

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 20th day of **SEPTEMBER, 2000**, there was conducted a **SPECIAL 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:

1:30 P.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 1:38 P.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 15, 2000, at 1:59 P.M.:

(1) APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS

At this time, Commissioner Cascos expressed concern as to Warrant No. 42528, payable to Los Tomates Operating, in the amount of \$53,458.00, and suggested that the Warrant be deferred until it was verified by the County Auditor.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the County Claims were approved, as presented by the County Auditor, and Warrant No. 42528, payable to Los Tomates Operating was deferred, subject to verification by the County Auditor.



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

Commissioner Cascos moved that the 2000 Fiscal Year Budget Amendment No. 2000-44, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

The Budget Amendments are as follow:

**(3) IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER
12, 2000, REGULAR MEETING (TABLED)**

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



**(4) ADOPTION OF A PROCLAMATION DECLARING
OCTOBER 2000, AS ABREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH® IN CAMERON COUNTY**

Commissioner Valencia moved that the Proclamation declaring October 2000, as ABreast Cancer Awareness Month® in Cameron County, Texas, be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.

The Proclamation is as follows:

(8) ACTION SETTING THE TOLL RATES FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY INTERNATIONAL TOLL BRIDGE SYSTEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001 COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2000

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, recommended that the Commercial Vehicle Toll Rates be increased as follows, which translates to \$1.00 per axle and \$.50 per miscellaneous axle.

Two Axle Truck - \$4.00 to \$6.00;

Three Axle Truck - \$6.00 to \$9.00;

Four Axle Truck - \$8.00 to \$12.00;

Five Axle Truck - \$10.00 to \$15.00; and

Six Axle Truck - \$12.00 to \$18.00.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the rates in Cameron County were the lowest in South Texas and added that the last commercial vehicle rate increase was in 1992. He stated that since 1992, two additional International Bridges had been built and reported that the County had spent \$6.6 million in debt service operation and maintenance in bond reserve. Judge Hinojosa stated that the United States Customs recently had obtained thirteen additional positions to service the commercial bridge and that an extension of hours at the bridge was being addressed.

Mr. Dagoberto Barrera, Brownsville resident, expressed concern as to whether the merchants were aware of the increase in toll rates and to the impact it would have.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the merchants were aware of the issue and had not expressed opposition to the increases. He added that the Port of Brownsville and the Maquiladoras were also aware of the increase, but noted that the Maquiladoras had expressed their opposition. Judge Hinojosa explained that Cameron County's rates remained the lowest along the border and added that the services provided were significantly higher and better than 1992. He stated that the lines at the bridge averaged thirty seconds waiting time, as opposed to the two hour waiting lines prior to the additional bridges being constructed. Judge Hinojosa explained that the rates for the trucks were increased per axle, due to the weights which placed the burden on the bridges and noted that the passenger vehicle tolls would not be increased.

Mr. Francisco Sifuentes, Brownsville resident, stated that the community was dependent on the economy of the trucks that traveled back and forth to the Maquiladoras, Airports and the Port and added that the commercial trucks currently paid the amount of \$20.00.

Judge Hinojosa explained that the \$20.00 was paid to the State of Texas to allow the overweight trucks to travel from the Port of Brownsville to the Bridges for maintenance of the roads damaged by the overweight trucks, but noted that there was not an allocation of charges to the Cameron County Bridges for the damage by the overweight trucks.

Ms. JuaNita Brodecky, Rio Hondo resident, expressed her support as to the increase in commercial vehicle toll rates and added that the destruction of the roads and bridges should be compensated by a Auser® fee.

Commissioner Cascos questioned the reason for the increase in toll rates and as to why the increases had not been done before.

Mr. Yates explained that there was a need for funds to support the General Fund activities and added that there was a loss of Federal Funding.

Commissioner Cascos stated that he would not support nor oppose the matter, but noted that the increases were necessary. He questioned whether the Budget and Tax Rate were based on the increase of the tolls and Mr. Yates responded that the increase was to offset the loss of Federal Funds.

