

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 12th day of SEPTEMBER, 2000, 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 ATIVIE@ 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 9:43 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 September 8, 2000, at 12:20 P.M.:

**(1) APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides 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 Benavides moved that the 2000 Fiscal Year Budget Amendment No. 2000-42 be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

**The Budget Amendments are as follow:**

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

At this time, Ms. JuaNita Brodecky, Rio Hondo resident, expressed concern as to the delay in approving of the Minutes and noted that certified copies of minutes would not be available to the public until they were approved.

Commissioner Cascos explained that due to various reasons, the Court was not prepared to approve the Minutes at the time they were presented, but noted that the Minutes had been submitted by the County Clerk-s Office in a timely manner.

Commissioner Benavides moved that the following Minutes be approved, subject to the correction noted on Item No. 10 of the August 29, 2000, Meeting:

- a) August 8, 2000, Regular Meeting, Tabled August 22, 2000, August 29, 2000, and September 5, 2000;
- b) August 14, 2000, Emergency Meeting, Tabled September 22, 2000, August 29, 2000, and September 5, 2000;
- c) August 15, 2000, Regular Meeting, Tabled August 29, 2000 and September 5, 2000;
- d) August 29, 2000, Regular Meeting, Tabled September 5, 2000; and
- e) September 5, 2000, Regular Meeting.

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

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

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAINED:** Commissioner Valencia, as to the Minutes of August 15, 2000.

**(4) PRESENTATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR FACILITIES RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE AT LOS TOMATES/GENERAL IGNACIO ZARAGOZA BY INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS**

At this time, Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Bridge Systems Director, presented the Transportation Achievement Award for Facilities, recognizing the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates/General Ignacio Zaragoza, by the Institute of Transportation Engineers and noted that the organization was composed of fifteen thousand Transportation Engineers from throughout the world. He explained that the award was based on the complexity of the project, the ability of the project sponsor to incorporate efforts from different entities, the ability to incorporate creativity of the design and construction and the benefits provided to the community and the region.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Presentation of the Transportation Achievement Award for Facilities, recognizing the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates/General Ignacio Zaragoza by Institute of Transportation Engineers, was acknowledged.

(5) **PRESENTATION BY MR. JIM LEHMAN, OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION, RECOGNIZING THE CAMERON COUNTY CLERK-S COLLECTION DEPARTMENT AS A PROGRAM OF THE QUARTER® IN THE STATE OF TEXAS**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Presentation by Mr. Jim Lehman, Office of Court Administration, recognizing the Cameron County Clerk-s Collection Department as the AProgram of the Quarter® in the State of Texas, was acknowledged.

At this time, Mr. Jim Lehman, Office of Court Administration, presented the Certificate recognizing the Collections Department as the AProgram of the Quarter® which was the highest honor given by the Agency and stated that Cameron County was ranked as one of the highest in the State of Texas.

Mr. Joe G. Rivera, County Clerk, noted that the Collections Department, in conjunction with the Constables and Sheriff-s Department, would continue the commitment collecting delinquent accounts of fines and court costs by implementing a once a month Raid Program which would target all areas necessary to locate the individuals.

Commissioner Valencia suggested that the Deputy Constables throughout the County be utilized to perform the raids in their respective Precincts, due to their knowledge of the areas and constituents.

(6) **AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING SETTING THE TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001 FOR CAMERON COUNTY**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Public Hearing regarding setting the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2000-2001 for Cameron County, was opened for public comment.

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, highlighted the Cameron County Tax Analysis Fiscal Year 2000-2001 and reported that the Tax Rate would be set at 0.345843 cents per \$100 valuation, based on the valuation of \$7.5 billion dollars, which would be a total levy of \$26,004,503. at 100% collection rate.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa highlighted and specified the General Fund Increases which resulted in the tax increase of approximately two (2) cents as referenced in the Cameron County Budget Highlights for Fiscal Year 2000-2001. He noted that the tax increase would generate \$3.27 million at a 100% collection rate, noting that there was still a shortfall of one million dollars and added that the one million dollars would be generated from the increase in commercial vehicle tolls at the International Bridges. Judge Hinojosa stated that County Jail to be constructed would

cost the amount of \$22 million and noted that the County Jail was necessary to be built to satisfy the capacity rate. He noted that the United States Marshall's Office was funding \$3 million and added that the County had a Contract with the U.S. Marshall's Office to house four hundred federal inmates, which would help defray costs of the construction and operations of the facility. Judge Hinojosa stated that the proposed tax rate had been reduced by one cent by utilizing funds from the reserves accumulated in the Public Works Department, noting that Public Works Reserve level was four times above the required level.

