the non-peak times like the months from November to January or February they can be utilized in other areas. I'm not going to put words in Constable's mouth or the Sheriff's Office but I'd like to hear form them at some point during this discussion."

Commissioner Tamayo-“Judge, I’d like to comment before they’re called forward. First of all, I know the Park Rangers do a good job. I hear it from Arroyo City. I hear it from people at the Island. This is not a question of whether they do a good job or not. It’s a question of what is the best process to follow to be able to take care of the Parks but not only the Parks. We have a history of-well, since I’ve been on this Court, we have done some restructuring and I’m happy to say that it has been successful. The restructuring we have done has been successful. Change is difficult for anybody and I know that even when we did the restructuring in the Health Department and then the big restructuring where we got a County Administrator; there was some people who felt it wasn’t the right thing to do and there’s always going to be two sides to the story and not that someone is completely wrong, it’s just that we disagree on the process to follow. So having said that this is not about Park Rangers not doing their job. My whole focus here is, ‘Will restructuring help us do a better job?’ At this point I think it would and if we’re proven wrong then we do something at budget time. I have complete confidence and right now, Judge, unless someone convinces me differently, I favor it being under our new Constable. I have a lot of faith in you. I’ve talked to you one-on-one and you know the expectations that I have not only of you but all our Constables and at this point, based on the confidence that I have in him, I feel that he would not only take care of the Parks, but I think that whenever- and recognizing the strengths that these people bring to the table, the Parks Rangers, because I’m not for eliminating any Park Ranger per se; eliminating, restructuring is a different thing. I do not want anyone not having a job because we need them; it’s just a restructuring process that we would be following and that’s how I’m looking at it, Judge. Following a restructure plan that I really feel confident would work whether it’s a Constable or a Sheriff and right now I really am looking at under the Constable. They’d have to recognize the fact that- I, you know, we’ve never received a report on the different window of time that we have at the Parks; where they’re needed more than other times. I haven’t seen that, maybe I bypassed it but I have not seen where is the peak of time is that they’re needed the most there, where are they- I haven’t seen that kind of report unless somebody can tell me we’ve received one, I haven’t seen one so there’s a lot of unknowns here. We’re making a decision, at least I’m making a decision, with some unknowns on the table, but I’d like to hear from- and if the Park Rangers want to speak I think they should have that opportunity, but I think I’d like to hear from the Constable because right now that’s who I’m favoring as to who would be taking over this additional staff.”

Commissioner Wood-“We have in South Padre Island one of the top vacation destinations in the State of Texas and we’re very fortunate to have that and I think along with that the numbers of people that come to South Padre Island need to have a committed law enforcement contingent on the Island and that’s the reason the Park Rangers were created to start with, I believe. We’re the only County in the State of Texas that has Park Rangers, as far as I know, created by special Legislation. I’m just fearful, not to whomever they’d be reporting to would

arbitrarily make any changes but things happen, issues come up, problems arise and we've seen it in thing we've done here on the Commission that we pull resources from other areas we're committed to and didn't put an iron clad 'that's the way it's going to be' but we committed to it and we wanted to do it and I just feel like we need to commit the Park Rangers contingency to the Island and to the area that they service. They provide a service exceptionally good and Commissioner Tamayo, you said it perfectly. They do a good job. We get reports from them monthly about the crimes they solve, the citations they issue, the problems they run into. Those are all part of what they do and they report directly, even though we have them under the Parks Department now, they're still our responsibility. They're no one else's responsibility except the County Commissioners' Court responsibility. I don't feel comfortable taking these people, doing away with the Park Rangers system and placing them somewhere else."

Commissioner Tamayo-"Well, I don't see it as placing them somewhere else. I see it as a restructuring process that at this point, I feel would be beneficial to the County and beneficial to the Parks."

Judge Cascos-"Commissioner (Garza), anything?"

Commissioner Garza-"I know that some Parks aren't visited very regularly and they're all part of the Parks system."

Judge Cascos-"I really don't know why it's becoming an emotional issue here but I think that there are legitimate concerns and challenges on both sides and I think the main idea here is to utilize 8 or 9 people here, Rangers, in a broader sense. When I spoke to the Constable, I have not heard anything about that he was going to pull anyone out or not continue to service the parks. We can continue talking about the pros and cons but I want to hear mainly what the Constable-did you want to say something Doyle? Please."

Mr. Doyle Wells-"Thank you Judge and Commissioners. My name is Doyle Wells and I am a resident of South Padre Island and a business owner at South Padre Island and a life-long resident of South Padre Island and I certainly don't pretend to perceive how you should best administrate the Park Rangers. I've listened to both sides, if you will, and I take exception with the reference to being seasonal or peak or off-peak times. I'm here to tell you we need police presence 24/7 year round. Several years ago Judge, when you were a Commissioner, you'll remember I came to the Commissioners at that time following an accident up the beach where a drunk driver speeding up the beach slid into a family picnic and killed them all. My business, horseback riding on the beach, we have a daily presence and we have people there all year round. Ninety-nine percent of the folks are good, the one percent are bad and we have a proliferation of smuggling coming into the Island by sea and by land and by air and if you give any perception at all that you're diminishing the police presence on the Island, the bad guys are coming to us. Please don't put us in that predicament. I would suggest, excuse me, going back to that action the Commissioners' Court took several years ago at that time they were truly Park Rangers where they patrolled the Park and the Park only and

at that time the Commissioners' Court expanded their jurisdiction further to where they were able to patrol and law enforce East of Park Road 100. I do say that you have some latitude and need to patrol and administer or protect the open beach and the Open Beach Act and the Dune Protection Act on Boca Chica and the Park Rangers. I would strongly suggest you change the terminology to 'Rangers'. Texas has them, there's no reason Cameron County can't have 'Rangers' and they have full authority, expanded authority to protect the area that you perceive or want to protect. We have to have your protection year round, 24/7. We can't do it just on peak time when you think, typically we have Spring Break or we have *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) or we have summertime. If you go down there on February 19th you will see we're busy and we need your help and protection today. My observation as a frequent goer of that area to the beach because of the nature of my business is that you get the Department of Public Safety down there, you get INS. It's just because they want a change of scenery, no pun intended. It's not because they're really doing the job of enforcement. We need Rangers that are knowledgeable of the Open Beach Act, the Dune Protection Act and all aspects that follow into that area. If you restructure them and put them under a different administration, fine, but just don't take them away from us nor have that dilution by the new administration by putting them somewhere else because that administrator thinks they're better needed somewhere else in the County. I think we're really getting into some trouble so please don't leave us unprotected. Thank you."

Judge Cascos-"Thank you, Doyle."

Commissioner Tamayo-"That's a good point and perhaps there's a misconception here, but when I say a 'peak time' I'm not saying that there wouldn't be a presence there all the time. I'm saying that there's time when they need the full force there, other times maybe not the full force. I have all the confidence in the world that whomever they go under would have a presence there all the time."

Mr. Wells-"Commissioner, you're exactly right. Right now I own property out at the Island and I can tell you part of my property is on the wrong side of the road because the Park Rangers don't have the authority and I've done my due diligence and called the Sheriff's Department and no reflection on them but by the time they respond from Brownsville it's too late; so expanded capacity would be good in that sense. I'm also aware that the majority if not all the funding for the Park Rangers comes substantially from the General Land Office for patrolling the beach and the Park revenue generated. It might be important to let the members of the audience and the folks watching later know that that is not necessarily a General Fund expense. Its funded by its own self, so by that nature it has some obligation to be sure that it stays within that area were its funded."