Commissioner Cascos noted that the funds generated from the increase in tolls would not remain within the Toll Bridge System and would be transferred to the General Fund to offset the loss of revenues.

Mr. Yates noted that the Cities of Harlingen and San Benito would also benefit from the increases whether or not the Cities supported the matter.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the entire Bridge System was utilized to support the General Fund and noted that the taxes remained at the set rate, due to the \$6 million transfer from the Bridge System.

Commissioner Cascos noted that in the past, the passenger vehicle toll rates had been increased from \$0.75 to \$1.00 to balance the budget and added the County always looked to the Bridge System to make up for the shortfalls in the budget.

Judge Hinojosa stated that there was a shortfall of \$4.2 million, due to increases which the County did not have control over and added that the County would have had to determine where to generate more revenue. He stated that it was necessary to go to the Bridge System, in order to avoid a higher increase in taxes.

Commissioner Cascos noted that the increase was necessary since the tax rate had already been set. He stated that he would support the matter, but noted that the increase should have been done months prior to setting the tax rate and budget.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the increase in toll rates would not impact the number of jobs and that the costs would be increased to a maximum of \$4.00 to \$6.00 per vehicle. He noted that Bridge rates in Laredo were significantly higher than Cameron County and added that the number of truck traffic in the Laredo area remained high. Judge Hinojosa reported that the traffic crossings at the Los Tomates International Bridge was fifteen thousand per day and was double the number projected at the time the bridge was being developed. He noted that the commercial vehicle crossings

were three thousand per day, which was triple the amount of crossings and that an increase between fifteen percent (15%) to twenty percent (20%) was projected for the next year, which would generate a significant increase in revenue.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa stated that the increases in the budget were due to an increase in the General Fund Benefits, in the amount of \$447,537.00, in order to pay out the Health Benefit Claims and added that the fund was depleted, due to major claims. He added that the County was required by State Law to compensate Tropical Texas Mental Health and Mental Retardation for individuals admitted to the institution, in the amount of \$262,000.00, and added that the County was no longer receiving \$800,000.00 from the State for housing undocumented inmates in the County Jail. Judge Hinojosa stated that due to the rise in gasoline costs, the gasoline budget had to be increased by \$104,000.00, and that the Office Supplies Budget was increased by \$33,600.00. He noted that the Extra-Help was decreased by \$25,000.00, but stated that the Court Costs and Transcripts had increased by \$112,175.00. Judge Hinojosa stated that the Child Welfare Cases were now being tried in Cameron County which had incurred the costs, in the amount of \$112,000.00, and added that the Health Care Cost in the Jail had increased to \$193,000.00. He reported that the Indigent Health Care costs had increased by \$48,750.00 and that Professional Services was increased by \$10,500.00. Judge Hinojosa stated medical costs in other departments had been cut by \$6,500.00, and noted that the food costs in the detention facilities had increased by \$47,225.00. He noted that due to the increase in population, a new District Court would be created and that the costs of operation would be \$443,289.00, and stated that the cost of said increases totaled \$2,270,765.00, which did not include the cost of financing the new 650 bed jail facility to be built. He reported that the Court unanimously voted to build the new County Jail and noted that the current jail facilities were at the capacity level. Judge Hinojosa stated that the \$.02 increase over the tax rate was not adequate to pay for the debt service on the jail and reported that the total increase on taxes proposed in the budget was \$3.278 million. He stated that the total budget increase was \$4.2 million dollars and that the existing budgets had been cut, along with the increase in the Bridge Toll rates. He noted that the cost of living increases, department needs and wish lists submitted by the Departments were not included. Judge Hinojosa stated that the tax rate in the Road and Bridge Budget had been decreased and that a portion of the Road and Bridge Reserves would be utilized to fund operations for one year.

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Toll Rates for the Cameron County International Toll Bridge System Fiscal Year 2000-2001 commencing October 1, 2000, were set as follows:

Two Axle Truck - \$4.00 to \$6.00;

Three Axle Truck - \$6.00 to \$9.00;

Four Axle Truck - \$8.00 to \$12.00;

Five Axle Truck - \$10.00 to \$15.00; and

Six Axle Truck - \$12.00 to \$18.00.

