

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 2ND day of JANUARY, 2002, 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:

9:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 1

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

DAVID A. GARZA
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

RICHARD VALDEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

JOE G. RIVERA
COUNTY CLERK

Mary Robles **Deputy Clerk**

ABSENT:

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The meeting was called to order by Judge Hinojosa at 9:12 A.M. He then asked Commissioner Cascos to lead 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 December 28, 2001, at 1:21 P.M.:

ACTION ITEMS

**NOT ON
AGENDA**

At this time, Ms. Terry Frady, Brownsville resident, presented the following petition signed by County residents concerning the Bank Depository and the transfer of County funds, and requested that the Court consider the matter in Executive Session.

Mr. Pat Ahumada, Brownsville resident, requested that the Court not ignore the interest of the citizens of Cameron County.

The Petitions are as follow:

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(1) **IN THE MATTER REGARDING THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND SALARY SCHEDULES (TABLED)**

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

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(2) **CREATION OF A NEW EMPLOYEE POSITION RECORDS MANAGEMENT CLERK IN THE DISTRICTS CLERK'S OFFICE**

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously, the creation of a new Records Management Clerk position in the District Clerk's Office, was approved.

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(3) **IN THE MATTER REGARDING THE AWARD OF BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAMERON PARK SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION (TABLED)**

At this time, Mr. Frank Bejarano, Program Development and Management, explained that the low base bid received for the Cameron Park Sheriff's Substation was in the amount of \$123,000.00, that being \$69,765.00 over the budgeted amount. He added that when the Project was being considered, the Court was aware that the funds would not be sufficient, and that the Court agreed to proceed with the design in order to determine the costs. He noted that the Project costs were high due to site work needed because of the problems with the soil.

Commissioner Cascos questioned how the Sheriff's Office was manning the Satellite Offices, and whether the Offices were occupied over seventy-five (75) percent of the time, noting that he had often heard concerns that the Offices were closed most of the time.

Mr. Remi Garza, Administrative Assistant, noted that the Offices were primarily used by the Constables.

There was some discussion concerning the utilization of the satellite offices, the problems with the soil in the area, whether to delay construction of the building, whether to delete some of the items in the proposal in order to lower the costs, and the funding source for the additional amount; and the suggestion was made to table the matter in order for the County Auditor and the Budget Officer to determine the funding source.

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

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(4) **IN THE MATTER REGARDING THE
OUTSTANDING BALANCE DUE TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT
GALVESTON (UTMB) FOR PRIOR YEARS
INDIGENT HEALTH CARE SERVICES RENDERED
(TABLED)**

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, reported that he was notified by the State's Indigent Care Division that monies were available from the last Biennial Budget to assist the County with the outstanding bills at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). He noted that the funding was a ninety (90) percent matching fund, leaving a balance in the amount of \$32,071.99, which the Health Administrator suggested should be paid from the current Indigent Health Program budget, in order to maintain the UTMB Program, and requested guidance from the Court.

NOTE: COMMISSIONER BENAVIDES JOINED THE MEETING, AT THIS TIME.

Commissioner Cascos questioned the funding source for the balance due, noting that the County had expended the amount of \$751,258.98, in related Indigent Health Services through November 30, 2001, and that a funding problem existed. He asked what the consequences would be if the balance was not paid, and the County Auditor responded that he did not know the consequences.

At this time, Commissioner Benavides noted his concerns with the very poor people not receiving the required health services.

Judge Hinojosa remarked that the primary health care program was available to everyone, in order to avoid the high hospitalization costs and major medical expenses, as long as the funds were available.

There was some discussion concerning the costs for major medical expenses for Indigent Health care, the short and long term problems of Indigent Health care, the need to lobby for additional funds, the consequences of not making the payment due to UTMB, and the suggestion was made to table the matter for two (2) weeks.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED** for two (2) weeks.

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CONSENT ITEMS

ALL ITEMS UNDER THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE HEARD COLLECTIVELY UNLESS OPPOSITION WAS PRESENTED, IN WHICH CASE THE CONTESTED ITEM WAS CONSIDERED, DISCUSSED, AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY.

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, presented a late claim as to Green Valley Farms - Fund No. 59, Warrant No. 00068643, in the amount of \$12,000.00 for approval.

NOTE: COMMISSIONER GARZA JOINED THE MEETING, AT THIS TIME.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the following "Consent" items were approved, inclusive of the late claim as to Warrant No. 00068643 in the amount of \$12,000.00 for approval:

- (5) **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS;**
- (6) **RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CAMERON COUNTY AUTOMOBILE CRIMES ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE IN HOSTING THE RED FLAG TRAINING SESSION IN CAMERON COUNTY JANUARY 10, 2002;**
The Resolution follows:
- (7) **UTILIZATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS GENERAL SERVICE COMMISSION-QUALIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS VENDER INTER-LOCAL PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF 100 COMPUTERS AND 3 LAPTOPS;**
- (8) **ACCEPTANCE OF MS. TRACI WICKETT'S RESIGNATION FROM THE BOARD OF THE CAMERON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY; AND**
- (9) **APPOINTMENT OF MS. ANNABEL ALEGRIA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MS. TRACI WICKETT ON THE BOARD OF THE CAMERON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY.**

TRAVEL ITEMS

- (10) **AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL/OR APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENSE FOR THE FOLLOWING (PLEASE NOTE: TRAVEL REQUESTS ARE SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE COUNTY POLICIES):**
 - (a) Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Assistant Chief, and two (2) Texas Commission of Mental Impairment Probation Officers to attend the "Innovations in Mental Health Service Delivery", in Austin, Texas, January 13-16, 2002; and
 - (b) Assistant Chief Probation Officer and two (2) Texas Commission of Mental Impairment Probation Officers to attend the "12th Annual Winter Growth Conference 4-Teamwork for Quality", in Corpus Christi, Texas, January 23-25, 2002.

- (6) **RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CAMERON COUNTY AUTOMOBILE CRIMES ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE IN HOSTING THE RED FLAG TRAINING SESSION IN CAMERON COUNTY, JANUARY 10, 2002.**

The Resolution is as follows:

[REDACTED]

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(11) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 9:45 A. M. to discuss the following matters:

- a) Confer with Commissioners' Court Legal Counsel concerning the Lone Star National Bank versus Cameron County, Texas, Cause No. 2001-08-3638-G, in the 404th District Court, for authorization to file or not to file an appeal; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(1)(A);

Upon motion by Commissioner Valdez, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in Regular Session at 9:56 A. M.

(12) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a) **Confer with Commissioners' Court Legal Counsel concerning the Lone Star National Bank versus Cameron County, Texas, Cause No. 2001-08-3638-G, in the 404th District Court, for authorization to file or not to file an appeal.**

Commissioner Benavides moved that an appeal not be filed concerning the Lone Star National Bank versus Cameron County, Texas, Cause No. 2001-08-3638-G, in the 404th District Court.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously.

[REDACTED]

There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:58 A. M.

[REDACTED]

APPROVED this 15th day of **January, 2002**.

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

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