Commissioner Garza-"While you're standing there let me ask Javier (Mendez), is there a General Land Office allocation to pay for the Park Rangers?"

Mr. Javier Mendez, Parks Director-"I believe what Doyle is probably referring to is a reimbursement that we get..."

Commissioner Garza-"No, is there an allocation from General Land Office to pay for Park Rangers?"

Mr. Mendez-"No."

Commissioner Garza-"No. There is not. That's it."

Judge Cascos-"Well, most of the funding and you're right about one thing Doyle it is supposed to be a self-sustaining fund. This past budget time-and there was some discussion about transferring the Park Rangers at that time; it never was formal discussion, but they were talked about. Right now we just got a report, for whatever reason, we're down again with the Parks. Our Bridge System is down again 3% on top of the losses that we had last year. We are trying to find ways versus adding fees or increasing rent at Isla Blanca. I have not heard anybody that I've talked to say that we're going to cut services. I understand your concern and the intent of this is not to diminish the services. Is there anybody here from the Sheriff's Office? No? Chief (Mendoza), would you like to address now or you want to wait until the Constable? No, ok. Constable, would you like to address the Court? Thank you, Doyle."

Mr. Wells-"I just would add I totally respect a business decision. We're all making adjustments in our own businesses lives and I appreciate that. I would like the opportunity, when and if it doesn't work, to come before you again."

Judge Cascos-"Please and like I said we don't have to wait for budget time to do this. We can do it if we find it's not for whatever-if we start getting complaints, you know, if the visibility is not there our first phone call is going to be to whomever takes them over; if its the Constable or if it stays with the Chief or whatever, that's where the phone calls are going to come first. Constable, would you like to address the Court at this point? Go for it and I think, Constable, you can start off by attempting to address the concerns that Commissioner Benavides and Commissioner Wood has first of all if you'd like to do that."

Constable Precinct 1 Horacio Zamora-"First of all, the Park Rangers do fall within my precinct and so does Boca Chica Beach and if you all would decide to transfer the Parks Rangers to the Constable's Precinct 1, the man hours that the Parks are receiving now will remain the same; that will not change. Plus, they would have additional man hours from the staff that I currently have and you're talking about Boca Chica Beach, that I would see as a downfall on my part because it would create a different entity because Boca Chica Beach is so far away from South Padre Island as far as to get from one point to another, that would be a downfall as far as man power but the way its structured now and the man hours they're receiving now would remain the same if not better. As far as taking deputies from the Park to help in the Precinct, there are times at the Parks that you don't need to send ten deputies to

work the north side of the Island, like right now, and there's times where you need ten or twelve or fifteen (deputies) if you can get them to go to the north side. If you all decide that's what you want to do, yes I can be committed to keeping the man hours at the Parks as they are structured now."

Commissioner Benavides-"So you're saying that you would never ask any of the Park Rangers to do any other type of Constable work?"

Constable Zamora-"No, that's not what I'm saying, no. I mean they would be supervised differently, which would be under my supervision, and yes I do have responsibilities throughout my Precinct. It's just like the Constables, the deputies that I have now, will have other responsibilities now also which would be the Parks."

Judge Cascos-"They would also be able to patrol the Parks as well."

Constable Zamora-"That's correct."

Commissioner Wood-"They're able to do that now."

Judge Cascos-"Correct."

Commissioner Tamayo-"But you would always have a presence at the Island, at the Parks?"

Constable Zamora-"That is correct."

Commissioner Tamayo-"But maybe not 100% of the staff that are now Park Rangers, is that what you're saying? But you will have a presence there...."

Constable Zamora-"The presence in the Parks will always be there. The staff that they have now would remain at the Parks. The only difference would be during the slow times of year; instead of three or four Park Rangers, let's say at Isla Blanca Park, you might see one or two depending on the need for that area."

Commissioner Wood-"And I think we understand that there are only ten Park Rangers and they operate 24/7, 365 (days) so not all ten are on duty at any one time but during peak periods, I think a lot more time is spent by the Park Rangers in that area and peak periods are beginning not to be just during Spring Break and summertime but different times throughout the year based on what's happening on South Padre Island."

Constable Zamora-"During peak years, in years past, the Parks have used my deputies..."

Commissioner Wood-"Yes."

Constable Zamora-"...to help out in Parks because of the need of such a great area to cover."

Judge Cascos-"All we're doing is looking at the possibility of transferring these nine or ten law enforcement individuals under someone else that gives them a broader base and a broader jurisdiction. It gives them the ability to not only be utilized within the Parks system and the unincorporated area of South Padre Island, but also gives them the ability to patrol and to provide law enforcement services in other areas that they currently do not have. The commitment from the Constable is what I'm hearing right now is to continue with operations at the Parks

but also giving them the latitude and the ability to determine if they're needed someplace else such as, you know, we've seen such a tremendous turnaround in the Laguna Heights area in the last 30 days but that's a constant area that we need to take care of and the man power is just not there the way its currently structured and, you know, I believe that management utilizing different, the Chief's talents and other Park Rangers you can provide a broader scope of law enforcement and law enforcement presence that is not strictly restricted to a much smaller part of Cameron County. So I'm not hearing from you that you're going to diminish the presence of the Park Rangers but you're going to make a determination as to, you know, when they're not completely needed within the Parks System you have the ability to patrol other areas that are in need. It's very difficult to patrol East Brownsville, that's part of your precinct, because of the length, but I believe there's somebody from your office that lives in the area, you know, maybe you could work that out. There's another Constable that you know we need help in Arroyo City and Adolph Thomae Park is under patrol for whatever reason. This gives you or the Sheriff's Office and at this point since I guess that you're here it'd be you I guess, the ability to utilize that law enforcement people throughout not only your precinct but Cameron County as well."

Constable Zamora-"For example let's say the County Park has four deputies working 11 at night to 7 in the morning and I have one deputy working in my precinct and he needs help in Laguna Heights, well the deputy now cannot go and help him and back him up because..."

Judge Cascos-"The Ranger can't go and be backup."

Constable Zamora-"Right."

Judge Cascos-"Correct?"

Constable Zamora-"Correct. Now under, if they were, the four Rangers would still be at South Padre Island at the Park but can also come and help if they're needed in other areas of the Precinct."

Commissioner Wood-"And that's a good scenario except Constable and I understand what you're saying but at night there are probably fewer than four Rangers working and it makes it difficult. If we had the ability and the money to add additional personnel because I know you're understaffed right now, right? I feel like you're understaffed right now, you know, you've got areas that you have a really difficult time covering. Taking personnel from one area and covering more area is not going to overall improve, I don't think, the problems that we have in the entire Precinct because when you pull from one area to the other area, then that area is short and, you know, if we maintain the man hours on the Island that's there now, its going to be difficult to be doing that pulling. If we could add five more Constables to your Office and probably the Park Rangers could use two or three more Park Rangers to accommodate the needs of the Island, we'd probably all be a lot better off but we don't have that ability to do."

Constable Zamora-“That’s exactly what we do. That’s exactly what we do during Spring Break; take from Precinct 1...”