(6) **ACTION SETTING THE COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the setting of compensation for Elected Officials for Fiscal Year 2000-2001 be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Remi Garza, Assistant County Administrator, stated that the Elected Officials would be notified of the salaries and that the Elected Officials would have five (5) days to request a hearing before the Salary Grievance Committee.

Judge Hinojosa explained that the Elected Officials' current salaries had been advertised without any increases and noted that the salaries could be decreased, but could not go above the set salary. He stated that once the salaries were set, the Elected Officials could grieve the salaries to the Salary Grievance Committee. Judge Hinojosa explained that if the Committee voted 9-0, the requested increases would be mandatory, but noted that votes from 6-8 would be considered by the Commissioners' Court.

The Salaries are as follow:

(9) **ADOPTION OF THE BUDGETS FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY GENERAL FUND, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS, INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS, COURTHOUSE SECURITY FUND, THE SPECIAL ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND, THE LATERAL ROADS FUNDS, THE LAW LIBRARY FUND, THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND, THE CHILD SUPPORT FUNDS, THE FIFTH JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION FUNDS, THE DEBT SERVICE FUNDS, THE INTERNATIONAL TOLL BRIDGE SYSTEM FUNDS, THE PARKS SYSTEM FUNDS, THE AIRPORT FUNDS AND THE DRUG FORFEITURE FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001**

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, stated that the Budget included all Capital Projects and added that there would be recommended or proposed changes, noting that the proposed Budget was over \$100 million. He stated that a large portion of the Budget included Capital Projects, such as the La Feria Court Annex, the Adult Probation Project, the Green Valley Farms commitment, the Project Road Map, the County Jail and Sheriff's Office, the Darrel Hester Juvenile Facility expansion of thirty-two beds, and the Dancy Building Historical Project.

Commissioner Matz questioned the amount expected from the Tobacco Funds in the next year and Mr. Yates responded that the amount of \$355,000.00 had been budgeted.

Commissioner Matz questioned whether the Tobacco Funds could be utilized for urgent roof repairs and renovations at the Harlingen Annex and Mr. Yates replied that there were provisions as to the Tobacco Funds.

Mr. Yates noted that there were possibilities within the Capital Projects Certificates of Obligation and noted that the language in the Order would allow the Court to redirect a portion of the funds. He briefly highlighted the Fiscal Year 2000-2001 Budget Proposal Report and reported that the total available re-appropriation amount was \$687,515.00. Mr. Yates reported that there was also \$3.23 million in the Reserves Fund which were unappropriated and would generate interest, which would be an additional \$35,000.00 from the fund. He stated that the additional funds would provide funding for the three percent (3%) cost of living adjustments for the General Fund employees, but noted that the Court could reduce the cost of living adjustment to incorporate the additional budget proposals as listed on the report. Mr. Yates highlighted three options as to the cost of living adjustments for the General Fund employees.

Commissioner Cascos stated that there was a disparity between the lower and higher paid salaries and added that with Option 3, \$865.00 for each employee, all employees would receive the same dollar amount.

At this time, Mr. Yates highlighted the projected revenues, the local matches for various Departments and the budget proposals.

Commissioner Valencia stated that eighty percent (80%) of the Commissioners' salaries should be transferred from the Road and Bridge Budget to the General Fund Budget, in order to provide the cost of living increase for the County employees.

Commissioner Matz expressed concern as to utilizing the Road and Bridge Funds and stated that the County Engineer had reported there were 830 of roads in the County and sixty (60) bridges, of which fifteen needed to be replaced. He added that there were 221 miles of dirt roads in the County and the cost to upgrade the roads to caliche roads would be \$7,040,000.00. Commissioner Matz stated that there were 290 miles of caliche roads and added that the cost to upgrade them to paved roads would cost \$10,560.00. He noted that the costs provided by the County Engineer did not include the costs of upgrading the dirt roads to paved roads or to do an overlay on approximately 300 miles of paved roads, noting his opposition as to utilizing funds from Road and Bridge for General Fund purposes.