Commissioner Matz questioned whether the Road and Bridge Funds would need to be paid back to the Public Works Reserves Fund.

Mr. Yates explained that if the funds were borrowed from the Road and Bridge existing funds, the funds would have to be paid back, but noted that the County was notifying the public that a certain amount of reserves were being utilized to reduce to the Tax Rate, which would leave a reserve balance of \$2.4 million.

Judge Hinojosa noted that the amount of \$2.4 million in reserves was still double the amount that the reserves should have and added that the reserve would increase with the collection of Bail Bond Forfeitures.

At this time, Commissioner Matz stated that the Court had never taken the position to determine the appropriate amount of the Road and Bridge reserves and added that the reserves were considered emergency funds in the event of a major disaster. He added that there was a need for much road and bridge work in Precincts No. 3 and No. 4 and expressed his opposition as to utilizing Road and Bridge Funds to support the General Budget.

Judge Hinojosa expressed his opposition to raising taxes more than necessary and added that cuts in the Elected Officials' salaries by 10%, as proposed by Commissioner Precinct No. 2, would not generate more than \$150,000. He stated that the Reserves Fund was for emergency situations like the General Budget emergency fund, but noted that the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) reimbursed eighty percent (80%) of the funds allocated from the reserves fund in the case of a hurricane, noting that there was an adequate amount in the Reserves Fund.

Commissioner Valencia expressed his support to borrow from the Road and Bridge Reserves Fund to prevent the increase in taxes for the taxpayers, but stated that in the event that additional funds were needed for the Road and Bridge Fund, the funds should be paid back.

Mr. Yates stated that it would be difficult to pay the one cent rate back into the Road and Bridge Reserve Fund and added that the Federal Grants, which were not constant nor reliable, should not be anticipated, due to changes in administration.

Commissioner Matz stated that he had supported the need for the new County Jail Facilities, but clarified that he had opposed the method of financing utilizing the Certificates of Obligation, as opposed to going to the voters for the

Bond issue. He stated that the County would have obtained voter approval on the bond issue which would have educated the voters as to the two cent increase in taxes.

Judge Hinojosa questioned the approach if the voters had not elected to build the Jail through a bond issue and Commissioner Matz responded that he believed the voters would have approved it, if the Court was doing their job.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the voters elected the members of the Court to make the decisions and added that the County did not have a choice as to building the jail. He stated that it would cost the same to build the jail whether Certificates of Obligation or a General Obligation Bond was issued. Judge Hinojosa stated that Commissioner Matz had never stated that he agreed to building the jail, subject to the project being submitted to the voters for a Bond Election.

Commissioner Matz clarified that in every instance he opposed the matter, it was on the basis of the issuance of Certificates of Obligation.

Judge Hinojosa stated that when Commissioner Matz voted for the matter, he did not state that he would vote for the issue, subject to the issuance of Certificates of Obligation.

At this time, Mr. Dagoberto Barrera, Brownsville resident, expressed his support as to the manner in which the budget was presented and added that by informing the public of the budget increases, it helped the public understand the reason behind the tax increases. He suggested that once the new County Jail was built, the Detention Centers should be utilized in order to generate funds and that Elected officials should continue to generate the revenues and cut back on the expenses. Mr. Barrera stated that Special Meetings should be held in the evenings for the public to attend and added that the working class residents were unable to attend the meetings during the day. He stated that the residents were interested in good government, as opposed to being against the Court or County and requested that the taxes not be increased in the next year. He stated that all the local entities were proposing tax increases and noted that the majority of the residents lived on fixed incomes and it was difficult to pay all the increases.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the remaining beds at the new County Jail would be leased, in order to generate more revenues and added that the County had been engaging in projects that generated revenues, such as the International Bridges. He noted that the County had a Parks System that was completely funded from the Park Tolls and that the County Clerk's Office had been given additional resources and implemented a plan to generate additional revenues. Judge Hinojosa agreed that all the Commissioners' Court Meetings should be held in the evenings at times when the working people were able to attend.

