

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 23rd day of MARCH, 1999, there was conducted a REGULAR Public 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:

9:30 A.M.

PRESENT:

GILBERTO HINOJOSA  
COUNTY JUDGE

PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1

CARLOS H. CASCOS, C.P.A.  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2

JAMES R. MATZ  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

NATIVIDAD "TIVIE" VALENCIA  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

Hilda V. Treviño Deputy  
COUNTY CLERK

ABSENT:

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The meeting was called to order by Judge Gilberto Hinojosa at 9:42 A.M. He then asked Mr. Bob Clark, Brownsville resident, for the invocation and Commissioner Cascos to lead the Court and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on March 19, 1999, at 2:18 P.M.:

**(4) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION HONORING MR. RICKY GARZA AND MR. MARK WIESCHOWSKI FOR THEIR RECENT ACTS OF HEROISM AND RESCUE OF SEVEN SWIMMERS**

At this time, Judge Hinojosa presented the Resolution honoring Mr. Ricky Garza and Mr. Mark Wieschowski for their recent acts of heroism and rescue of seven (7) swimmers during the Spring Break Season and commended them for their leadership in the community.

Commissioner Cascos moved that Resolution honoring Mr. Ricky Garza and Mr. Mark Wieschowski for their recent acts of heroism and rescue of seven swimmers be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

**The Resolutions are as follow:**

**(1) APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS**

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, presented an additional late claim as to Warrant No. 10800, payable to Peacock Construction Company, in the amount of \$113,817.60.

Commissioner Cascos expressed concern as to Warrant No. 10550 which did not reflect a vendor on the Check Register and questioned whether the check register reflected the same information as shown on the checks.

Mr. Yates responded that Warrant No. 10550 would be reviewed and corrected and explained that the Check Register reflected detailed information which was not on the actual checks.

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the County Claims were approved, as presented by the County Auditor.



**(2) APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND/OR SALARY SCHEDULES**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the 1999 Fiscal Year Budget Amendment No. 99-22 be approved.

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

**AYE:** Commissioners Benavides, Cascos and Matz

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAINED:** Commissioner Valencia.

**The Budget Amendments are as follow:**

**(3) IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY  
23, 1999, REGULAR (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED**.

**(13) IN THE MATTER OF A PROJECT FOR THE 1999  
TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
FUND (TABLED)**

At this time, Judge Hinojosa stated AI think we probably need to have a pretty lengthy discussion on this issue. There is a disagreement, I think on this issue. My position on this again, continues to be that I believe that we need to finish up the drainage project at, or start and finish the drainage project in Laguna Heights. The Empowerment Zone, I met with representatives of the Empowerment Zone yesterday. Here is what the Empowerment Zone is proposing to do. They are proposing to make available one million dollars from Empowerment Zone money towards the drainage improvements, contingent upon us providing our share of the Community Development Funds Grant towards that effort. The drainage improvement will consist of basically working a system in Laguna Heights that will drain the water into the Laguna Madre area. The understanding that I had yesterday with the representatives of the Empowerment Zone was that we are going to look into the possibility, if this is approved by the Commissioners-Court, of doing this in-house with the hiring of extra help in the Public Works Department. Renting of equipment as well. And maybe doing some kind of a partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on drainage improvements across Highway 100. We will start with the Community Development money. When we finish the project, if the Empowerment Zone has not used up the entire one million dollars, then the balance of the money will be utilized towards, more than likely, towards Laguna Heights Projects, but more than likely, a community center similar to what we have done in Cameron Park, along with maybe a park in that area or a Constable Substation. And they are going to give me, depending on what we do today, a letter of commitment by next Friday on that issue. We would make a commitment at some point to have a similar community center as what we have in Cameron Park at Laguna Heights, given that we have about anywhere between fifteen hundred to two thousand people there. It is something that is much needed. I think this is a good project. I believe that we really need to focus in on Laguna Heights, finish up that drainage project and work towards establishing a community oriented environment much as what we have done in Cameron Park through the efforts of the County. And then, when we finish with that, focus on other Colonias that need a lot of work in the areas. That is my proposal. I will make that in a form of a motion at some point.®

Commissioner Cascos stated AJudge, the million dollars from the Empowerment Zone was contingent on the funding of this.®

Mr. Frank Bejarano, Program Development and Management Director, stated AJudge, I went to the Empowerment Zone Board last Wednesday and the million dollars has been approved. And it was not contingent.®

Commissioner Cascos questioned ASo, it is not contingent?®

Judge Hinojosa confirmed ANo, it is not contingent. But from what I understood that it was not going to be able to be built with a million dollars. And you all were there yesterday. I did not hear that the million dollars was committed towards the construction until. What I heard was that the million dollars was not committed on the drainage construction until there was sufficient funding to complete the entire project. That is what I heard yesterday at this meeting.®

Commissioner Matz stated ANo.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AYoy entiendo que el proposito del Empowerment Zone, es que no se queria gastar el dinero hasta que hubiera suficiente dinero para terminar el proyecto del drenaje. Ese es el entendimiento de ustedes?®

Ms. Rosa Bodden, Laguna Heights resident, responded AEI millon esta dispuesto para drenaje.®

Judge Hinojosa stated ASi.®

Ms. Bodden stated ASegun el estudio que se hizo quedaba arriba de un millon. Por eso venemos al Condado. Se supone que se puede organizar con otras agencias o de todas maneras el dinero tiene que ser para drenaje.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AY tambien el proposito es que el Condado va hacer el trabajo o el proyecto se va estar dado al Condado para hacer. En otras palabras, no se va hacer el proyecto sin que nosotros no lo hagamos. Sea con el dinero del Empowerment Zone or el dinero del Community Development Discretionary money o la combinacion de los dos, verda?®

Mr. Bejarano stated AI wasn't at the meeting yesterday, so I don't know what happened, but I can tell you what has happened up to now, up to yesterday's meeting. We have a one million dollar grant approved from the Empowerment Zone for Phase 1. Phase 1 includes one million dollars and a hundred thousand dollars force account work by Public Works. So it is 1.1 million for Phase 1. We don't have a budget for Phase 2 and that is where the discussion came in about possibly using CD funds for Phase 2. Our position has been that we won't know what the total cost of Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be until we go out for Bids on Phase 1. And up to this point, it was proposed that we would use the one million dollars to hire an Engineer to do the plans and specifications and bid out the work.®