Commissioner Valencia stated that the funds would not be spent all at one time and that the funds could be paid back to the Road and Bridge Fund incrementally.

Judge Hinojosa expressed his support as to the reallocation of Road and Bridge Funds to the General Fund and added that the Road and Bridge Reserves Fund was constantly replenished from the collection of Bond Forfeitures. He stated that it was not appropriate to have a three million dollar Reserves Fund and to increase taxes and not provide cost of living increases for the employees. Judge Hinojosa stated that the Reserves Fund was created for emergency situations and added that the only emergency that would possibly arise would be a hurricane which would be reimbursed at seventy-five percent (75%) by FEMA.

Commissioner Matz stated that the County should be contracting out the work needed on many of the roads and added that Precincts No. 3 and No. 4 had more miles of dirt roads, noting that calls from residents were constantly received by the Commissioners.

Judge Hinojosa reported that the last time the County attempted to contract out the work for Cameron Park, the price quoted for the construction of the twelve miles of roads was more than double than what it would have cost Cameron County with both materials and labor.

Commissioner Benavides stated that Precinct No. 1 had fifty-seven (57) miles of roads compared to Precinct No. 4 and added that there were more people living per mile in Precinct No. 1.

Commissioner Valencia clarified that Precinct No. 4 had the most roads which needed to be worked, but expressed his concern as to the employees' compensation.

Mr. Dagoberto Barrera, Brownsville resident, stated that the cost of living increases should not be given across the board and added that the increases would not be appropriately allocated, due to the disparity in salaries.

Mr. Francisco Sifuentes, Brownsville resident, expressed his concerns as to the disparity of salaries and added that there were many individuals employed with the County for many years who made less than newly hired employees.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the disparity in salaries existed in the Elected Officials=Departments, but noted that it would be expensive for the County to implement the Salary Matrix on a one time basis.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa questioned how Commissioner Matz would balance the budget, given all the proposals which had been cut.

Commissioner Matz responded that assuming that the funds transferred from Road and Bridge to the General Fund would be paid back, the \$7.00 minimum wage would be implemented and a two percent (2%) increase for employees making \$30,000.00 and under would be given, noting that the employees at the bottom of the salary scale should be addressed. He added that the minimum salaries of the Juvenile Probation Officers would be increased, the Health Department salaries would be upgraded and the salary of the two (2) key individuals in the County Treasurers=Office would be increased. Commissioner Matz stated that the Computer Center upgrades needed to be refined and that the Extra-Help in the Tax Office, the Program Development and Management Department, the District Clerk=s Office and Elections Office would be addressed. He stated that the Capital Improvement Projects should have gone through the voters and noted that the projects included the new Jail, the Sheriff=s Office, the Dancy Building, and the Juvenile Probation Office.

Judge Hinojosa stated that based on the records, Commissioner Matz had never voted for the Capital Projects, subject to a Bond Election and added that a three percent (3%) should be given across the board, noting that the higher positions should not be penalized.

Commissioner Cascos suggested that a cost of living increase be given, whereas; all the employees receive the same amount of increase and noted that the lower paid scale employees would be receiving higher percentages of increases.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the \$865.00 annual increase for each General Fund employee would automatically raise the minimum wage to \$7.00 per hour and suggested that the additional \$22,000.00 which would have been utilized to raise the minimum wage could be allocated to the Health Department employees not under the General Fund. He stated that the increase of clinical fees from \$5.00 to \$7.50, to generate additional income from the Health Clinics had been discussed with the Health Department and added that there were seventy (70) Health employees who were not at the living wage. Judge Hinojosa suggested that the Clinical Fees be increased to \$7.50 per person, in order to increase the Program Income employees in the Health Department to the living wage. He added that the Juvenile Probation Officers= salaries be increased to \$26,500.00, and that the \$865.00 cost of living annual increase be given to all the General Fund

employees. He stated that a net balance would remain, in the amount of \$22,000.00, and that the difference be taken from the Bridge Fund, with the understanding that the funds be paid back through Lapsed Salaries.