At this time, Ms. JuaNita Brodecky, Rio Hondo resident, expressed her concern as to the tax increases by all the entities and added that the entities were not conserving the finances. She suggested that travel budgets should be reduced and that qualified individuals should be hired, in order to avoid sending the employees out of the County to be trained

and educated. Ms. Brodecky noted that the Elected Officials should be given the option of a reduction in pay or a County vehicle and expressed her opposition as to an across the board cost of living increase, noting that increases should be based on job evaluations. She stated that the Court had the obligation to manage the taxpayers' money in an appropriate manner.

Mr. Juan Ralph, Cameron County resident, questioned why the State did not provide assistance to the costs of the County and Judge Hinojosa responded that the State did house the inmates, noting that it was the responsibility of the County to pay for the time inmates were incarcerated.

At this time, Commissioner Cascos noted that the amount of \$225 million in new accounts on the tax roll had not been mentioned and that the new accounts totaled approximately \$800,000. He noted that part of the tax increase was a result from issues that had occurred over several years and added that the County would be in a similar situation in the next year. Commissioner Cascos stated that there was a decrease of either 11% or 33% in the General Fund, Fund Balance and noted that the Bond Rating Agencies based the ratings on the amount in Fund Balance.

Mr. Yates stated that the Budget Advisories reflected a reduction in revenues based on the low collection in tax rate and lower collections in the County Court at Law revenues. He stated that Fund Balance would fall between \$500,000. to \$700,000.

Commissioner Cascos noted that allocating the funds from the Road and Bridge Reserves Fund would alleviate the tax increase for the taxpayers, but would not help the General Fund. He noted that the cost of living increases and the upgrades in the District Clerk's Office and Juvenile Probation Department were not included in the list of increases highlighted by the County Judge. Commissioner Cascos expressed concern as to whether the reductions in the extra-help and cuts in the budget were done arbitrarily, noting that the Department Heads had stated that their Departments would not run properly with the reduction of extra-help slots. He reported that there were numerous Elected Officials who had received an excess of the cost of living adjustments that had been provided to the County employees in the last five years and added that there were Departments that had increased by seventy-seven percent (77%) in the last five years and thirty-seven percent (37%) in the last two years. He stated that said areas should be addressed to determine where reductions could be made, in order to allow for expenses in some areas to provide a cost of living adjustment for the employees. He stated that the Elected Officials were not at will and had guaranteed jobs for four (4) years with benefits and added that the Elected Officials were aware of the salary when they ran for office. Commissioner Cascos noted that it was a disservice for Elected Officials to grieve or request for an increase above what the County could give and added that the reward for performing their jobs well was being re-elected by the voters. He expressed concern as to whether the County could continue to afford \$500,000.00 for the Boot Camp and added that the expenditures were affordable, due to

assistance by the State. Commissioner Cascos noted that there issues which were not anticipated, such as the increase in the employee Health Insurance and suggested that the Insurance Committee appoint a Chair Person and report to the Court on a monthly basis. He stated that the budget was Afat free®, but noted that the increase in taxes resulted from matters supported, but not anticipated by the Court. He suggested that the Boot Camp costs be addressed and requested that the plans by the County Auditor to upgrade the Juvenile Probation Officers, the slots in the District Clerk-s Office and the cost of living increases be submitted to the Court.

Mr. Yates noted that the Auditor-s Office was awaiting information on staff funds and added that the County Clerk-s Office had submitted projected revenues based on current activity which would be reviewed.

Judge Hinojosa noted that statements were made which were not based on reality or critical facts and added that Commissioner Cascos expressed concern as to how the reduction of reserves in the General Budget would affect the bond ratings. He stated that the matter was discussed in detail in New York in the process of obtaining the bond ratings from the Bond Rating Agencies and added that the matter had been discussed with the Rating Agencies and the Insurance Company insuring the bonds. Judge Hinojosa explained that as a result from discussing the matter with the rating agencies, the County was rated AA+® by one agency, the second agency increased the County to AAA® above the prior AA®, and the last agency kept the same rating and noted that the higher bond ratings resulted in lower interest rates.