Commissioner Cascos stated AJust a question. El estudio que se hizo, tiene diferentes proyectos. En otras palabras, con un millon se hace Ax®, con un millon punto dos se hace Ax®, con un millon se hace lo que sea. Esta

segregado en porciones? Lo que dijo Mr. Bejarano es que ahorita no sabemos cuanto va costar el proyecto el total. Eso tambien nos da la oportunidad al Condado de poner dinero que nos da el estado, trecientos y pico mil, o ponerlo dentro nuestros recursos como el Departamento de Caminos y Puentes. Pero el dinero del millon esta comprometido. Pero eso no, nosotros no tenemos que aprobar estos trecientos mil para que el Empowerment Zone nos de el millon. Si ahora decidimos que los trecientos mil se va ir a otro lugar, el Empowerment Zone no va a quitar el millon.®

Ms. Bodden responded ANo.®

Commissioner Cascos stated AEso es lo que yo quiero estar seguro. Porque podemos hacer el inicialmente con el millon, empezar el proyecto y entonses cuando llegemos al punto que sabemos cuanto va costar el total, ayi es donde se va a ser la desicion de donde va venir el dinero, si viene del estado o pedimos otros fondos. Porque si el presupuesto viene a dos millones, vamos estar sietesientos mil cortos. O si entra en un millon docientos mil, vamos a tener dinero suficiente.®

Judge Hinojosa stated ABut I understand the preliminary estimates put it way above a million.®

Mr. Juan Bernal, County Engineer, stated AI believe we have a preliminary construction estimate of 1.4 million dollars to do both Phases.®

Commissioner Cascos stated ASo, we are only two hundred thousand short, aren't we?®

Judge Hinojosa responded ANo.®

Commissioner Cascos stated AI. 4, we have one million from the Empowerment Zone, a hundred thousand for force account for Road and Bridge. So we are two hundred thousand short.®

Mr. Bejarano stated AIt is a preliminary estimate. We really haven't gotten a detailed drainage study. That is included in the one million dollar allocation in Engineering Services.®

Judge Hinojosa questioned AWhat is the difference between that?®

Commissioner Cascos questioned AWhat is the time frame here?®

Mr. Bejarano responded AIf we went traditional construction, not doing it in-house, it is a year and a half.®

Commissioner Cascos questioned ALet me ask this just hypothetically. If we elected, not that I am suggesting this, Judge, but if we elected, let us say to defer the \$315,000. to go to this site, by the time we are finished with these studies, would we be in the loop for the next funding cycle which would be January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year 2000 and still be within our deal here?®

Mr. Bejarano replied AI think if you go in Phases the way the Project is proposed, it would make more sense to use your CDBG money to fund Phase 2 after we do Phase 1.®

Commissioner Cascos stated AI know that we need to do this in the Laguna Heights area. I understand that. But if we are going to have the money available January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year 2000. But yet we are not going to use it till the end of that year when we come to the next funding cycle. Because the timing isn't right, we have basically lost a year of the use of that money?@

Mr. Bejarano responded AIf you are going to get the CDBG money and allocate it to Laguna Heights, you need to do that within two (2) years, because you are going to have a two (2) year Contract. So, regardless of the one million dollars, you have to use your CDBG money.@

Commissioner Cascos stated ASo, I guess what I am getting at is that we have another project. We have all agreed that the monies are not to be used for, I guess, you and I visited and your Memorandum, about suggesting how to use the money, not to be used to pay for projects if we use in-house. I think we have talked about that. So then we have two (2) other projects that appear to be vital projects. One is Laguna Heights area. Then the other one is the Green Acres, as the Judge calls it, Green Valley Farms. So to me it would appear that if we defer the Laguna Heights funding until the next Fiscal Year, and commit to doing that one. Because the timing might be better if we utilize these \$315,000. in the Green Valley Farms in the immediate, let us say within the next ninety to one hundred and twenty days on the drainage, depending on how long it takes. Then we are not going to lose a step. We are not going to lose a step because we can go ahead and wait a year.@

Mr. Bejarano replied AActually you are going to wait two years. If you don't allocate money for Laguna Heights this year, you will wait two years because it is a funding cycle. It will be 2001.@

Commissioner Matz stated ABut, Carlos, the other thing, and Judge, we really do not know what the Laguna Heights Project is going to cost. All we have is a very preliminary, a very rough, a very conservative estimate done by Orlando Cruz at no cost based on his observations on that area. It is entirely possible, having talked to some good Engineers, that the project might come in considerably below the million five. What I would like to propose is that we have got a whole bunch of needs and there are a lot of people here and we have been trying real hard over the years to take care of different folks at different times. We have done Sunny Skies, we have done Valle Escondido/Valle Hermoso and Cameron Park, ten million plus or so. Laguna Heights has got a million dollars designated, and it has taken us a lot of time to get to this point, but we finally did it. And now we also have Green Valley Farms. And I am going to suggest that the Court make this money available to Green Valley Farms for a number of reasons. I passed out to each of you drawings prepared by Martin and Brown Engineering showing what could be done with \$415,000. in Green Valley Farms.@

Commissioner Cascos stated AJames, you may want to go ahead, and the \$100,000. that was spoken to last week, I was under the impression that it was going to be soft cost.®

Commissioner Matz responded ANo, that is cash.®

Commissioner Cascos questioned ASo, they are going to provide. Who is that?®

Commissioner Matz responded ADrainage District No. 3.®

Commissioner Cascos questioned AThey are going to provide \$100,000. in hard money, not in inkind?®

Commissioner Matz replied AThat is correct.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AThat is contrary to what I have been told by one of the Commissioners.®

Commissioner Matz stated AWell, he did not attend the last meeting, so he was not aware of it. I was told this by the Manager.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AI spoke to him a couple of months ago.®

Commissioner Matz stated AWell, this has happened since then. This shows you what can be done for \$415,000. It can be done now. The drawings are in place. It is ready to initiate and kick off.®