Commissioner Valencia moved that the Budgets be adopted for the Cameron County General Fund, Capital Projects Funds, Internal Services Funds, Courthouse Security Fund, the Special Road and Bridge Fund, the Lateral Roads Funds, the Law Library Fund, the Employee Benefits Fund, the Child Support Funds, the International Toll Bridge System Funds, the Parks System Funds, the Airport Funds, and the Drug Forfeiture Funds for Fiscal Year 2000-2001, noting that the total amount of \$722,000.00, in additional revenues from Nos. 1, 2 and 3 as reflected in the Budget Proposal and the Bridge transfer in the amount of \$34,485.00, be utilized to allow the \$865.00 annual increase for 809 General Fund employees, the increase of the Juvenile Probation Officers= salaries of \$26,500.00, and that the Health Clinic Services Fee be increased to \$7.50 to compensate the Health Department employees to the living wage.

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

AYE: Commissioner Benavides, Cascos, Valencia and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: Commissioner Matz, as to the across the board cost of living adjustments, the use of Certificates of Obligation and the use of Road and Bridge Funds for General Fund purposes.

The Budget Proposal and Budget are as follow:

(5) AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001 AT \$0.345843 PER EVERY \$100. VALUATION

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2000-2001 at \$0.345843 per every \$100.00 Valuation was opened for public comment.

At this time, Ms. JuaNita Brodecky, Rio Hondo resident, suggested that the Solid Waste Enforcement Officers should be provided with pick-up trucks to pick up the solid waste, as opposed to Ford Crown Victoria vehicles which were not economical and added that the excessive travel by County employees were not necessary, due to the line of communication available through technology. She stated that salary increases should be based on evaluations and added that the Unit Road System had not been appropriately established. Ms. Brodecky noted that the roads in Cameron Park were deteriorating and that the roads were not accepted by the City, based on the ditches constructed by the County. She expressed her support for the Commercial Vehicle Toll Rate increases, but noted that many of the local taxing entities were also raising the tax rates.

Mr. Francisco Sifuentes, Brownsville resident, stated that the taxing entities had placed the burden on the taxpayers and added that the Justices of the Peace hired individuals to serve warrants. He suggested that the Constables should serve the warrants, as opposed to collecting solid waste and expressed his opposition as to the excessive number of cellular phones provided to County employees.

Mr. Dagoberto Barrera, Brownsville resident, expressed his concerns as to the tax increase which would impact the taxpayers and added that the local taxing entities should limit their expenditures. He noted that Cameron County residents were currently paying high gasoline prices and that the Appraisal Board had also increased the valuations. Mr. Barrera commended the Court as to expressing their opinions in a dialogue form and for allowing the public to voice their concerns.

Commissioner Cascos stated that a Countywide Salary Matrix had been requested for the past five to six years, but noted that the County did not have a mechanism concerning positions and salaries. He stated that the Elected Officials were given a budget and that the Court had to entrust them to allocate the salaries in an appropriate manner. Commissioner Cascos stated that evaluations should be performed prior to increasing the salaries and added that the taxpayers were essentially hurt by the lack of services when the Department budgets were reduced. He stated that the County Auditor had set budgets concerning the cellular phones, whereas; the employee would have to pay any amount utilized over the set budget. Commissioner Cascos stated that it was important for the public to attend the meetings and

voice their opinions. He stated that Cameron County remained with one of the lowest tax rates among the major taxing entities, but noted that the County was a poor community with limited resources. Commissioner Cascos noted that the Boot Camp issue should be addressed and that the Road and Bridge was functioning in an efficient way, due to the number of roads improved. He explained that the roads were not meant to accommodate heavy truck traffic nor to last thirty (30) years and explained that there was not adequate right-of-way to properly construct the roads. Commissioner Cascos reported that due to the numerous roads to be improved in all the Precincts, the County did not have a formal Maintenance Plan to maintain the roads after they were improved.