Commissioner Cascos questioned whether the County Auditor had informed the rating agencies that the General Budget Fund Balance would go down thirty-three percent (33%) or eleven percent (11%) and Mr. Yates responded that he had not informed the agencies of the decrease.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the agencies were aware of the County-s financial situation and were aware that the County would have to fund the new jail.

Mr. Yates stated that worst case scenarios were presented in the Budget Advisories, in order to motivate the Departments to generate more revenues.

Judge Hinojosa explained that Cameron County had not had a new District Court in fifteen years and that it had been twenty years since an additional County Court was created two years ago, noting that since those times, the County-s population had doubled. He stated that the Boot Camp had been rated an exemplary boot camp in the State of Texas and added that it cost the County \$500,000.00 to operate the Boot Camp. Judge Hinojosa reported that the Boot Camp decreased the cost in the Juvenile Justice System, since the juveniles-problems were addressed at an early age and made a big difference for the children and their families. He clarified that the County Judge-s Office had increased by thirty-seven percent (37%), due to the addition of the Budget Officer position which was placed in the County Judge-s Budget, noting that the Budget Officer was hired by the Commissioners- Court. Judge Hinojosa noted that there were certain



Commissioners who had employees in their private offices being paid by the County and noted that the slots totaled an annual amount of \$122,000.00.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa questioned the County Clerk's salary at the time he was first elected in 1975 and Mr. Joe G. Rivera, County Clerk, responded that his beginning salary was \$12,000.00.

Mr. Rivera noted that the annual salary of a County Court at Law Judge was also \$12,000.00 and reported that currently, all three (3) County Court at Law Judges were each paid \$110,000.00. He added that the County Clerk's current salary was \$59,000.00, and reported that the revenues and the work load in the County Clerk's Office had increased fifty (50) times since 1975.

Judge Hinojosa questioned when the last increase in commercial tolls at the International Bridges had been conducted and Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Jr., Bridge Systems Director, responded that it had been eight (8) years since there had been an increase on the commercial traffic tolls.

Mr. Sepulveda reported that Laredo charged \$35.00 for overloaded trucks and Cameron County charged \$12.00 per commercial vehicle, noting that a fifteen percent (15%) increase would be consistent, which would be a six percent (6%) increase per year since 1992.

Judge Hinojosa pointed out that efforts were being made to tighten the budget, but noted that the two cents above the existing tax rate was not even adequate to pay for the debt service of the new County Jail.

Commissioner Matz noted that the Health Department and Computer Center were two (2) departments which were in distress and questioned the additional revenue to be generated if the passenger vehicle tolls were increased from \$1.40 to \$1.50.

Mr. Yates responded that the increase in passenger vehicle tolls would total \$391,000.00, and noted that the majority of tolls in other Counties were \$1.50.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the County had an obligation to complete the Dancy Building and noted that the revenues from the increase in tolls would be solely allocated to the Construction Fund for projects such as the Dancy Building. He added that there were significant construction projects that the County had engaged in the last few years consisting of Project Road Map, the Los Tomates and Los Indios International Bridges, and the new Jail, which generated revenues for the County.

Mr. Sepulveda noted that since 1992, two (2) new International Bridges had been created and decreased the traffic lines, which made it more accessible to the commercial vehicles to transport their goods. He added that the County was attempting to extend the hours of operation and would benefit the trade community.

Mr. Barrera questioned whether the Courts generated revenues and Judge Hinojosa responded that the County Courts generated more revenues, due to the types of cases tried by the County Courts.

Mr. Barrera questioned where the new District Court would be housed and whether the creation of the new Court was mandated based on the population.

Judge Hinojosa explained that a Legislative Bill had been passed for the creation of the new District Court and reported that the District Court would be housed where the Law Library currently existed in the County Courthouse. He stated that the cost of the construction was approximately \$700,000.00 and briefly detailed the allocation of the costs to operate the District Court.

Hearing and sensing no further comments, upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Public Hearing was closed.