Commissioner Cascos questioned AWhat does it do. I mean, I just got this.®

Commissioner Matz replied AWell, it does, let me pass around this Memorandum here. Give that to Hilda please. Attached to this you will find a drainage improvement cost estimate prepared by Martin and Brown, who are the Engineers for Drainage District No. 3. Of course they have been working in and around that area for quite some time. Basically, what that \$415,000, will do is construct a new main drain within the existing canal and drain right-of-way along the east line of Green Valley Farms, north to existing main drain and then do some internal improvements, including deepening and widening existing drains and improving road crossings. One of the major things is another crossing under Highway 510, which is proved to be a major bottleneck. Just to help people understand the differences between the two (2) projects. For those who are not that familiar with these two (2) areas, Laguna Heights or Green Valley Farms. Laguna Heights has all paved roads, correct? All the roads in Laguna Heights are paved. There are no paved roads in Green Valley Farms. When it floods in Laguna Heights, children can get to school. People can get back and forth to work. When it floods badly in Green Valley Farms, people don't get in or out, except as the Judge did on an Army truck or whatever it was. And he knew how bad it was. There is a million bucks at this point committed to Laguna Heights. That money will be spent. That was done at the Board Meeting Wednesday night, Frank. Is that correct? And here is the packet that was presented to the Court back in November when we approved, or September when we approved this, which shows all the details of that. I think really most importantly, there are no septic systems in Laguna Heights. All of Green Valley Farms is on septic. When it floods, and it floods badly, that

whole area becomes contaminated, Ray, is that correct? Also, as a footnote, Laguna Heights is not a designated Colonia, and Green Valley Farms is. That \$100,000. is available and that is from Drainage District No. 3 and there are no other funding sources available for the Green Valley. And for that reason I concur with the recommendation that this project receive the 1999 Community Development Funds.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AOne of the things I question is, why this improvement project can't be conducted by Drainage District No. 3.®

Commissioner Matz replied ABecause it is not all within Drainage District No. 3.®

Judge Hinojosa stated ABut part of the problem that I have seen is that a lot of this flooding is being caused by the way this whole thing is structured. And Drainage District No. 3 has been a large part responsible for that.®

Commissioner Matz stated AI understand, Judge, part of this project of the \$415,000. would be to help correct part of that including one of the plugs on the east side.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AI mean, I have seen this because I have been there. Well, there is a disagreement on this issue and I would move that we fund the project of Laguna Heights through the Community Development Fund on Item No. 13, which is working in conjunction with the Empowerment Zone project of one million dollars.®

Commissioner Cascos stated ABefore there is a second on that, let me ask Frank one more question. Frank, we get the million dollars from the Empowerment Zone, by the time we go through this study, that is assuming that. What would be a practical date that we would be ready for Phase 2?®

Mr. Bejarano replied AA year and half from now. If we went out for Request for Proposals for the Engineer starting next week.®

Commissioner Cascos questioned AWould you consider that to be fast tracking.®

Mr. Bejarano responded AThere is a question mark because we are going to be draining water into Laguna Madre and there might be some permits that TNRCC will require and that is where the hang up will be. If they sign off and give us clearance, it will speed it up. It will be less than a year and a half. But if we get bogged down like we did in Valle Escondido, you are looking at least a year and a half.®

Judge Hinojosa stated ABut then you are looking at another year, another two years from January or March of next year before the \$315,000, or whatever allocation would come in for the second Phase. So you are looking a year and a half wait between the first Phase and the second Phase.®

Mr. Bejarano stated AI think 2001.®

Commissioner Cascos stated AThat is what I wanted to know. How much longer.®

Mr. Bejarano stated AAbout a year.®

Commissioner Cascos stated ASo if we awarded Laguna Heights today. Then when would the \$315,000. realistically, I know it is available at the beginning of the year, but when would it realistically be ready? When will we be ready to use it or spend it?@

Mr. Bejarano responded AIf it follows previous, Contracts we have had with the State, we would get a Contract with the State for the \$315,000. by December of this year or January of next year. If it follows the same pattern. And once you have the Contract you can start.@

Commissioner Cascos questioned AWorst case scenario. Let us assume that the Judge changes his mind, which is highly unlikely. But let us assume that he changes his mind and Commissioner Benavides changes his mind and everybody else changes their mind.@

Commissioner Benavides stated AHow do you know how I am going to vote.@

Commissioner Cascos replied ANo, I don't. I am just saying you are going to change your mind. I don't know what that mind entails. What I am saying is, how long would the wait be? How long would that community have to wait? If we didn't take it this cycle and wait till the next one? Would it be a year?@

Mr. Bejarano responded AThere would probably be a year wait between Phase 1 and Phase 2.@

Commissioner Cascos questioned ASo, the other question would be, let us go to Green Valley Farms, what options do they have? How long is their wait going to be before any significant drainage improvements?@

Judge Hinojosa stated AThere would not have to be a day of wait, if Drainage District No. 3 did what it is suppose to do and go out there and do these drainage improvements, which they can easily do within existing funding. Drainage District No. 3, what they are trying to do to this proposal is take CDBG money and have us do the drainage improvements there that they are suppose to be doing. And that has been the whole issue here. And that is what really upsets me about this proposal, is that what they are asking us to do is take money that would be ordinarily used by Colonias to have project that there is not money available through other sources that they could otherwise do in-house if they did what they are suppose to do. A lot of the problems that are out there are caused by the way the drainage system is set up in that area through Drainage District No. 3.@

Commissioner Matz stated AWell, whether or not that is true, we should not hold Green Valley hostage.@

Judge Hinojosa stated AWell, I know that.@

Commissioner Matz stated AAnd we can do a lot of good with \$415,000.@

Commissioner Cascos stated AI agree with the Judge-s argument as far as certain areas asking us to use CDBG monies for things that they can do in-house. The same holds true for us. We get asked to use CDBG for road improvements when we can be using that in-house.@

Judge Hinojosa stated "And we decided not to do that, right?"

Commissioner Cascos stated "We decided not to do that this year, but we have been doing it in the past. So, I think everyone is looking to whatever resources they can find to do this. I think that the best bang for the buck is probably go on to Green Valley Farms and deal with this now. And that may not be a popular way to think at this point, but I see that is probably the best bang for the buck at this point. And then it is not going to do as much damage to Laguna Heights to wait twelve or thirteen months compared to the amount of damage that the Green Valley Farms may experience if it rains again. This other deal about the Drainage District, I don't know about. I have not been involved. I don't know what kind of commitment they have made or not made. I don't know if all that falls under their jurisdiction, but we have no control over what they do."

Judge Hinojosa stated "No, well we apparently don't because we haven't been able to succeed in that effort."