At this time, there was some discussion as to the School Districts lack of communication with the County prior to constructing schools in the rural areas.

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



(7) ACTION SETTING THE TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001 AT \$0.345843 PER EVERY \$100 VALUATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED ORDER FOR TAX RATE

Commissioner Valencia moved that the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2000-2001 be set at \$0.345843 per every \$100 valuation in accordance with the attached Order for Tax Rate.

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

AYE: Commissioner Benavides, Cascos, Valencia and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: Commissioner Matz, as to the across the board cost of living adjustments, the use of Certificates of Obligation and the use of Road and Bridge Funds for General Fund purposes.

The Order is as follows:

NOTE: JUDGE HINOJOSA LEFT THE COURTROOM.

(10) APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND MARY ANN RAMIREZ TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS THE TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR FOR CAMERON COUNTY-S ALCOHOL BREATH TEST PROGRAM

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Agreement between Cameron County and Ms. Mary Ann Ramirez to provide services as the Technical Supervisor for Cameron County-s Alcohol Breath Test Program was approved.

The Agreement is as follows:

(11) ACCEPTANCE OF THE LAW LIBRARY GRANT FROM THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND BOARD (TIFB) BY AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY JUDGE, COUNTY AUDITOR, AND ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN TO SIGN THE GRANTEE ACCEPTANCE NOTICE AND NON-LOBBYING CERTIFICATION

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Law Library Grant was accepted from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board (TIFB) by authorizing the County Judge, County Auditor and the Assistant Librarian to sign the Grantee Acceptance Notice and Non-Lobbying Certification.

(12) APPROVAL OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PLANNING CONTRACT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE HARRIS TRACT COLONIA (TCDP CONTRACT NO. 720025)

Commissioner Valencia moved that the Texas Community Development Program Planning Contract between Cameron County and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Harris Tract Colonia be approved, that being the Texas Community Development Program Contract No. 720025.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

The Contract is as follows:

(13) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT LOS LOBOS DRIVE, LOS ARBOLES DRIVE, MONTEBELLO CIRCLE, MONTE ALTO DRIVE, AND SICOMORO DRIVE, PRECINCT NO. 1, LOCATED IN THE MONTE VERDE SOUTH SUBDIVISION SECTION II, INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

Commissioner Valencia moved that Los Lobos Drive, Los Arboles Drive, Montebello Circle, Monte Alto Drive and Sicomoro Drive, Precinct No. 1, located in the Monte Verde South Subdivision Section II, be accepted into the County Road System.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.



(14) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT LA CANTERA DRIVE, PRECINCT NO. 4, LOCATED IN LA CANTERA ESTATES, INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, La Cantera Drive, Precinct No. 4, located in La Cantera Estates, was accepted into the County Road System.



(15) AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO OWENS ROOF FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY AIRPORT RE-ROOFING PROJECT

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Contract was awarded to Owens Roof for the Cameron County Airport Re-Roofing Project.

The Agreement is as follows:

**(16) AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE A BACKHOE
LOADER UTILIZING THE HOUSTON
GALVESTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**

Commissioner Benavides moved that a backhoe loader be purchased utilizing the Houston Galveston Council of Government Interlocal Agreement.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.



**(17) APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN CAMERON
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CAMERON
COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE
EDUCATION PROGRAM (JJAEP)**

Commissioner Benavides moved that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Cameron County School District and Cameron County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) be approved, subject to Legal review.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

The Agreement is as follows:

(18) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT OF \$43,910.00 FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION OF THE GOVERNOR-S OFFICE, IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIDOS PODEMOS TRUANCY EDUCATION REDUCTION IMPACT PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2000-2001

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Grant of \$43,910.00 was accepted from the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor-s Office, in support of the Unidos Podemos Truancy Education Reduction Impact Program for the Year 2000-2001.