**The Reports are as follow:**

**(8) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CAMERON COUNTY INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the following individuals were appointed as Members of the Cameron County Insurance Committee and the Committee Members were requested to be Trustees of the Health Insurance Fund and report to the Court on a regular basis:

- Mr. Manuel R. Villarreal, Personnel/Safety Risk Director,
- Mr. Remi Garza, Assistant County Administrator,
- Ms. Nellie Garcia, County Clerk Chief Deputy,
- Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor,
- Mr. Oscar Leal, Precinct No. 4 Office Manager,
- Mr. Doug Wright, Commissioners= Court Legal Counsel,
- Ms. Rosie Sotello, District Clerk=s Office,
- Ms. Maria San Pedro, Director of Nurses,
- Mr. Eddie Gonzales, County Treasurer, and
- Mr. Xavier Villarreal, Budget Officer.

**(9) POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RENEWAL AND/OR SELECTION OF THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR AND STOP-LOSS CARRIER**

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, stated that the Insurance Committee had received a significant increase in the Stop-Loss Insurance concerning the aggregate insurance and that the matter had been forwarded to the current broker, Mr. Johnny Cavazos, Cavazos Insurance, to provide different Stop-Loss quotes. He stated that Mr. Cavazos had presented a program by Mutual of Omaha that would also result in savings on the Third Party Administrator and provided Mutual of Omaha as an alternate to the County=s Plan. Mr. Yates stated that the premiums had been increased from \$2,500.00 to \$2,750.00, per employee in the last year and added that the premiums would be increased to \$3,600.00 per employee for Fiscal Year 2000-2001. He stated that on the current plan, the County employees paid \$15.00, for office visits, \$9.00 for name brand pharmaceuticals and \$5.00 for generic pharmaceuticals and reported that there had been adequate reserves since 1994. Mr. Yates noted that in the last two (2) years, the Fund Balance had decreased and that there had been several major claims. He stated that in order to achieve savings, the plan would have to either be modified to the 80/20 Plan; whereas, the employees=share of the costs were twenty percent (20%) or the co-pays would have to be increased to \$20 to \$25 per employee. Mr. Yates ensured that there would not be changes in pharmaceutical costs until six to eight months, but noted that the deductibles might increase from \$300.00 to \$500.00. He stated that a proposed

increase in Dependent Care Premiums would be addressed in April or May of 2001, and noted that the small changes would save the County approximately thirteen percent (13%).

Judge Hinojosa stated that changing from a 90/10 Plan to an 80/20 Plan would be a significant change for the employees.

Mr. Yates stated that if the County maintained the 90/10 Plan, the premiums for Dependent Care would have to increase. He noted that the 90/10 Plan would only affect the employees who utilized the plan, but stated that if the Dependent Care Premiums were increased, many employees would cancel their dependent coverages.

At this time, Mr. Doug Wright, Commissioners-Court Legal Counsel, expressed his opposition as to placing the financial burden on the employees since the cost of living adjustments might not be allowed, based on budgetary issues and noted that he was not comfortable with placing the burden on the lower paid employees.

Commissioner Valencia concurred that the burden should not be placed on the lower paid employees and suggested that the matter be deferred until all the options were thoroughly reviewed.

Mr. Yates stated that the changes were necessary and that there would be additional burdens to the employees, but reported that if the changes were not implemented, the Fund Balance reserves would be exceeded.

Judge Hinojosa stated that different scenarios and a premium amount for Dependent Care be determined and submitted to the Court and presented to the employees for their opinions.

At this time, Mr. Carey S. Malek, Mutual of Omaha, stated that the change of the Third Party Administrator would save the County \$500,000.00 and emphasized that if the premiums were not implemented, the additional savings would be lost. He stated that the Contract period was from September to August 31<sup>st</sup> and would be backdated to take over the Administration and the Re-Insurance Contracts.

Mr. Yates stated that the Third Party Administrator could be changed under the existing plan and that the changes could then be implemented at any time.

Mr. Malek reiterated that the Plan Administrator could be changed, in order to begin the savings and that the plan changes could be implemented at any time.

Commissioner Matz moved that Mutual of Omaha be selected as the Third Party Administrator and Stop-Loss Carrier, as recommended by Mr. Johnny Cavazos, Cavazos Insurance, subject to Legal review and that the Plan Changes be presented to the Court by the Insurance Committee.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.