Commissioner Wood-“And you bring some of your reserves in, I think, during that time to help cover some of the area. It would be nice to convert some of those reserves to permanent positions to where you’d have them to be able to cover your entire precinct.”

Constable Zamora-“Correct.”

Judge Cascos-“You know every law enforcement agency has the same problems and here we have an opportunity to, without impacting the budget. On the contrary, we’re going to save a little bit of money to do exactly that; provide broader coverage, better coverage without impacting the budget in a negative way. Exactly for what you’re suggesting, I think the scenario that you brought up is a good scenario; that you don’t have backup the way it is currently unless you can get a deputy out there and the Sherriff’s Office is stretched out as well but providing these additional Rangers to, you know, giving them that broader base of jurisdiction is also going to alleviate some of the pressure points that the Sheriff’s Office has as well and I would expect that you’re going to work with the Sheriff’s Office as well in utilizing these-I mean all we’re doing here is expanding the jurisdiction of nine individuals or whatever the number of deputy rangers, deputies that are out there. They’re not going to be impacted, as far as the Rangers, financially. It gives them the opportunity probably to even take some time off when they need to. You’ve got more people in your inventory that you can be more flexible with versus the two or three that you have now that are swamped. You gave me a story about how many people are on duty during the graveyard shift; this will give you the ability to have one or two more available. I think Commissioner Tamayo said it right, it is restructuring and we’ve been doing that and just trying to do more with less. You know the County, the Parks System, is going to continue having some soft spots and we’re going to have to downsize at some point somewhere unless we want to raise fees or taxes somewhere down the line. So, is there anybody else from law enforcement? Chief (Juan Mendoza), come on in.”

Constable Zamora-“And whatever you all decide, you know, I’m just here to tell you what I would do if you all decided to transfer to the Constable’s Office.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok.”

Constable Zamora-“Thank you.”

Commissioner Wood-“I just see us kind of trying to spread the peanut butter instead of on two slices of bread now we’re going to spread it on three slices of bread and it’s...”

Commissioner Garza-“Well

Judge Cascos-“Well with three pieces of bread more people eat. Go ahead.”

Chief Park Ranger Juan Mendoza-“Yes, I’ve been a Park Ranger for four years but before that I’ve been elected Constable and a deputy for 18 years in Precinct 6 and I know the responsibilities and duties of a Constable. Not only does he have to patrol his Precinct, but he has to work hand-in-hand with the local JP serving papers, warrants and also subpoenas and other paperwork that comes from the District Courts, County Courts at Law and also patrol the rural area of his Precinct. Now since I’ve been a Park Ranger in charge of the Park Rangers, we’ve done a real good job and I compliment my officers because they spend a lot of time and long hours and we’re short-handed, like everybody else but we’ve been able to do the job that is asked by me for the safety of the people that go to the beach. If it’s not broken, why fix it? I’ve heard it from Commissioners’ Court, from the Commissioners, the Parks Director, that we’ve been doing an excellent job so if that being the case why are we going to be moving the parks Rangers over to the Sheriff’s Office or the Constable when the process is working? I heard Commissioner Tamayo I believe who brought up the issue about patrolling (Adolph) Thomae. We’ve been-I have an officer assigned to Thomae. They’ve been patrolling (Adolph) Thomae Park and not only that, they’re getting ready for Spring Break. Now, we also go through the slow season training CPR/First Aid fireman’s qualification and this is the time also the investigator-I have to pull one of my officers to assist him on the workload of cases that we have that need to be prepared and turned into the District Attorney’s Office within time limits. Misdemeanors and felonies, they have to be turned in if not we’re in jeopardy of losing those cases and we have a real good working relationship with the District Attorney’s Office and I understand the delay of the cases because of the amount of workload that we have and the amount of officers but it’s very dangerous out there at night; especially at the North end. You get bottles thrown at you and you don’t know where it came and if there was to be a riot out there, I don’t care how many law enforcement there is, that officer is going to be in very serious trouble. So I really don’t recommend that the Court move in the direction of moving over to the Constable or the Sheriff. Leave it as is, it’s working. Please, I’m asking you not only for me but for my officers. They’ve done a good job and right now morale is down because of all of this going on and we shouldn’t be thinking about this right now we should be thinking about Spring Break and the summertime and I really do appreciate anything that you all can do for me and my officers. Thank you.”

Commissioner Garza-“I have, I just have one question Judge and I’m sure-you’ve been there four years; in those four years, how many grants have you received where you’ve partnered with either ICE, DEA, INS or any of the other federal agencies?”

Chief Mendoza-“We had an officer that...”

Commissioner Garza-“No, no, no, the Department.”

Chief Mendoza-“No grants.”

Commissioner Garza-“No grants and you know that’s one of the things that I think that probably answers my question. The Parks Department has not had one grant from a federal authority that they’ve been able to partner with to provide expanded services from the Department. You know we had a new Constable that we appointed a month ago and within two weeks we were presented with a cooperative interlocal agreement with three different federal agencies in which every officer that is employed in that Department now has an added \$15,000 amount benefit in particular projects in that area that they can benefit from not only themselves financially but also the community in being able to have the expanded services provided to them, you know? That to me in itself is like a no-brainer because if that can occur in the Department that you have four or five employees and we can exponentially include ten or eleven more, you know we can have a whole lot more coverage through an interlocal agreement that the feds feel comfortable working with you, but yet our Parks Department has never tapped into any of those resources, you know? I mean we have to be able to utilize existing dollars and maximize what benefit we can get from them to our existing community and I think that, you know, I find it hard to believe that in four years we have not been able to do that in that Department and in two weeks this guy (Constable Zamora) comes in and brings us that ability and if that type of ability continues, everyone of your officers will have more opportunity to work more hours and get paid from other than County coffers and the County coffers are empty as we heard this morning. We don’t have much more ways of producing money.”

Chief Mendoza-“I understand that Commissioner but the Constable has a lot of responsibility. I’ve been a Constable for 18 years...”

Commissioner Garza-“I know.”

Chief Mendoza-“...and if you want to...”

Commissioner Garza-“And a lot of Constables take added responsibilities and improve what they provide to their officers that they have on staff by giving them opportunities through those interlocals and the Sheriff’s Department does the same thing. We have the Sheriff’s Department that has come to us with numerous grant opportunities that have given some of their officers that ability to work more time and be able to patrol either (US) 77, El Ranchito to Blue Town area, wherever and of course all that leads to nothing more than protection for our citizens out in the community.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Have you made any attempts to get grants?”

Chief Mendoza-“Yes I have. As a matter of fact, the (Parks) Director Javier Mendez had an officer to do that but he went to South Padre Island.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“But that responsibility would have come under you because you were in charge of the Park Rangers.”

Chief Mendoza-“But I have to, anything that I do Commissioner, I have to go through the Park Director. I can't do whatever I need to do on my own. If that was the case, things would work a little bit differently. I have no control.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Well, now we have a different scenario here.”

Chief Mendoza-“Yes, yes. Another thing that is very important before you make a decision is that right now the Parks Police is under the Parks, under the Commissioners Court and Parks. Once you revert to the Constable or Sheriff's Office, I mean, you can't tell them how to run their office. County Judge Cascos advised that they have the purse or the Budget where they control it that way but you can't tell them, ‘You know what? You need to have them 24/7 on the beach’. If he has outcries from the community in his Precinct in Valle Escondido and he needs to set up neighborhood crime watches and stuff like that or patrols because he's getting hit for burglaries and stuff like that, he's going to pull them out.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“But Juan, I'm getting a little confused here. You just mentioned the fact that if you could just be on your own, you'd do a better job?”