Commissioner Cascos stated "I just think that the best bang for the buck is Green Valley Farms, based on what is out there. And James, you faxed me this yesterday. I got a chance to look at it, because as of last week, before I got this information, the Laguna Heights appeared to be the front runner as far as I was, from my point of view."

Commissioner Matz stated "This is tough for me because both of these areas are in my Precinct and I have worked for years on this Laguna Heights Drainage Project. The problem will be solved there. But I just think, given the circumstances, and especially the fact that Green Valley has nothing but septic systems, Laguna Heights has conventional waste water treatments. When it floods in Green Valley, which it does regularly, we owe it to those people to try to address that public health hazard that occurs every time they have a flood there. And this an important first step."

Commissioner Benavides stated "I have met yesterday with the Laguna Heights residents, also with Valley Interfaith and a representative from the Empowerment Zone. Unfortunately, we have to make a decision here. All the people living in Green Valley, also Laguna Heights, Cameron Park, Valle Escondido, they have needs. And I understand that, meeting with them for over an hour, I am convinced that those \$315,000.00 or \$415,000.00 will complete their program, therefore, I will second that motion."

Judge Hinojosa stated "There is a motion and a second. Any further discussion?"

Commissioner Valencia stated "Let me add a comment on that, Judge, I believe that we had tried to deal with every other Colonia for the last so many years. And during the flood of 1991, and I picked this flood of 1991 because I was one of those Commissioners who was very active in trying to take people from those areas. We even used boats to get people out. And certainly, Green Valley Farms was one of those places where we had to pull people out; otherwise, they would have probably drowned. Some people were stranded there for about two or three days in the

water. And I know that other people are waiting like Pete said, for a chance to have their Colonias improved. In this case, I am going to support Green Valley Acres because I think it is an important Project. And it is here again, because in the past we have denied it somehow. I think it is about time that we start working and focusing on this area, because some of those people that have properties out there want a way to build up their homes. So, I will support Green Valley Farms.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AAll right. There is a motion and a second, all those in favor signify by stating, aye. Aye.®

Commissioner Cascos questioned AWhat is the motion?®

Judge Hinojosa stated AThe motion was to go to Laguna Heights. All those opposed?®

Commissioner Matz stated ANay.®

Commissioner Valencia stated ANay.®

Commissioner Cascos stated AAbstained.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AMotion does not pass.®

Commissioner Matz stated AI am going to move that we designate these funds for the Drainage Program in Green Valley Farms.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AMotion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia. Yes, sir?®

At this time, Brother Albert Phillip, San Patricio Parish, expressed concern as to the project in Cameron Park.

Judge Hinojosa responded AI think the issue is between Green Valley Acres and Laguna Heights with the understanding amongst all of us that we are going to go ahead and take money from the Public Works Department and finish your project up, I think starting January or February of next year. That is, I think the consensus on that.

Tenemos nosotros un entendimiento que no vamos a necesitar el dinero del Community Development para Cameron Park para terminar las calles, porque vamos a usar dinero internamente del programa de Public Works para terminar el proyecto en enero del 2000. En otras palabras, ustedes no les importa de donde viene el dinero, verdad? Nomás que venga. Y en otras palabras, que si ustedes, es como ustedes hubieran recibido el dinero este. Se va hacer el proyecto de una manera o otra, pero del programa del Public Works. Comensando en enero. Igualmente que si hubieramos puesto este dinero en Cameron Park para completar las cuatro millas en Cameron Park.®

Commissioner Valencia stated AI would like to include in that motion that the Drainage District also include the \$100,000.00.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AThat it is contingent upon them doing a cash payment of \$100,000.00.®

Commissioner Matz stated AYes. I will make that a part of the motion.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AThat was a motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia.®

Mrs. Francisca Camacho, Valley Interfaith, stated AMay I make a comment? I know that you have already agreed where to place the money. Lo voy a decir en español porque la mayoría es lo que entendemos. Nosotros en Laguna Heights sabemos que Green Valley tiene mas necesidad que nosotros. Pero siento que no es justo que ojala que el Condado el otro año o en dos años mas, ponga mas dinero para todas estas comunidades que estan en esta necesidad de drenaje y de componer los caminos. Porque no es justo para la gente que se levanten las expectativas que se va a componer. Que tenemos que compartir unos con otros, no es justo. Estamos con ellos. Sabemos y entendemos. Y ojala que los otros años fiscales se pongan mas dinero para todas estas comunidades que estan en necesidad unas mas que otras. Pero al mismo tiempo todos estamos en esta necesidad. En Laguna Heights, sabemos que se va a comenzar la primera parte Phase 1 y que se va tardar un año mas para volver nosotros aplicar por ese dinero. Mientras tanto vamos a seguir de atras de ustedes por que en este año ese Phase 1 que ya se va hacer, va empezar Phase 2. Le agradecemos y no queremos que estemos encontra de uno y el otro. Y nosotros estabamos cayados pero quisimos comensar a trabajar.®

Commissioner Valencia stated APara nosotros aqui como Commicionados es muy duro tratar de hacer una desicion dura. Hay unos que estan en problemas mas duros que otros. Hay unas Colonias que necesitan mas ayuda que otras. Nosotros queremos hacer consistente con todos. Queremos poder ayudarles a todos, pero desafortunadamente nomas hay cierta cantidad de dinero. El juez Hinojosa es una gran persona, es un buen hombre que quiere ayudarles a todos. Pero para eso estamos aqui, cinco personas para aser la desicion. En este caso creyo que hizo la mejor desicion que se puede hacer. Y ojala que a la proxima, le puedo segurad que entonces si tiene el apoyo mio.®

Judge Hinojosa stated ALet me just make a couple of comments just to clarify and I am going to say this in Spanish too, because I think it is important. This is the first time I have seen this.®

Commissioner Matz stated AI just got it at 5:00 P.M. last night.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AThis is the first time I have seen this and I will address this to Frank and everybody else that has been involved in this thing. This gives us some kind of a quote unquote solution to the problem at Green Valley Acres for the balance of the \$315,000. or \$318,000. plus the \$100,000.00 supposedly committed by Drainage District No. 3. And let me just say a few things because I think it is important that we recognize what we are doing here today, if we do go ahead and accept this. First of all this is drawn up by Jack Brown. Jack Brown is the hired Engineer of Drainage District No. 3. He never once came to the Commissioners=Court, not once, not one single time and told us that with \$415,000.00 we could design a project that would alleviate the drainage problems in Green Valley