**NOTE: JUDGE HINOJOSA LEFT THE COURTROOM.**

- (10) **APPROVAL OF AN EXCEPTION TO COUNTY BIDDING POLICY TO ALLOW UNIDOS PODEMOS TO PURCHASE SCREEN PRINTING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES USING THREE INFORMAL BIDS INSTEAD OF THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS**
- (11) **APPROVAL OF AN EXCEPTION TO COUNTY BIDDING POLICY TO ALLOW UNIDOS PODEMOS TO PURCHASE A COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE, USING THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES BID/CONTRACT INSTEAD OF THE FORMAL COUNTY BIDDING PROCESS**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the exceptions to the County Bidding Policy were approved to allow the Unidos Podemos to purchase screen printing equipment and supplies using three informal bids and a computer and software, using the Texas Department of Information Resources Bid/Contract instead of the formal County Bidding Process, as recommended by the Purchasing Agent.

- (12) **ACTION REGARDING ACQUISITION OF FM/509, PARCEL NO. 7, BEING 0.121 ACRES OUT OF A 5.62 ACRE TRACT, BLOCK NO. 164 AND BLOCK NO. 165, MCLEOD-HOOD PROPERTIES NO. 1**

Commissioner Matz moved that the acquisition of FM/509, Parcel No. 7, being 0.121 acres out of a 5.62 acres tract, Blocks No. 164 and No. 165, McLeod-Hood Properties No. 1, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

- (13) **APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND DCW ARCHITECTS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER**

Commissioner Valencia moved that the Contract between Cameron County and DCW Architects, Houston, Texas, for the expansion of the Juvenile Detention Center be approved, subject to Legal review.

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

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

**NAY:** None

**ABSTAINED:** Commissioner Matz.

- (14) **IN THE MATTER OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO VERMILLION ROAD FROM BOCA CHICA BOULEVARD TO DRAINAGE DITCH (1900 FEET LONG) (TABLED)**

At this time, Mr. Juan Bernal, County Engineer, explained that he had received complaints regarding the roads and the safety of the children concerning Vermillion Road and noted that El Jardin Elementary and Lucio Middle School were in the area. He stated that the County did not provide sidewalks, but recommended that underground pipes be placed by the County to pave over the pipes and widen the road.

Ms. JuaNita Brodecky, Rio Hondo resident, questioned whether the road was on the County's Priority List and Mr. Bernal responded that the matter had been requested by the Vermillion Road residents and was not on the list.

Commissioner Cascos explained that the road was approximately sixteen feet to eighteen feet wide with bar ditches and added that two to three schools had been built in the last five years. He questioned whether the School District was willing to provide the funding for the material, in the amount of \$25,000.00.

Mr. Oscar Tapia, Brownsville Independent School District Facilities Administrator, stated that the cost of the materials had not been provided to the School District and added that the issue had not been presented to the School Board of Trustees for approval of the funding.

**NOTE: JUDGE HINOJOSA RETURNED TO THE COURTROOM.**

At this time, Ms. JuaNita Brodecky, expressed concern as to the Unit Road System which had not been implemented since the voters elected the system and as to the road which was not on the Priority List.

Commissioner Valencia stated that the Priority Road List should be addressed before taking on more roads than the County could maintain, but expressed his support to assist the school district if the funds were available.

Judge Hinojosa clarified that the County did have a successful Unit Road System and had doubled the roads which have been improved and paved in the County. He stated that the Priority List was circulated among the Commissioners, but noted that the List was not etched in stone and could be amended.

Commissioner Cascos suggested that Legal Counsel discuss the matter with the School District to develop an Interlocal Agreement for the School District's participation in the project. He noted that the County continued to grow with schools being constructed in the rural areas and added that the School District should inform and consider the County when deciding to build the schools in the rural areas, in order for the County to properly plan.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the Brownsville Independent School District had never informed the County of their plans to build the schools and added that the County had to plan and avoid the road situations.

Commissioner Benavides stated that the residents had requested assistance by the County concerning the schools in the rural areas and reported that the Brownsville Independent School District had never assisted the County, noting that their support was necessary.