Chief Mendoza-“Yes that is correct.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“So you're not happy where you're at?”

Chief Mendoza-“I'm happy where I'm at but the thing is the decisions I cannot make on my own. My decisions go through the Director and the Director tells me yes or no. For instance, Thomae Park; I have to check with him before either sending somebody or not. I can't just send someone on my own.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Well, I can understand that. If you're under him you have to do that.”

Chief Mendoza-“Yes.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“But I'm getting a feeling you're not really happy with your situation. So you know I would think maybe the restructuring would work better for you. I have a lot of respect for this gentleman and he knows that I'm only a phone call away from him and when I make a decision I follow up on it and if I'm not happy I can assure you people are going to hear about it and this is why I had a feeling that maybe you weren't-I've gotten this from your statements, that you're not really happy with the situation that you're in. So I would think, Juan, that you would welcome some restructuring that perhaps you will be happier with.”

Chief Mendoza-“Well, I mean we're doing a good job.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“It's not a question...”

Chief Mendoza-“I mean why are you going to change it?”

Commissioner Tamayo-“...of not doing a good job.”

Chief Mendoza-“I mean, there is a fee that is collected and you’re talking about thousands and thousands of cars that come in through those accesses and there’s money collected by County employees and the safety of those employees. What’s going to happen if they’re not getting 24/7 protection and one of those employees gets injured, shot or killed because the Constable or Sheriff were either tied up on a call and they were not there to make...”

Commissioner Garza-“So you can tell me that you are going to guarantee that that’s not going to happen with your presence?”

Chief Mendoza-“That’s not what I’m saying.”

Commissioner Garza-“There’s no way.”

Chief Mendoza-“I’m saying...”

Commissioner Garza-“The Secret Service that protects our President cannot guarantee 100% that something won’t happen.”

Chief Mendoza-“What I’m saying is that we provide 24/7 protection. That’s what I’m saying; we’re there constantly on the beach. That’s all I’m saying.”

Commissioner Wood-“And I realize you provide 24/7 but during these slow months you refer to and people are taking vacation and taking comp time and getting education through training and issues like that, what’s your normal staffing? And I’m assuming you have 3 staff periods. Is it 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3 p.m. to 11 p.m....”

Chief Mendoza-“7 to 3, 3 to 11, 11 to 7.”

Commissioner Wood-“...and 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.?”

Chief Mendoza-“Yes.”

Commissioner Wood-“How many normally in January or February would be working between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.?”

Chief Mendoza-“11 p.m.?”

Commissioner Wood-“and 7 a.m.”

Chief Mendoza-“Normally we would have two.”

Commissioner Wood-“Two? Ok.”

Chief Mendoza-“At that time because this is the time they’re taking their comp time, vacation time and training.”

Commissioner Wood-“And then during peak periods, which starts in March and goes through I guess October...”

Chief Mendoza-“It won’t stop until October.”

Commissioner Wood-“...you hardly let anyone on vacation or time off other than...”

Chief Mendoza-“The understanding that I have with the Parks Director is he has advised it would be in the best interest for them not to take those vacation or comp time during their Spring Break or summertime; to take it after that because...”

Commissioner Wood-“And during Spring Break time and *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) you need additional help which is where the Constables historically have gone over and assisted in the unincorporated areas.”

Chief Mendoza-“Yes they have.”

Commissioner Wood-“And the Sheriff goes over and assists in the incorporated area...”

Chief Mendoza-“Right.”

Commissioner Wood-“...of South Padre Island...”

Chief Mendoza-“They do help out.”

Commissioner Wood-“...because of the need of additional personnel.”

Chief Mendoza-“But what I’m saying is that the constant patrol needs to be there on the beach 24/7.”

Commissioner Wood-“Constables are doing a good job.”

Chief Mendoza-“I’ve been there, I’m experienced and I’m afraid if the presence is not there 24/7 something serious might happen.”

Judge Cascos-“Well if we can kind of-I’d like to hear from Javier Mendez when he gets done visiting. I think at the end of the day what we’re looking at is continuing comparable, if not identical, presence. The difference is expanding the scope and yeah, Constables have responsibility; so do you.”

Chief Mendoza-“Yes.”

Judge Cascos-“But at the same time all we’re doing is transferring to another department that can better utilize and broadly utilize the law enforcement guys that have been trained and gone through all this and I wish all Constable deputies would go through CPR and all these other things and maybe they are going through that but that’s what this is about, I mean, I think we’re all here, I’m hoping that we’re all here for the same reason. We all serve the same people and all we’re trying to do is come up with a more efficient way to provide law enforcement services to not only the Parks System but through out the Precinct and the County; that’s it. That’s all we’re trying to do here, you know? The savings of some money is a by-product of what we’re trying to do, so with that I’d like to hear from Javier. I had a meeting with Javier yesterday and asked him, ‘If you can think of the cons. We’ve heard what some of the pros are, we’ve heard what some of the cons are, but from your perspective as the Parks Manager, do you see some significant cons as to why we should not consider doing this?’”

Mr. Mendez-“Judge, I have the same concerns and wherever they go to, we’ll keep up the levels of service that we expect there in the Parks. It’s not really a ‘con’, it’s just a concern. The other thing is the budget. As I

mentioned to you yesterday was that the budget was very lean and the vehicles go down constantly and us transferring that budget over, it's going to be real hard for them to manage that budget because it's so lean. I think the last report that we got on the encumbrance report I think they have like \$57 left in vehicle repair. You know we still got seven months left in the year."

Judge Cascos-"And that's something that we're going to have to look at; whether it's really..."

Commissioner Garza-"Whatever department it's in."

Judge Cascos-"Whatever department it's in but whether we can continue utilizing Sedans of 4-wheel drive vehicles to go up and down the beach or we want to go to more of a ATV or one of those, you know, smaller ones or whatever because it is costly. I mean these cars do tend to rust out but that's another issue though."

Mr. Mendez-"Yeah and like I mentioned to you yesterday Judge was, you know, meeting with Juan at the beginning of the year, we tried to look at cost savings and we talked to Juan and said, 'You know what? Instead of the Rangers the 4-wheel drives, full-size 4-wheel drive vehicles up and down the beach unless you use more of the ATVs and it also provides a closer, you know, one-to-one with the general public. The other, I was thinking about it last night, the only concern I have and I'm not saying it's a downside but, whoever it goes to-the Sheriff or the Constable, they're both elected officials you know they commit now and wherever they are in four years, three years, two years; the next elected official comes in, what's going to happen? And I understand hearing from you all that we can probably change this back during the budget year so I guess that..."

Judge Cascos-"You know people need to realize as well that these appointed positions are not entitlements. They're not something that are engraved in stone never to be changed. I mean they're there to change as times change, as economics change, as demographics change, you know and I think that's what we're trying to do with what the County's done over the last several years even started before I got here; started to restructure, started to do things to try to perform a more efficient operation while at the same time trying to save some resources. You know so if it doesn't work for some reason the Constable comes and lets say a new guy comes in who is not going to be as workable or whatever, you know this Court can decide at that time to undo what's being done. I mean the Parks System was created for a reason. I mean be it some of it may have been political or for whatever it was but now is the time to look at these things. We have a good working Constable who is willing to do this or a Sheriff, but you know, anything could change. You could have a different complexion on this Court but from what I was hearing from Juan right now and let me kind of dovetail on what Commissioner Tamayo was indicating. Has he gone to you and tried to solicit grants and stuff or whatever and you've told him no or negative?"