Acres. Not once. Not one single time since I have been the County Judge. And in fact, he was the consultant that received the Colonia Grant Planning Grant from the Cameron County Commissioners=Court to do a Planning Grant for Green Valley Acres two years ago. Today, for the first time, I received this thing at 9:30 A.M. in the morning on the date that we make a decision, Commissioner. And with all due respect, I respect your decision and I understand why you are doing it because I have seen what you have seen in Green Valley Acres. What troubles me more than anything else is that if this is so simple, when he came in with a 1.7 million dollar proposal to solve the problems in Green Valley Acres, that today at 9:30 A.M. he comes forward with a proposal to be able to resolve it at \$415,000.00 with a \$100,000.00 cash, without even a Resolution by them. Without a letter, without anything from Drainage District No. 3 saying that in fact they will put in a \$100,000.00 in cash, when they have never lifted a finger for this community once before. This is Jack Brown=s proposal through Drainage District No. 3, not Jack Brown=s proposal pro-bono Engineer. This is Jack Brown=s proposal for Drainage District No. 3. For them to come all of a sudden and tell us that even though they, two years ago, told us that it was going to cost us 1.7 million dollars to resolve this issue. To come to this Commissioners= Court with a proposal for \$415,000.00 to resolve this problem, is ludicrous, in my opinion.®

Commissioner Matz stated AJudge, may I please?®

Judge Hinojosa responded AI am sorry. I didn=t interrupt you, Commissioner. And I think lately we have been trying to be civil with one another and I respect your opinion and I understand. You are even in a difficult position because you have got two different communities in your Precinct that we are trying to resolve this issue. But I think and I understand and I respect the good intentions of Commissioner Matz wanting to resolve the drainage issue over there. But for practical reasons, I was out there, I was in the water at Green Valley Acres, in the sewage up to my chest in the last flood over there, taking people out on a deuce and a half truck all day long. And I know how bad it gets out there. And I saw how much those families suffered. But for practical purposes, I just don=t see that we have a concrete proposal that is workable and it is really hard for us to make a decision at 9:30 A.M. when we are presented this thing for the first time without any understanding on how it is going to work, in order for us to make a decision on how to spend \$315,000.00. If that is the case, then my feeling is, I would rather study this a little bit more. If we have got a little bit of time, let us go back and take a look at it quite clearly. I don=t have the votes based upon this today, but if we are going to make a decision, let us spend a little more time to take a look if this is even workable. I believe that there is no question in anybody=s mind that the Laguna Heights proposal is workable. It will work. We have been told that it will cost more than a million dollars. It is a project that needs to be finished. It is a community about six times the size of Green Valley Acres that we need to focus in on. And that is the basic reason why I feel that this is just not the right way to go. I respect why you all want to do it and I know you have seen it just like everybody else has, but I

don't think that it is a wise way for us to spend the money, based upon the limited information that we receive at 9:30 this morning for a group of people that for the last thirty years haven't lifted a finger for that community. That was what Drainage District Consolidation was all about. That is who should be spending the money to resolve the drainage issues in that area. And they never have. And now all of a sudden they decide that they can do it. I just don't buy into that. And so, for that reason I am opposed to that. I would at this time, make a motion to Table the motion on the table that was made by Commissioner Matz until such time as we are able to study this Green Valley proposal that Mr. Brown submitted in more detail. Do I have a second to my motion to Table?@

Commissioner Benavides stated "Let me tell you, Judge, I respect all your comments and I was listening to Commissioner Valencia and everyone else that spoke here. My view on all this is to have something done. I don't really care if it is Valle Escondido or Cameron Park or Green Valley or anywhere. I met with these people yesterday because I was happy to be asked to go over there and I listened to them. And I like to listen and listen to everyone's opinion and ideas because that is how you learn on how to make that decision here. And when Ms. Camacho got up and said "I am happy to see Green Acres get this," I was happy to hear that, because that is the way that I feel. If we couldn't win over here maybe we can win over there. That is the way I look at things and at this point, yes, it is a good idea, Judge, to take a step back and look at all this. But when we come back and we don't have anything better than what we have right now, I am going to support Green Acres because I want something done. And if we can't do Green Acres let's go back to Laguna Heights and do that. I want to do something. I don't want to sit here and really get angry about things that are good for the people. I want to make a decision. Yes, this was given to us this morning, I don't know anything about it and I haven't looked at it. It is a good idea to take a step back, maybe for a week or so. And come back and make a final decision on this.@"

Judge Hinojosa asked "Are you seconding my motion to Table?@"

Commissioner Benavides replied "Yes.@"

Commissioner Matz stated "If I could say what I was going to try to say awhile ago. Jack Brown never represented to me and I don't think he has represented to anybody else on the Court, that this is a full solution to the problem in Green Valley Farms. Certainly, I didn't make that representation.@"

Judge Hinojosa asked "But what will it do, James.@"

Commissioner Matz responded "What I am representing is, well, just what I have mentioned during the discussion, Judge. And it is in that Memorandum that I passed out. Why don't you take a look at that. On the last page there is a significant discussion here of exactly what will be done.@"

Judge Hinojosa questioned "No, but what will it do to the situation there, is what I am asking?@"

Commissioner Matz replied AWhat you find in the Memorandum is again, a description of that, which is that AThis project could effectively provide all the drainage necessary in the event of a five year storm and under any circumstances, provide much faster drainage during heavier storms.@ So, this is not a total final solution. It is a very important first step to eliminate the flooding of the septic fields and the contamination of the public health threat.@"