Mr. Doug Wright, Commissioners=Court Legal Counsel, stated that the County had a tight budget to work with and added that the County would be liable if the Engineering Standards that complied with safety was not considered once the road was improved. He suggested that the County Engineering Department should recommend whether there was adequate right-of-way for the improvements and added that condemnation or donations deeds would be necessary if the road was not wide enough.

At this time, Ms. Ofelia Lopez, Figueroa Road resident, expressed her concerns as to the safety of the children who walked to school on the narrow road and added that the speed limits were not obeyed.

Judge Hinojosa explained that the County was limited to improving the road by placing the underground pipes and added that if sidewalks were requested, the School District would have to construct and fund project.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED**, until the matter was reviewed by Legal Counsel, the County Engineer and the School District.

(15) **AWARD OF BID FOR A DOUBLE WIDE  
MODULAR BUILDING TO PROVIDE WIC  
PROGRAM SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS OF  
THE CAMERON PARK COLONIA AND THE  
SURROUNDING AREAS**

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Bid was awarded to CoMark Building Systems, Incorporated, for a modular building to provide Women-s, Infants and Children (WIC) Program Services to the residents of the Cameron Park Colonia and the surrounding areas.

(16) **APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN  
CAMERON COUNTY AND THE TEXAS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE  
WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)  
PROGRAM SERVICES**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Contract between Cameron County and the Texas Department of Health to provide Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program Services be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

**The Contract is as follows:**

**(17) APPROVAL TO EXTEND THE EXPIRATION DATE  
FOR THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO)  
CONTRACT NO. 00-139R FROM SEPTEMBER 30,  
2000, TO MARCH 31, 2001**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the expiration date for the General Land Office (GLO) Contract No. 00-139R was extended from September 30, 2000, to March 31, 2001.

**The Contract is as follows:**



**(18) AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE THE REGION IV INTERLOCAL PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF RECYCLED LASER TONER CARTRIDGES**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Region IV Interlocal Purchasing Agreement be utilized for the purchase of recycled laser toner cartridges.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

**(19) APPROVAL OF THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE LOS FRESNOS CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE SAN BENITO CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING THE ABSENT STUDENT ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Interlocal Cooperation Agreements be approved between Cameron and the Los Fresnos Consolidated Independent School District and the San Benito Consolidated School District regarding the Absent Student Assistant Program.

**The Agreement is as follows:**

**(20) APPROVAL OF SUBSCRIPTION OF OMNISTAR  
G.P.S. TRACKING SERVICES**

Commissioner Valencia moved that the subscription of Omnistar G.P.S. Tracking Services be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.

**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 Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the

AConsent® Agenda Items were approved as follow:

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

- a) District Clerk and three (3) Deputies to attend the ACounty and District Clerks= Association of Texas Region VIII Conference® in McAllen, Texas, on September 13-15, 2000;
- b) Health Department employee to attend the ATexas Association of Local Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Directors Annual Meeting® in South padre Island, Texas, on October 8-11, 2000;
- c) Two (2) Health Department employees to attend the AContinuous Quality Improvement Training® in Corpus Christi, Texas, on September 13, 2000;
- d) Program Development and Management employee to attend the ASecretary of State=s Colonia Information Forum® in Weslaco, Texas, on October 4, 2000; and
- e) Health Department employee to attend the ANASW South Texas Unit Meeting® in McAllen, Texas, on October 19, 2000.

**(22) FINAL APPROVAL**

**a) Precinct No. 4**

**La Feria Terrace Subdivision - a 7.5 acre gross subdivision out of Lot No. 88, Minnesota Texas and Irrigation Company Subdivision.**

**(23) END BIDS**

- a) **FOOD: COFFEE - ANNUAL BID NO. 2120**
- b) **FOOD: DRINK - MIX - ANNUAL BID NO. 2140**
- c) **FOOD: PAN DULCE - ANNUAL BID NO. 2200**
- d) **FOOD: TAMALES - ANNUAL BID NO. 2220**

**(24) RENEW BIDS FOR ONE YEAR**

- a) SAFETY SHOES - ANNUAL BID NO. 2620
- b) FOOD: BREAD - ANNUAL BID NO. 2100
- c) FOOD: MILK - ANNUAL BID NO. 2180
- d) FOOD: EGGS - ANNUAL BID NO. 2160