Mr. Mendez-"No what we've-as a matter of fact we've encouraged that and we sent one of the officers to a grant writing seminar but since then he's left to Port Isabel and we've asked if there's anybody whose going to pick

that up because we've heard from several agencies that there's grants out there available for law enforcement for equipment and resources and so on but we've encouraged that department to at least look for them. You know we'll help write them but at least go out and research them to try to..."

Judge Cascos-"Well, we kind of have a squirrelly deal here. I mean even though we hire the Chief but you're the one that's in charge, I mean it's kind of like a quasi, you know, we hire or fire or do this but yet you're the one that's in charge. You're not in law enforcement, neither are we so it's kind of a quasi-mixed bag here. You know I'm willing to try it and see if it works and if it doesn't, you know, we can revisit this again six months from now or nine or sooner, whatever the case may be. I just don't see a whole lot of downside to this with the exception of there might be a, you know, let's say less people patrolling. There might be someone-you know there's a lot of 'might's out there; if a frog had wings. But you know I think it's a good idea to consider doing this. I don't know whether it's the Sheriff's Office or the Constable's Office to do this, you know, but I have faith in the Constable as well. Mr. Paterson is here and I've been involved with him and what's occurred in Laguna Heights area just over the last 30 days. I drove by there a few weeks ago in the evening and I mean it has changed. People are coming out, they're walking around now. It's safer and that was with a month doing this with limited personnel; the same personnel that has been there always basically but someone took an interest in that neighborhood and are in the process of cleaning it up but I agree with Commissioner Wood and you know every Constable needs more people and we understand that but we have an opportunity to expand services, to expand the scope of jurisdiction at no cost to the County. Giving them an ability to provide better services not only to the Parks System but to the rural areas of that Precinct and County-wide as well. I just, I'm having a difficult time buying into this 'what if, what if' stuff. Constable, anything else you want to say in closing or no?"

Commissioner Benavides-"You know, it's not that I don't think anybody-any decision that this Court makes whether it be in favor or against has any reflection on whether you're able to perform the job Mr. Zamora. I think you've brought a lot of added knowledge to your department and unfortunately not every department in Cameron County has the trained personnel to go out there and get grants. I know I've gone to some people who do have grant writing abilities but when it comes to the areas that I approach, I say, 'Well let me show you somebody who will do it,' because they pass the buck to somebody else, you know, when to me if I go to you at least help me out but as I said-and I'm very happy that your department is able to write grants and secure agreements with Federal agencies or State agencies but like I said, not every department in Cameron County or every official in Cameron County has grant writing abilities and they don't have those services available to them. So I congratulate you because you've done a good job and I've heard about it and obviously Mr. Paterson is here and they're very happy with what is going on over there. My concern is still our Parks and our Rangers also because like I said, once

they're transferred over to somebody else, I don't know what you're going to do with them. I mean you may cut their salary, you may let them go, whatever the case may be, I don't think this Court would have any jurisdiction to tell you what you can do with any of those employees."

Judge Cascos-"Well, on the salaries we do have a say so; on the letting go, there's Civil Service, so it would be for a just cause to let them go. They just can't let them go for the sake of letting them go."

Commissioner Tamayo-"Judge, I'd like to say something as far as the grant writing and I know what Commissioner Benavides is referring to; some people have more expertise, have higher-level ability to write grants, but all the conferences that I've attended as County Commissioner, there's always a section in case you want to learn how to do grant writing. So I don't know if the law enforcement staff gets that opportunity but as far as *cuando tienes ganas* (when you have the desire), you'll get it done. You know if you're determined to do something, you find someone or you get the training and I thought was it Juan (Mendoza) or was is Javier (Mendez) that said someone was sent from his staff to do grant writing, to a..."

Commissioner Garza-"Javier."

Commissioner Tamayo-"...seminar in grant writing."

Commissioner Garza-"Javier."

Commissioner Tamayo-"Javier said that."

Commissioner Garza-"Now he's writing grants for Port Isabel."

Commissioner Tamayo-"Pardon?"

Commissioner Garza-"Now he's writing grants for Port Isabel."

Commissioner Tamayo-"Oh, I see. So we lost him to Port Isabel. So I-and I'm glad you brought that up Commissioner Benavides because I think all departments and maybe I'm getting off the agenda item here but it has to do with grant writing and it came up. I think all departments should look seriously at getting trained for grant writing. Those opportunities are there at your conferences. Even they have-I'm always getting emails on schedule alerts about grant writing. So I think that's something that is the responsibility of the staff to look for that and also the Director to send their staff or that they themselves go."

Commissioner Garza-"Not to diminish anything that you've said, but in many cases it's not a matter of grant writing. In many cases it's an interlocal agreement between the County and an agency that trusts that department to do what the interlocal says and in the case of that particular amount that came from a grant to Mr. Zamora, he didn't write the grant. He just facilitated the interlocal agreement that we approved at this Court to be allowed to work in conjunction with those agencies. So they did that I'm sure for one reason and one reason only is because they trust his ability to manage those funds."

Commissioner Tamayo-“But the other thing is that you have to be at the right place at the right time and I mean if he heard about that-I don’t think they came and knocked on his door and said, ‘We’d like to give you this on a silver platter’. You probably were at some meeting that...”

Commissioner Garza-“Knocking on doors.”

Commissioner Wood-“Constable...”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Knocking on doors, yeah because I’m sure that’s where the initiative comes in. You’ve got to go and knock on doors...”

Commissioner Garza-“Right.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“...and see what you can get.”

Commissioner Wood-“...obviously your previous position provided you with a lot of opportunity also and we’re very thankful and I think all of us appreciate-you’ve been Constable for less than a month and a half just barely a month and a half, if that, and I think you can understand that we’re all appreciate of what you’ve been able to do in that short period of time. You know, we’re looking for you to continue on, you know, and I think the community that you serve, the public, is looking for you to continue on and we feel very comfortable that you’ll do that and what Commissioner Benavides said, whatever the decision is, you know, no reflection on your abilities because you weren’t appointed to this position because we didn’t think that you had the abilities. We felt like you did have the abilities and we want to support you as much as we can. I’d love to be able to provide additional officers, you know, additional staff in addition to whatever might come your way because you’re going to need them just like the other Constables do. It’s a big problem but we do appreciate you and your work and what your personnel do, what the deputies do. I know they do a good job. I appreciate that.”

Judge Cascos-“Well we have the opportunity to do that; provide more personnel to him. Ok, I had a-any further discussion?”

Commissioner Wood-“We’re not providing any more personnel. We’re moving them from one area to another area. We’re not adding any more personnel to the payroll, Judge. You know I don’t know where you get we’re providing more personnel.”

Judge Cascos-“We’re providing more personnel...”

Commissioner Wood-“No more personnel is being provided.”

Judge Cascos-“We’re providing more personnel to the Constable.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“The word is ‘restructuring’.”