Judge Hinojosa questioned ABut why was this not a solution that was presented to us two years ago when he did his Colonia Study. Why were we not told two years ago that was about half a million dollars, or maybe a little bit less, we could have a major impact on the drainage issues on that community. If that is the case, we would have done a heck of a lot more up to now to resolve this issue. For the first time at 9:30 a.m. in the morning , the guy that was in charge of doing the whole Colonia Study comes forth and says Awell, you know, maybe the 1.7 million dollars that I suggested last time was a little bit too much. We can do a short term solution that is going to resolve a large part of their drainage problems with less than \$400,000.00. It is \$398,000.00. It is a heck of a lot different than 1.7 million dollars. I mean, that troubles me enough to say, lets go back and take a look at this thing. How is it going to work. Let me tell you something, Commissioner, I will give you my commitment right now, if he can come forward and tell me that with \$400,000.00, he will resolve a large part of the drainage problems in Green Valley Acres, I will make the damn motion. I will make the damn motion next week that says we should do this with \$400,000.00 we can resolve it all, because dammit, excuse my cussing here, but that is incredible to me. I mean, I thought this was an insurmountable burden that we had to approach two years ago when they gave the 1.7 million dollar figure. And all of us sat here and said Awhere are we going to get this money.@" In fact, you joined me when we met with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and we told them that they were wrong in forcing us to only apply for Water and Sewage Projects when it came to Colonia Construction Grants and that they should open it up. And the one example that we used was Green Valley Acres. But if you are telling me, if Jack Brown comes in here next week or whenever we bring this up and says. And in fact, we don't even have to do it next Tuesday. We can have a Special Meeting where we can sit down and have him come forward and says Aif we do this for \$400,000.00, you are not going to see the flooding we have all seen and watched families suffer through the last I don't know how long. And I think even the people from Laguna Heights will say Ago ahead and do it because we need to get that done.@"

Commissioner Matz stated AI think they have already said that.@"

Judge Hinojosa stated AEverybody feels that way. If we can resolve this issue for \$400,000.00 in Green Acres, lets do it. And we will find the balance of what we need to finish up Phase 2 for Laguna Heights. We will find it somewhere even in the County Budget or somewhere else.@"

Commissioner Valencia stated AJust a minute ago that we made our motions, I didn't quite understand Commissioner Cascos= motion.@

Commissioner Cascos replied AI didn't make a motion.@

Commissioner Valencia questioned ADid you abstain?@

Judge Hinojosa responded AHe abstained.@

Commissioner Cascos asked AOn the first issue.@

Commissioner Matz stated AOn the first vote.@

Commissioner Cascos stated AYes, I abstained on it.@

Judge Hinojosa stated AWhat I just said while you were gone Commissioner Cascos. And I am saying this with the deepest respect to Commissioner Matz because I know that he is concerned on this issue. What we were told two years ago when Mr. Brown presented his Colonia Study, that in order for us to resolve the drainage issues in Green Valley Acres it was going to cost us 1.7 million dollars. And we just went Awhere are we going to find this money?@ All of a sudden we have presented with this today. What I told him is this, if Mr. Brown comes in here next week or whenever we talk about this. And if he tells us and we can even do it in a Special Meeting, that with \$400,000.00, that we can resolve a large part of the drainage problems in Green Valley Acres and we put in our \$315,000.00 and they put in their \$100,000.00. Or it maybe even a \$100,000.00, or whatever, for \$500,000.00. We take a \$100,000.00.@

Commissioner Cascos questioned AThen you will consider this?@

Judge Hinojosa replied ANo. Then, I will make the damn motion. I will make the motion. And you second the motion.@

Commissioner Cascos stated ALet us go back. When we got, and this is before you got on the Court, we had a proposal that was done on how much it would take to improve the conditions in Cameron Park.@

Judge Hinojosa stated AI'm sorry?@

Commissioner Cascos stated ABefore you got on the Court, we had a, I think it was Blum, Mike Blum that did a presentation to the Court as to how much money it would take to improve the conditions in Cameron Park. To solve its problem, it was thirty million dollars, thirty five millions dollars. And we didn't throw up our hands at that point and say Awell, let's forget it, we can't do anything. We will just do it bit, by bit, by bit. And Tivie, you were on the Court when that happened. And it was something that was unrealistic for us to try to achieve. The same thing is happening here. Jack came two years ago and said it is going to cost 1.7 millions dollars and now it is \$415,000.00. I agree with you. I think he should come in and tell us what are we going to get for \$415,000.00. Is it going to alleviate ten percent (10%) of the problem or eighty percent (80%) of the problem? We don't know. And maybe at that point in

time, we can decide what approach we want to take. I don't have a problem at this point. I am going to support Green Valley Farms, but I would like to.

Judge Hinojosa stated "If it means it is going to do something."

Commissioner Cascos stated "Yes, if the \$415,000.00 that is being represented is going to alleviate the lion share of the problem. If he comes in and says "well, you know, instead of getting waters all into your bedrooms, it is just going to get into your living rooms. Well, that isn't going to make it for me. So, I would like to support Tabling it for a week and having Jack come in and explain to us what we are going to get for \$415,000.00. I am not withdrawing my support for Green Valley. But at the same time, we are almost in the same stage with the Laguna Heights area. We don't know what 1.4 million, whatever this number is that people are talking about, is going to do. Because I have not seen anything either. I have not been involved in conversations with anyone. So just with the meetings that you all have been having with the Empowerment Zone, no representations have been made to me. I don't know what took place. What I am saying is that if we get Jack to come in next week and tell us "this is what it is going to alleviate with \$415,000.00" and if it passes the smell test, then we'll go. If it doesn't then we take a step back and say this is what we are going to need."

Commissioner Valencia asked "My question was, how you stood on this decision. Are you for it or against it?"

Commissioner Cascos questioned "Which decision is that?"

Commissioner Valencia replied "On the one we just voted for Green Valley Farms."

Commissioner Cascos stated "Well, we haven't voted yet. It was just a motion and a second. I wasn't here to vote."

Commissioner Valencia stated "Well, I think you abstained."

Judge Hinojosa stated "On the first one."

Commissioner Cascos confirmed "I abstained on that."

Judge Hinojosa stated "But he says he will support Tabling until we bring Jack Brown in. And he can tell us "hey, I can do a bunch, we can pretty much resolve the drainage issues in Green Valley Acres with this number, let's do it."

Commissioner Cascos stated "I don't mind waiting, Judge. I will vote on that."

Commissioner Cascos stated "I will tell you what. I don't think we have a choice right now. I guess what I am saying is if he comes in with 1.4 million will alleviate a hundred percent of the problem, if a third of that alleviates at least a third of that, then we can mix something up. But if it only alleviates five percent of the problem then..."