The Resolution is as follows:

(19) AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE EXISTING CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CAMERON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND MARY LOUISE WATKINS, M.D., TO PROVIDE STD TREATMENT

Commissioner Benavides moved that the existing Contract between Cameron County Health Department and Mary Louise Watkins, M.D., be amended to provide STD Treatment.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

The Contract is as follows:

(20) AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE (EMPG) GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (TDPS) - DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Commissioner Benavides moved that the Emergency Management Performance (EMPG) Grant Application be submitted to the Texas Department of Public Safety (TDPS) - Division of Emergency Management for Fiscal Year 2001.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

The Application is as follows:

**(21) APPROVAL OF A DUNE PROTECTION AND
BEACH FRONT CERTIFICATE FOR CAMERON
COUNTY PARKS SYSTEM**

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Dune Protection Beach Front Certificate for Cameron County Parks System was approved.

The Permit 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:

At this time, Mr. Javier Mendez, Parks System Director, explained that a Park Ranger's vehicle had been taken into Rio Radio Supply to be checked, as referenced in Item 23 Aa®, but noted that the vehicle's microphone had been fixed by Rio Radio without notifying the Parks System and/or Park Rangers. He added that Item No. 23 Ab® was for jail and dispatch services and explained that Item No. 23 Ac® was a bill from a towing company for a County truck that was stuck on the bay side while searching for a missing person. Mr. Mendez stated that the call was made at midnight and that it took the tow truck eight and a half hours to pull out the truck.

Commissioner Valencia moved that the AConsent® Agenda Items be approved;

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

AYE: Commissioner Benavides, Cascos and Valencia

NAY: Commissioner Matz, as to Item No. 23 Aa®.

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

- a) Three (3) County Drug Enforcement Task Force Agents to attend the ATNCP Basic Narcotics Investigator's Course® in Marble Falls, Texas, on October 1-14, 2000;
- b) Two (2) WIC County vehicles and two (2) WIC Health employees to transport Texas WIC Directors to the ATexas Association of Local WIC Directors (TALWD) Annual Meeting® in South Padre Island, Texas, on October 9-11, 2000;
- c) Four (4) County Extension Agents to participate and coordinate the ABi-National Conference on Families® in South Padre Island, Texas, on October 9-11, 2000;
- d) Two (2) Juvenile Department employees to attend the ATexas Juvenile Probation Commission Title IV-E Basic Conference® in Austin, Texas, on September 26-28, 2000;
- e) Six (6) Juvenile Probation employees to attend the ASupervising Special Populations Conference® in South Padre Island, Texas, on September 25-26, 2000;
- f) Three (3) County Extension Agents to attend a AWeb Page Training Course® in Weslaco, Texas, on September 14, 2000;
- g) Three (3) County Extension Agents to assist with the ATri-County Parent Education Workshop® in Weslaco, Texas, on September 9, 2000;
- h) Four (4) County Extension Agents to attend the APlanning and Reporting System Training® in Weslaco, Texas, on September 11, 2000;

- I) Assistant District Attorney to attend the AProsecution of Child Abuse Cases Workshop@ in Austin, Texas, on October 4-6, 2000;
- j) Program Development and Management Director, Project Architect and a member of the Dancy Building Committee, to meet with the Texas Historical Commission Officials, pursuant to the County-s Dancy Building Grant Application in Austin, Texas, on September 21-22, 2000;
- k) Health Department employee to attend the AMeeting of PAHO/WHO Collaboration Centers of the United States/Mexico Border@ in South Padre Island, Texas, on October 31, 2000;
- l) Health Department employee to attend the A6th Biennial Symposium 2000 Preparing for the Future Dynamic Border@ in South Padre Island, Texas, on November 1-3, 2000; and
- m) Program Development and Management employee to attend the ALower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Professional Advisory Review Panel Meeting@ in Weslaco, Texas, on September 13, 2000.