Commissioner Wood-“We’re covering the same areas.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“We’re restructuring, Commissioner. That’s what we’re doing; we’re restructuring.”

Judge Cascos-“We’re restructuring and hopefully providing more personnel hopefully to the Constable at no additional cost to the County. Any further discussion? Ok, I had a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying ‘aye’.”

Commissioner Garza, Commissioner Tamayo and Judge Cascos-“Aye.”

Judge Cascos-“Item-any opposed?”

Commissioner Benavides and Commissioner Wood-“Nay.”

Judge Cascos-“Item carries.”

(F) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE COUNTY PARK RANGER'S DEPARTMENT, TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT AND RECLASSIFY, OR TO ELIMINATE PARK RANGERS DEPARTMENT JOB SLOTS NUMBERS 01 THROUGH 11, FUND/DEPT. NO. 830-6680. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

Judge Cascos-"Item 'F', 'Consideration and Possible Action regarding the County Park Ranger's Department, to Transfer to Another County Law Enforcement Department and Reclassify, or to Eliminate Park Rangers Department Job Slots Numbers 01 through 11, Fund/Dept. No. 830-6680'. Do I hear a motion?"

Commissioner Garza-"So moved."

Commissioner Tamayo-"Second."

Judge Cascos-"Moved by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo. Discussion? Let me ask a question on this. At this point, do we-where is it where we would make the motion as to where they're going to go?"

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator-"I was going to ask Legal that."

Mr. Richard Burst, Legal Counsel-"Judge, you'll need, I was waiting until you finished your motion, you'll need to discuss and determine what you want to do. Attached to your packet are the slots that are identified and that's why it's stated on the Agenda that way. If you want to reclassify for instance, right now, you have a Chief Park Ranger, where do you want that position to be?"

Judge Cascos-"Oh, I see. So that would be under (Agenda) Item 'G'?"

Mr. Burst-"That would be under Item-let's see you're on the slots."

Judge Cascos-"We're on Item 'F'. Right now, it's to '...Transfer to Another County Law Enforcement Department...' and so at this point is where the motion and the second would include where to transfer them to?"

Mr. Burst-"Well the slots, the question is do you want to transfer all the slots, do you want to eliminate some of the slots and do you want to reclassify any of the slots? And by reclassify, the example would be almost necessary that you reclassify the Chief Ranger because he won't be the Chief if he's transferred to the Constable's Office."

Judge Cascos-"But do we do that under Item 'F'?"

Mr. Burst-"(Item) 'F', yes."

Judge Cascos-"Ok. Then Item 'G', that's where we're transferring..."

Mr. Burst-"No. Excuse me, go ahead."

Judge Cascos-"Ok, well Item 'G' is where we're transferring each Line Item?"

Mr. Burst-“Yes. See, the way our budget is set up you have a salary line item but then you have within the salary slots, job slots and so what you’re doing in (Item) ‘F’ is transferring the job slots and what you would be doing in (Item) ‘G’ is transferring the various Line Items; one of which includes the salaries.”

Judge Cascos-“And...”

Mr. Burst-“And the Auditor’s the one who probably...”

Judge Cascos-“Ok. Martha (Galarza), we may need your help and/or Pete (Sepulveda).”

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator-“What would be the effective date, also?”

Judge Cascos-“Ok, well we can do that. Let’s figure out where they’re going to go. Ok, so then under Item ‘F’, is where we would identify where the slots are going to go because I’d like to have one of the slots be transferred to the Constable for Precinct 4 to specifically patrol the Arroyo City, Adolph Thomae Park area. And I want to know if that’s where you do it here, during this Item...”

Mr. Burst-“Yes.”

Ms. Martha Galarza, County Auditor-“Yes.”

Judge Cascos-“...or the following Item?”

Ms. Galarza-“You need to identify Slot Number, whatever Slot Number you’re going to transfer to whatever Constable, be it one slots, two slots or whatever. So you need to identify like Slot 2 and 3 going to, you know, Constable Precinct whatever...”

Commissioner Garza-“What slot.”

Ms. Galarza-“...and then the others. Yeah.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok.”

Ms. Galarza-“So we need to identify which Slot is going to whom...”

Judge Cascos-“Ok.”

Ms. Galarza-“...and if any are going to be eliminated, then we need to identify them.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok, let me-I know there’s already been a motion and a second and we’re discussing. Let me just throw this out and see if I can get a revised motion. What I’d like to see would be to one of the Slots, one of the Park Rangers go to Precinct 4, the rest of the Slots go to Precinct 1. I don’t have the numbers, I don’t know, that’s something that they-Javier (Mendez), you’ve got that?”

Mr. Javier Mendez, Parks Director-“Yes. I would recommend, Judge, if we could move (Slot) 06. He’s the Ranger that we’ve been using out there because he lives in Harlingen.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Which one’s that?”

Mr. Mendez-“It’s Slot 06. The employee is Rolando Mancilla.”

Commissioner Garza-“So, he’s the one that’s been out there mostly?”

Mr. Mendez-“Yes, sir.”

Commissioner Wood-“And Constable (Zamora), that means you’re going to have one less personnel to maintain the same man hours on the Island.”

Judge Cascos-“No because...”

Commissioner Garza-“That person’s going to be used at the Park.”

Commissioner Wood-“Personnel works out there full-time, though.”

Judge Cascos-“That’s correct. He’s out there at Adolph Thomae, so really it’s the same. Is (Constable) Robert Lopez here? I know he was.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“He was just a minute ago.”

Commissioner Garza-“He went to lunch.”

Judge Cascos-“I just want to make sure-ok and that Deputy would be to patrol Arroyo City and...

Commissioner Garza-“The Park.”

Judge Cascos-“...the Park, the rest of them going to Precinct 1. Now on the Chief Park Ranger, at that point would we transfer that Slot also to the Constable as a Deputy Constable?”

Ms. Galarza-“That would be up to the Court.”

Judge Cascos-“No, but is that...”

Ms. Galarza-“Yes.”

Judge Cascos-“We would do it at this time?”

Mr. Burst-“That would be the reclassification. Yes, this is the time to do it if you want to do it.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok then, just so I can revisit, one Slot going to Precinct 4...”

Commissioner Garza-“Number 06.”

Ms. Galarza-“Correct, Slot 06.”

Judge Cascos-“...Number 06, the remaining Slots of the Rangers going to Precinct 1 creating a Deputy Constable position in Precinct 1 where the Slot of the Chief Ranger would be eliminated but this new slot would be created.”

Ms. Galarza-“Slot 01 would be reclassified as a Deputy Constable?”

Judge Cascos-“As a Deputy Constable.”

Commissioner Garza-“Well, all of them would be reclassified...”

Ms. Galarza-“Right, right.”

Commissioner Garza-“...as a Deputy Constable.”

Ms. Galarza-“Yes. Correct, right.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok. Anything else? We have an Administrative Assistant position. On that one I’m going to ask of the Constable, is that something that we can take care of today in terms of leaving it where it’s at or eliminating the position altogether? I would recommend if we do it all now, can we come back and do it later or do we have to do it all now?”

Ms. Galarza-“Ok, I don’t think you can leave it where it is now because you’ve basically abolished that so you can’t leave it in…”

Commissioner Tamayo-“It would be in ‘no man’s land’.”

Ms. Galarza-“Right.”