Commissioner Valencia stated AI don't mind waiting a week or so, Commissioner. I just want to know when we vote. I want a yes or a no.@

Commissioner Cascos stated AI don't know what your question is.@

Judge Hinojosa stated AHe doesn't want you to abstain. I think he is going to vote with you.@

Commissioner Benavides stated AJudge, I seconded that motion to Table it, so let's Table it.@

Commissioner Cascos stated AIf it Tables, the way I vote whether it is for or against, if it is Tabled you are not going to know till next Tuesday.@

Commissioner Matz stated AMy first comment again is, there is no representation that this is going to solve all the problems in Green Valley Farms. The representation is exactly what it is in the Memorandum that I passed to everyone and that I read again. Frank how do we stand on the timing?@

Mr. Bejarano replied AThe applications are due on April 20<sup>th</sup> and the longer we delay, the harder it is going to be.@

Commissioner Matz stated AWell, we have that meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> though.@

Judge Hinojosa asked AWhat a Commissioners= Meeting?@

Commissioner Matz responded ANo. Regional Resource Review Committee. RRC, that is the 31<sup>st</sup> of March.@

Mr. Bejarano stated ABut the applications are due to the State on the 20<sup>th</sup>.@

Judge Hinojosa stated AWell, that is plenty of time.@

Commissioner Cascos stated AOn this Memo, James, you wrote it up?@

Commissioner Matz replied AYes.@

Commissioner Cascos stated AIf you go to the first paragraph where it says Athe project would have a major positive effect in reducing flooding@, and I think that the next to the last paragraph Athis project could effectively provide all the drainage necessary in the event of a five year storm,@ I guess I would like to hear what that means coming from Jack.@

Commissioner Matz responded ASure, that is fine.@

Commissioner Cascos stated AI am not withdrawing support. But I think that at this point, in order so that the Court feels comfortable with the Project and if we do come to a consensus, wait a week and listen Jack. If he says what I think he is going to say, then we go forward. I don't think that he was making misrepresentations. I think maybe Jack has had conversations with James and said it was going to alleviate eighty percent of the problem. If that is what it is, then I want to hear it from him to us. If it says it is going to alleviate five percent of the problem, I will tell you now, I am going to have a problem with that.@

Commissioner Valencia stated AI will second the motion.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AThere is a motion and a second to Table. All those in favor?®

Commissioner Cascos stated AHold on. We have another motion on the table.®

Mr. Doug Wright, Commissioners=Court Legal Counsel, stated ANow, you have got a Special Meeting set for the 25<sup>th</sup>, it is set for 9:30 A.M. If you want to contact Jack Brown and have him in here at 8:00 A.M. and recess it until that time and tell him to come in and give you a presentation.®

Commissioner Matz questioned AWhat time is that Meeting set for?®

Mr. Wright replied A9:30 A.M.®

Commissioner Matz stated ASet it for 9:00 A.M.?®

Commissioner Cascos stated A8:30 A.M.?®

Commissioner Matz stated AWe don't need that much time. All you need to hear is what Jack has to say.®

Mr. Wright stated AYou don't need to Table it, just pass the issue until you go into the Regular Meeting.®

Judge Hinojosa stated AI don't know if a half an hour is going to be enough time.®

Commissioner Cascos questioned ADo you want to make at 8:30 A.M.?

Judge Hinojosa asked AWhat time are the Workshops scheduled, every half hour?®

Commissioner Cascos replied AI think it starts at 9:30 A.M.®

Judge Hinojosa questioned AThere is four people that we are going to interview? We are only on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are a month away. Why can't it wait till our next regular meeting? Let's not rush this thing. We will Table it until the next Regular Meeting.®

Commissioner Cascos stated AOkay, but we have four motions. Which one do we do first?®

Judge Hinojosa stated AThe motion to Table wins. There is a motion to Table. All those in favor signify by say Aaye.® Aye.®

Commissioner Benavides stated AAye.®

Commissioner Cascos stated AAye.®

Commissioner Matz stated AAye.®

Commissioner Valencia stated AAye.®

Judge Hinojosa asked AAll those opposed?®

Commissioner Cascos confirmed AFor one week?®

Judge Hinojosa stated ATill the next Regular Meeting.®

Commissioner Cascos questioned AWho is going to contact Jack Brown?®

Judge Hinojosa asked AJames?@

Commissioner Matz replied AI can. I will be glad to.@

Judge Hinojosa stated AMatter is Tabled.@

**The Memorandum and Report are as follow:**

**NOT ON AGENDA**

At this time, Mr. David Garza, El Norte Subdivision resident, expressed concern as to the acceptance of the roads in the El Norte Subdivision into the County Road System.

Commissioner Cascos stated that the determination as to whether the roads were accepted into the County Road System or whether they were dedicated would need to be determined before proceeding with the improvements to the roads. He stated that if the determination was made that the roads were accepted by the County, the roads would need to be scheduled into the Public Works maintenance schedule.

Commissioner Matz noted that there were two (2) letters on file from two (2) different County Engineers which reflected that the roads were never accepted by the County and requested that Mr. Juan Bernal, County Engineer, should research and determine the facts, in order to make a recommendation to the Court.

**(5) PRESENTATION OF Y2K PROGRESS UPDATE AND SCHEDULE**

At this time, Mr. Ronnie Saenz, Sheriff's Department, briefly highlighted the Year 2000 Progress Update and schedule for the Dispatch/911 Systems, Sheriff's Department and Constables.

Commissioner Benavides moved that the Presentation of the Y2K progress update and schedule for the Dispatch/ 911, Sheriff's and Constable Departments be acknowledged.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

**(6) ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL AND SENATE BILL 1599**

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Resolution supporting House Bill and Senate Bill 1599 was adopted.

**The Resolution is as follows:**

**(7) APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
CAMERON COUNTY AND TEXAS TITLE AND  
REGISTRATION CONSULTANT,  
INCORPORATED, TO PROVIDE AUCTION  
SERVICES FOR ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Agreement between Cameron County and Texas Title and Registration Consultant, Incorporated, to provide auction services for abandoned vehicles was approved.

**The Agreement is as follows:**

**(8) IN THE MATTER OF THE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 17 (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED** for one (1) week.



**(9) APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND MS. BETTY OGLE AS RECREATION PROGRAMS DIRECTOR AT ISLA BLANCA PARK**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Agreement between Cameron County and Ms. Betty Ogle as Recreation Programs Director at Isla Blanca Park was approved.