**(25) ADVERTISE FOR ANNUAL BIDS**

- a) BUILDING: FILTERS - AIR CONDITIONER
- b) BEACH CLEANING - SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
- c) FOOD: MEATS - QUARTERLY
- d) SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL - PARKS
- e) VEHICLE LEASE
- f) JANITORIAL SUPPLIES/CHEMICALS AND CLEANING
- g) FOOD: PRODUCE - MONTHLY
- h) FIRE EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE
- i) SAFETY SUPPLIES
- j) SAFETY GLASSES - PRESCRIPTION
- k) LASER PRINTING - TAX STATEMENTS
- l) PAPER: COMPUTER AND PRINT SHOP
- m) TRANSPORTATION OF INMATES
- n) MATTRESSES
- o) SAFETY SHOES
- p) TOWER SPACE RENTAL - SHERIFF'S RADIOS
- q) FOOD: BREAD
- r) FOOD: EGGS
- s) FOOD: MILK
- t) TELEPHONES - CELLULAR
- u) AUCTIONEER SERVICE

**(26) OPEN BIDS AND/OR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

- a) BUILDING SUPPLIES: PAINT - ANNUAL BID NO. 2008
- b) CAUSEWAY LIGHTING REPAIR - ANNUAL BID NO. 1500
- c) DIETARY SOAP AND CLEANER DISH - ANNUAL BID NO. 2060
- d) FUEL - ANNUAL BID NO. 2280
- e) MEDICAL SUPPLIES - ANNUAL BID NO. 2294
- f) TWO (2) DUMP TRUCKS
- g) TWO (2) WATER TRUCKS
- h) AIRPORT PROPERTY LEASING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES (FOR THE BENEFIT OF MAINTENANCE - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 000801) AND THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED TO THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

**MR. MIKE FORBES, PURCHASING AGENT  
MR. REMI GARZA, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. JOSEPH ARDITO, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR  
MR. JUAN BERNAL, COUNTY ENGINEER  
MR. DAN WEBER, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND AIRPORT DIRECTOR**

**The Bids and/or Request for Proposals are as follows:**

**(27) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 12:14 P.M. to discuss the following matters:

- a) Confer with County Counsel regarding the possible settlement in Cause No. 99-07-2912-A, Cameron County vs. International Bank of Commerce, Brownsville; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(1)(B); and
- b) To hear complaint against Cameron County Health Administrator; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.074(2).

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in Regular Session at 12:42 P.M.

**(7) ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE BROWNSVILLE CHANNEL DAM (WEIR PROJECT) BE INCLUDED IN THE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS LIST OF RECOMMENDED PROJECT**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Resolution requesting that the Brownsville Channel Dam (Weir Project) be included in the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Groups List of recommended project be adopted.

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

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

**NAY:** Commissioner Matz.

**The Resolution and Reports are as follow:**

**(27) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 12:43 P.M. to discuss the following matters:

- a) Confer with County Counsel regarding the possible settlement in Cause No. 99-07-2912-A, Cameron County vs. International Bank of Commerce, Brownsville; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(1)(B); and
- b) To hear complaint against Cameron County Health Administrator; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.074(2).

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in Regular Session at 1:07 P.M.



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

- a) **Confer with County Counsel regarding the possible settlement in Cause No. 99-07-2912-A, Cameron County vs. International Bank of Commerce, Brownsville.**

Commissioner Benavides moved that the recommendation of outside Counsel concerning the settlement of Cause No. 99-07-2912-A, Cameron County vs. International Bank of Commerce, Brownsville, be accepted along the lines as recommended in Executive Session, including the amendment to be presented in writing, and that the Judge Pro-tem be authorized to sign the Settlement Agreement, noting that Judge Hinojosa was not present during the discussion of this item.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

- b) **To hear complaint against Cameron County Health Administrator.**

Commissioner Matz moved that the Status Report by the County Judge be acknowledged regarding the complaint against the Cameron County Health Administrator.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.



There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at **1:10 P.M.**

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**APPROVED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of **September, 2000**.

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**GILBERTO HINOJOSA**  
**COUNTY JUDGE**

**ATTEST:**

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