Commissioner Garza-“There’s no more Department.”

Ms. Galarza-“It doesn’t exist so you can’t leave it there.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok. So the motion would be then to, if I understand this right, one (Slot) going to (Constable Precinct) 4 and the rest going to (Constable Precinct) 1, creating a Deputy Constable position in that one and the elimination of that (Administrative Assistant) position?”

Ms. Galarza-“The elimination of…”

Commissioner Garza-“(Slot) 11.”

Ms. Galarza-“Well, they’re all reclassifications.”

Commissioner Garza-“We’re eliminating them by virtue of what we’re doing.”

Judge Cascos-“Yeah, but the assignment though because we’re doing that now also, aren’t we?”

Mr. Burst-“What you’re dealing with is just the job slots. If you look on the attachment, it identifies the job slots.”

Judge Cascos-“I see it.”

Mr. Burst-“You, the Commissioners’ Court, has the duty and authority to create job slots, transfer them. The salary doesn’t go with it. In the next (Agenda) Item, the line item or the salary will be transferred, but in this one you’re creating the slots, reclassifying the slots, transferring the slots or eliminating them.”

Judge Cascos-“What happens to the slots that we’re not going to do anything with?”

Mr. Burst-“Which is?”

Judge Cascos-“Let’s say the Administrative Assistant.”

Mr. Burst-“Well, you either need to eliminate it or transfer it.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok, but does that happen under this Agenda Item as well?”

Mr. Burst-“Yes.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok, alright.”

Commissioner Garza-“Ok. My motion was to eliminate Parks Ranger Department job slots 1 thru 11...”

Judge Cascos-“Ok, alright.”

Commissioner Garza-“...and transferring them to Precinct 1. I know now you’ve added a caveat of Precinct 4...”

Judge Cascos-“Yeah, as a friendly amendment.”

Commissioner Garza-“...one slot. I don’t have a problem with that.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok. Do you have a problem with that Commissioner Tamayo? Is that part of your second?”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Yes.”

Judge Cascos-“Alright, we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?”

Mr. Sepulveda-“Judge?”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Now, what happened to (Slot) 11, the Administrative Aide?”

Commissioner Garza-“We’re eliminating it.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Ok.”

Judge Cascos-“Eliminating it.”

Constable Precinct 1 Horacio Zamora-“The person going to that Slot to Precinct 4, I can transfer what person I want going to Precinct 4?”

Judge Cascos-“What do you mean? Yeah, that’s part of this (motion). One of those Rangers is going directly to Precinct 4.”

Constable Zamora-“Right, but I can chose what person?”

Commissioner Garza-“No.”

Judge Cascos-“Well, they told me Number 06, Slot 06.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“That’s...”

Constable Zamora-“I wanted Slot 04.”

Judge Cascos-“It’s up to you and however you and Robert (Lopez) want to work it out.”

Commissioner Wood-“Not if we do it this way, that’s filled by a person.”

Ms. Galarza-“I’d like to ask the Court for clarification on the...”

Judge Cascos-“Well, let’s go back to his question first, Martha.”

Ms. Galarza-“Ok.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Well the justification was that’s the person that had been out there.”

Commissioner Garza-“Yeah, is there something else that we don’t know that we need to know?”

Judge Cascos-“Constable, I think the reasoning for that Deputy was that he’s been out there all this time, just to keep him out there unless you’ve got something different that you want to share with the Court.”

Constable Zamora-“I think that the person that’s on (Slot) 04, what’s his name?”

Mr. Mendez-“Javier Guerra.”

Constable Zamora-“Javier Guerra has been out there, I don’t know how long, but he’s there now.”

Judge Cascos-“He’s the one? I thought it was (Slot) 06.”

Commissioner Garza-“Ok, so it’s (Slot) 04?”

Mr. Mendez-“Before, what had happened was we moved, when we did the suspension, we moved Mr. Mancilla back to the Island for a few weeks and we moved Javier Guerra over to (Adolph) Thomae just to fill in, fill in the gap. That’s who he’s referring to who is out there now, is Mr. Guerra.”

Judge Cascos-“Which one is the one that lives the closest?”

Mr. Mendez-“Rolando Mancilla.”

Judge Cascos-“He lives in Harlingen.”

Commissioner Garza-“You concur with that person being out there?”

Constable Zamora-“With Javier Guerra being out there?”

Judge Cascos-“No, Mr. Mancilla.”

Constable Zamora-“Mr. Mancilla? I’d like to see (Mr.) Guerra being out there and being transferred to (Precinct) 4.”

Judge Cascos-“Where does Mr. Guerra live?”

Constable Zamora-“I think he lives in Brownsville.”

Commissioner Wood-“What Slot is he?”

Judge Cascos-“(Slot) 04. Where does Mr. Mancilla live?”

Constable Zamora-“In Harlingen.”

Commissioner Garza-“They’re about the same distance.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“You’re more comfortable with...”

Judge Cascos-“It doesn’t matter to me. It depends on who...”

Commissioner Garza-“You want.”

Constable Zamora-“You’re sending the personnel and the equipment, right? The car?”

Commissioner Garza-“Right.”

Judge Cascos-“Well, we hope to in the next Agenda Item, yes.”

Commissioner Garza-“They need to tell us.”

Constable Zamora-“That’s fine, sir.”

Judge Cascos-“Which one? (Slot) 06?”

Constable Zamora-“(Mr.) Mancilla is fine.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok.”

Ms. Galarza-“I have one clarification that I’d like from the Court. The reclassifications of all of these, of Slots Number 1 thru 10 are going to be Deputy Constables at the Deputy Constable salary?”

Judge Cascos-“Correct.”

Ms. Galarza-“Correct. Thank you.”

Commissioner Garza-“That was my motion.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok, I had a motion and a second. Somewhere I read where we have to provide an effective date. Is it under this Item?”

Mr. Burst-“If you don’t, it’s effective immediately. I think that probably you need to be fair to everybody to operate and you probably ought to pick an effective date in the future and be consistent with it.”

Judge Cascos-“You want a date of March 1st? March 15th? Or when is the next-it make no difference in terms of payroll, right?”

Commissioner Wood-“It makes a difference in terms of Spring Break.”

Commissioner Garza-“Tomorrow.”

Judge Cascos-“You want to do it...”

Commissioner Garza-“The effective date I’d like to include in my motion is February 20th.”

Judge Cascos-“Make it effective tomorrow?”

Commissioner Garza-“I don’t know if the rest of you concur, but...”

Judge Cascos-“Commissioner Tamayo, do you have a problem with that?”

Commissioner Tamayo-“He’s talking about February 20th.”

Commissioner Garza-“20th. Is there a problem that we say the 20th? No?”

Commissioner Tamayo-“You’re in the trenches out there, is that too soon?”

Commissioner Garza-“No. That’s fine.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“The Constable will be prepared? (Constable Zamora), you’ll be prepared?”

Judge Cascos-“Alright, is that part of your motion Commissioner?”

Commissioner Garza-“That’s part of my motion.”

Judge Cascos-“That’s part of your motion Commissioner Garza.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Second.”

Judge Cascos-“Is that part of your second Commissioner Tamayo making it effective tomorrow? Any further discussion? All those in favor please signify by saying ‘aye’.”

Commissioner Garza, Commissioner Tamayo and Judge Cascos-“Aye.”