(23) PURCHASE WITHOUT A PURCHASE ORDER

- a) **RIO RADIO SUPPLY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$154.25, PARKS SYSTEM**
- b) **TOWN OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$466.67, PARKS SYSTEM**
- c) **PARADISE RECREATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$450.00, PARK SYSTEM**

(24) AWARD BIDS

- a) **VOTING SUPPLIES - ANNUAL BID NO. 2680**

E.S.S. - Omaha, Nebraska

Total Category B \$22,476.00

CAPITAL GRAPHICS - Hutto, Texas

Total Category A \$1,494.00

Total Category C \$0.59

Total Category D \$0.75

(25) OPEN BIDS AND/OR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

- a) **DIETARY SUPPLIES: MISCELLANEOUS - ANNUAL BID NO. 2050**
- b) **FOOD: MEATS - QUARTERLY BID NO. 2170**
- c) **PROPERTY LEASE: FREE TRADE BRIDGES AT LOS INDIOS - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 000802**

The Bids and/or Request for Proposals are as follow:

(26) **ACKNOWLEDGMENT - NO BIDS RECEIVED FOR CAUSEWAY LIGHTING REPAIRS - ANNUAL BID NO. 1500**

(27) **AWARD BIDS**

a) **FUEL - ANNUAL BID NO. 2280**

DISCOUNT OILS - Pharr, Texas

Unleaded 89 Octane - all locations: Opus + tax + freight = 0 + Commission = .0149

Diesel - all locations: Opus + tax + freight = 0 + Commission = .0149

b) **MEDICAL SUPPLIES - ANNUAL BID NO. 2294**

HENRY SCHEIN - Melville, New York

Alcohol \$0.48/pint

Betadine \$1.81/bottle

Cotton balls \$9.59/carton

Face Masks \$14.99/Box

Laceration Tray \$23.55/Cs

Staple Removal Kit \$1.03/kit

Saline Solution (Sterile) \$1.18/bottle

Hydrogen Peroxide \$0.51/bottle

c) **BUILDING SUPPLIES: PAINT - ANNUAL BID NO. 2008**

SHERWIN WILLIAMS - Brownsville, Texas

Average price per gallon - \$14.57

(28) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 4:55 P.M. to discuss the following matters:

- a) In the matter of the case styled Cecil P. Sapp, et. al., vs. Cameron County, et. al., Cause No. B-00-137, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, to discuss case and authority to represent individual defendant; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (1)(A); **(TABLED)**
- b) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible Lease of office space/warehouse, space/workroom for the Cameron County Elections Administration, the District Attorney's Office and the Civil Division; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072;
- c) In the matter of the reimbursement of expenses and attorneys fees for Justice of the Peace Gualberto Weaver, involving matters in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body, under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, clearly conflicts with the Open Meetings Act; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(2); **(TABLED)**
- d) In the matter of the settlement of Cameron County vs. Scoggins Construction; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072; **(TABLED)** and

- e) Confer with County Counsel concerning Right-of-Way acquisition for FM/509, Parcel No. 3; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072.

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in Regular Session at 5:13 P.M.

(29) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) **In the matter of the case styled Cecil P. Sapp, et. al., vs. Cameron County, et. al., Cause No. B-00-137, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, to discuss case and authority to represent individual defendant; (TABLED)**
- c) **In the matter of the reimbursement of expenses for Justice of the Peace Gualberto Weaver, involving matters in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body, under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, clearly conflicts with the Open Meetings Act; (TABLED) and**
- d) **In the matter of the settlement of Cameron County vs. Scoggins Construction. (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, these Items were **TABLED**.

- b) **Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible Lease of office space/warehouse, space/workroom for the Cameron County Elections Administration, the District Attorney's Office and the Civil Division.**

Commissioner Matz moved that the repairs to the County warehouse for office space/warehouse, space/workroom for the Cameron County Elections Administration, the District Attorney's Office and the Civil Division be placed on fast track.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

- e) **Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning Right-of-Way Acquisition for FM/509, Parcel No. 3.**

Commissioner Benavides moved that the Status Report by the County Engineer be acknowledged regarding the Real Property concerning Right-of-Way acquisition for FM/509, Parcel No. 3.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.

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 **5:15 P.M.**

APPROVED this **10th** day of **October, 2000**.

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

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