**The Agreement is as follows:**

- (10) **APPROVAL OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DOCUMENT NO. 7460004207 99-05; ATTACHMENT NO. 04A: TB-PREVENTION AND CONTROL**
  
- (11) **APPROVAL OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DOCUMENT NO. 7460004207 1999-06; ATTACHMENT NO. 07: CHILDREN-S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM**

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Texas Department of Health Documents No. 7460004207 99-05; Attachment No. 04A: TB-Prevention and Control and No. 7460004207 1999-07; Attachment No. 07: Children-s Health Insurance Program were approved.

**The Contracts are as follow:**

**(12) APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO CONTRACT WITH CUBCO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR THE SUNNY SKIES CONSTRUCTION PROJECT (TCDP CONTRACT NO. 716035)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, Change Order No. 1 to Contract with Cubco Construction Company for the Sunny Skies Construction Project, that being the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) Contract No. 716035, was approved.

**The Order is as follows:**

**(14) APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN  
ZIMMERMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY,  
INCORPORATED AND CAMERON COUNTY  
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE N.W. PARKING LOT  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Contract between Zimmerman Construction Company, Incorporated and Cameron County for the construction of the County Courthouse N.W. Parking Lot Improvement Project was approved, subject to approval of the Bonds.

**The Contract is as follows:**

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE RECOMMENDED FOR ACONSENT® AND WERE EITHER RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT HEAD, WITHIN BUDGET OR AWARDED TO THE LOW BIDDER:**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the AConsent® Agenda Items were approved as follow:

**(15) TRAVEL AND/OR TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR THE FOLLOWING, SUBJECT TO FUNDS IN THEIR BUDGET AND ALL APPLICABLE COUNTY POLICIES:**

- a) Seven (7) County Extension Agents to attend the ADistrict 12 Secretarial Training at the Coastal Bend Community College in Alice, Texas, on April 17, 1999;
- b) Sheriff-s Department employee to attend the ADiversionary Device Instructor Course® in Beaumont, Texas, on March 21-25, 1999;
- c) County Clerk to testify on behalf of House Bill 1599, Courthouse Restoration and Records Management Bill in Austin, Texas, on March 24, 1999;
- d) Three (3) Assistant County (Criminal District) Attorneys to attend the A1999 TDCAA Civil Law Seminar® in Houston, Texas, on April 27-30, 1999;
- e) Drug Enforcement Task Force Commander to attend the ABorder Commanders Meeting® in San Antonio, Texas, on March 23-24, 1999;
- f) Tax Office employee to attend the ATAAO Assessment and Collections Educational Course® in Austin, Texas, on April 11-17, 1999;
- g) Commissions=Court Members to attend the ACounty Judge-s and Commissioners=Association Conference® in Galveston, Texas, on June 27-30, 1999;
- h) Juvenile Training Officer and the JJAEP Administrator to train Probation Officers at the south Texas Regional SJS Training Workshop, sponsored by TJPC in Corpus Christi, Texas, on March 21-26, 1999;
- I) Juvenile Probation Officer to attend a AWeed and Seed Defy Train the Trainer Conference® in Dallas, Texas, on March 22-26, 1999;
- j) Health Department employee to attend the ATexas Department of Health., Local Health Department Training on Chronic Disease Programs® in Plano, Texas, on April 18-20, 1999;
- k) Constable Precinct No. 2 to attend the ACivil Process School® in San Antonio, Texas, on February 21-24, 1999; and
- l) Two (2) Sheriff-s Department employees to attend the ATactical and Perimeter Rifle Instructor Course® in Dallas, Texas, on April 14-19, 1999.

**(16) PRELIMINARY AND FINAL APPROVAL**

**a) Precinct No. 4**

Juan Carlos Cortez Subdivision - being 2.576 acres of land out of Block No. 164 San Benito Land and Water Company.

**(17) PRELIMINARY APPROVAL**

**a) Precinct No. 4**

Las Bougainvilleas Subdivision - a replat of the West 10.0 acres of land out of the East 20.0 acres of Block No. 4, Lee Minner Subdivision.

**(18) OPEN REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 99-02-03 COLONIA SELF-HELP CENTER SERVICE PROVIDER CAMERON AND WILLACY COUNTIES SELF-HELP CENTER**

**The Request for Proposal opened and received are as follow:**

**(19) AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE VENDOR/BRANDS ON BID AWARD FOR ANNUAL BID NO. 2014-COMMISSARY SNACK**



**(20) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 11:05 A.M. to discuss the following matters:

- a) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning a Building located at 174 North Sam Houston Street, San Benito, Texas; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072;
- b) Confer with County Counsel concerning the case styled Federico Vasquez vs. Cameron County, Case No. B-98-021, in the United States District Court-Brownsville, to discuss the status of the case and authorize settlement; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 5513071 (1)(A)&(B);
- c) Confer with County Counsel to discuss the claim of Andres Perez, Jr.; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (1)(A); and
- d) Evaluation of the Interim/Maintenance Director; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.074(1).

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in Regular Session at 12:13 P.M.



**(21) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a) **Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning a building located at 174 North Sam Houston Street, San Benito, Texas.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, Mr. Joseph Ardito, Property Management Coordinator, was directed to retain Realty Check to perform an inspection on the building located at 174 North Sam Houston Street, San Benito, Texas, and the payment to Ambiotech was approved.

**The Agreement is as follows:**

- b) **Confer with County Counsel concerning the case styled Federico Vasquez vs. Cameron County, Case No. B-98-021, in the United States District Court-Brownsville, to discuss the status of the case and authorize settlement.**

Commissioner Matz moved that the Status Report by County Counsel be acknowledged regarding the case styled Federico Vasquez vs. Cameron County, Case No. B-98-021, in the United States District Court-Brownsville.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

- c) **Confer with County Counsel to discuss the claim of Andres Perez, Jr.**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the settlement of the claim for Mr. Andres Perez, Jr., be approved, subject to the negotiations by the Commissioners- Court Legal Counsel and that the funding source be designated from the Sheriff's Department Budget.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

- d) **Evaluation of the Interim/Maintenance Director.**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the positive evaluation of the Interim/Maintenance Director be acknowledged and that Mr. Roger Ortiz be hired as the Maintenance Director with an annual salary of \$45,000.00, plus a County vehicle.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

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There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 12:15 P.M.

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**APPROVED** this **14th** day of **April, 1999**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**GILBERTO HINOJOSA**  
**COUNTY JUDGE**

**ATTEST:**

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