Judge Cascos-“Any opposed? Item carries.”

Commissioner Wood-“Nay.”

Commissioner Benavides-“Nay.”

The Documentation is as follows:

(G) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION FOR TRANSFER OF EACH LINE ITEM OBJECT NUMBERS 6003, 6004, 6006, 6007, 6008, 6010, 6011, 6012, 6014, 6016, 6028, 6030, 6038, 6047, 6050, 6057, 6058, 6059, 6067, 6068, 6069, 6073, 6078, 6082, 6087, and 6195 FROM THE COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT, NO. 830-6680, TO THE SAME LINE ITEM IN ANOTHER COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

Judge Cascos-“Item ‘G’, ‘Consideration and action for transfer of each Line Item Object Numbers 6003, 6004, 6006, 6007, 6008, 6010, 6011, 6012, 6014, 6016, 6028, 6030, 6038, 6047, 6050, 6057, 6058, 6059, 6067, 6068, 6069, 6073, 6078, 6082, 6087, and 6195 from the County Parks Department, No. 830-6680, to the same Line Item in another County Law Enforcement Department’. We have to do that as well?”

Commissioner Garza-“This is just a simple transfer, right?”

Ms. Martha Galarza, County Auditor-“Yes and what we would do on this is if it gets approved by the Court would be to transfer the budgetary items and prorate them out per categories, per slots.”

Judge Cascos-“We’re also going to have to keep some money somewhere on the side to re-stripe the vehicles...”

Commissioner Wood-“And uniforms for the officers.”

Judge Cascos-“...and whatever we need to do. There’s going to be enough there because one thing that we’re going to save as well is the dispatch and the housing of when we arrest people with South Padre Island. We won’t have to use them anymore. Ok, do I hear a motion?”

Commissioner Garza-“So moved.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Second.”

Commissioner Garza-“Effective the 20th (of February), again, I guess.”

Judge Cascos-“Moved by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo, also with the same effective date.”

Mr. Richard Burst, Legal Counsel-“Judge, for clarification, my understanding is you’re moving to transfer all those line items pro rata in the same manner that you transferred the job slots?”

Judge Cascos-“That’s correct.”

Mr. Burst-“Ok.”

Judge Cascos-“That’s correct. Any further discussion? All those in favor please signify by saying ‘aye’.”

Commissioner Garza, Commissioner Tamayo and Judge Cascos-“Aye.”

Commissioner Wood-“Nay.”

Judge Cascos-“Any opposed? Item carries.”

Commissioner Benavides-“Nay.”

The Documentation is as follows:

(H) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO TRANSFER NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE PARK RANGERS DEPARTMENT TO ANOTHER COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

Judge Cascos-“Item ‘H’, ‘Consideration and possible action to transfer necessary equipment from the Park Rangers Department to another County Law Enforcement Department’. Do I hear a motion to make the necessary equipment transfers?”

Commissioner Garza-“So moved.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Second.”

Judge Cascos-“Moved by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo. Any discussion?”

Commissioner Garza-“Plus the \$57 in their budget.”

Judge Cascos-“Right. All those in favor signify by saying ‘aye’.”

Commissioner Garza, Commissioner Tamayo and Judge Cascos-“Aye.”

Judge Cascos-“Any opposed? Item carries.”

Commissioner Wood-“Nay.”

Commissioner Benavides-“Nay.”

The Documentation is as follows:

(I) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ASSIGNING THE OFFICE SPACE THAT HAS BEEN OCCUPIED OR USED BY THE COUNTY PARK RANGERS DEPARTMENT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

Judge Cascos-“Item ‘I’, ‘Consideration and possible action assigning the Office Space that has been occupied or used by the County Park Rangers Department’. What do we do with the space?”

Commissioner Garza-“I think we should revert it back to Javier Mendez and his Department.”

Judge Cascos-“Ok.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“He needs it.”

Judge Cascos-“Or do you want to have like a little satellite office for the Constable’s?”

Commissioner Tamayo-“I think he needs a satellite (office).”

Judge Cascos-“Why don’t we revert it back to Javier (Mendez), but why don’t you (Constable Zamora) work with him to see how much space you need as a satellite, ok? Do you want to do that, Commissioner?”

Commissioner Wood-“Javier’s Department.”

Judge Cascos-“Do you want to do that?”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Definitely need a satellite.”

Constable Precinct 1 Horacio Zamora-“Yeah, we need some space.”

Commissioner Garza-“Ok.”

Judge Cascos-“Alright. Do I hear a motion to that affect?”

Commissioner Garza-“So moved.”

Commissioner Tamayo-“Second.”

Judge Cascos-“Moved by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo. Any discussion? All those in favor please signify by saying ‘aye’.”

Commissioner Garza, Commissioner Tamayo and Judge Cascos-“Aye.”

Judge Cascos-“Any opposed? Item carries.”

Commissioner Wood-“Nay.”

Commissioner Benavides-“Nay.”

(J) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AWARDING OF ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE CAMERON COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

Commissioner Garza motioned to approve awarding of the Architectural/Engineering Proposal for Improvements at the Cameron County Airport to 1) S&B Infrastructure, 2) KSA Engineers and 3) GRW Engineers.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously.

The Tabulation is as follows:

(K) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ISSUE LICENSES FOR VENDING MACHINE SERVICE IN COUNTY FACILITIES. (RL-ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES) (TABLED)

Commissioner Garza motioned to TABLE this item.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously.

(L) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FY 2008-2009 EQUIPMENT LIST. (XV-BUDGET OFFICER) tabled on 1/29/09

Mr. Tony Yzaguirre, Tax Assessor-Collector, asked the Court to include (1) electric mail opener and (1) remittance processing system in the 2008-2009 Equipment List.

Judge Cascos recommended that the Equipment List include (1) electric mail opener with the funding coming from the \$100,000 set aside for computers at the Gateway International Bridge.

Commissioner Tamayo motioned approve the FY 2008-2009 Equipment List as recommended with the addition of (1) electric mail opener for the Tax Office.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously.

The Documentation is as follows:

(M) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROPRIATIONS PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR FY 2010. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

Mr. David Garcia, Deputy County Administrator, recommended drainage project, the East Loop Project and the FM 509 project as the Appropriations Project Priorities for FY 2010.

Commissioner Garza motioned to approve the Appropriations Project Priorities for FY 2010.

The motion was seconded Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

NOTE: Commissioner Garza left the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

(N) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR USE OF COUNTY OWNED FACILITIES. (CHC-JUDGE) (TABLED)

(O) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR NAMING COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY, FACILITIES, STREETS, PARKS AND PLAQUES. (CHC-JUDGE) (TABLED)

Commissioner Tamayo motioned to TABLE Action Items No. 7 (N) and (O).

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously.

(P) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REIMBURSEMENTS FROM FEMA. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)

Mr. Robert L. Lopez, Director of Administrative Services, reported that there has been no activity since the prior Report was presented to Commissioners' Court.

Judge Cascos inquired as to the amount pending.

Mr. Lopez replied that approximately \$2 million is pending in reimbursements.

Commissioner Benavides motioned to acknowledge the Report regarding the reimbursements from FEMA.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 12: 36 P.M.

APPROVED this 5th day of **March 2009**

CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

JOE G. RIVERA,
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK
OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS