

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 8th day of JANUARY, 2002, 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:

5:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 1

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

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 Pro-tem Carlos H. Cascos, C.P.A., at 5:30 P.M. He then asked Reverend Bob Clark, Brownsville resident, for the invocation and Commissioner Benavides 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 January 4, 2002, at 3:22 P.M.:

ACTION ITEMS

(2) APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND SALARY SCHEDULES

Commissioner Benavides moved that the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget Amendment No. 2002-06 and Salary Schedules for the following be approved:

Los Tomates Bridge Department, Fund No. 740-6100;

County Attorney Department, Fund No. 100-4750;

District Clerk Department, Fund No. 100-4500; and

Parks System Administration Department, Fund No. 830-6690.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza.

Judge Pro-tem Cascos noted that the Salary Schedules required signatures prior to being presented to the Court.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously, the Fiscal Year Budget Amendment No. 2002-06 and the following Salary Schedules were approved:

Los Tomates Bridge Department, Fund No. 740-6100;

County Attorney Department, Fund No. 100-4750;

District Clerk Department, Fund No. 100-4500; and

Parks System Administration Department, Fund No. 830-6690.

The Budget Amendments and Salary Schedules are as follow:

**(3) [REDACTED]
IN THE MATTER REGARDING MODIFICATIONS,
ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS AT THE
CAMERON COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY AND
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, AND ISSUES
RELATED THERETO (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously, this
Item was **TABLED**.

**(4) [REDACTED]
IN THE MATTER REGARDING THE CAMERON
COUNTY AND CITIES CHALLENGING CENSUS
2000 COUNTS AND ISSUES RELATED THERETO
(TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, this
Item was **TABLED**.

**(5) [REDACTED]
ACTION REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF
THE SALARY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE;
PURSUANT TO VERNON TEXAS CODE
ANNOTATED (V.T.C.A.), LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE, SECTION 152.014**

Mr. Remi Garza, Administrative Assistant, noted that the Court had the option to appoint County-wide Elected
Officials and a number of public members to provide a nine (9) voting member committee or to compose the nine (9)
member committee from the public, selected from the Grand Jury List, with the exception of the County Judge who
served as a non voting member on either option. He noted that the actual member selection would be at a later meeting.

Commissioner Garza moved that the composition of the Salary Grievance Committee consist of all nine (9)
voting public member from the Grand Jury List, pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government
Code, Section 152.014.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

**(9) [REDACTED]
IN THE MATTER REGARDING THE FEDERAL
AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) AIRPORT
COMPLIANCE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM
SPONSOR SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT
(TABLED)**

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

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(10) **AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE PROPERTY IN PALO ALTO GROVES SUBDIVISION, 66.7 ACRES OUT OF BLOCKS NO. 45, NO. 55, NO. 65, EAST ½ BLOCK NO. 56 AND BLOCK NO. 66**

Mr. Joseph Ardito, Property/Airport Manager, explained that the purchase was previously authorized and that the County Auditor needed payment authorization, in order to issue a check.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, noted that the purchase would be funded through Project No. 6, Jail Improvement Fund.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the purchase of property in Palo Alto Groves Subdivision, 66.7 acres out of Blocks No. 45, No. 55, No. 65, East ½ of Block No. 56 and Block No. 66, was authorized.

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(12) **IN THE MATTER REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF MR. LUIS CESAR WEAVER FOR POSITION OF RESERVE DEPUTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT NO. 4, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATE OF TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 86.011 AND 86.012 (TABLED)**

(13) **IN THE MATTER REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF MR. JOSE MUÑIZ AS A RESERVE DEPUTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT NO. 4, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATE OF TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 86.011 AND 86.012 (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, these items were **TABLED**.

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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.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

ITEM NO. 14: Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, requested that Warrant No. 00068601, be excluded, as requested by Mr. Robert Mendoza, Elections Administrator. He noted that the Indigent Health Care expenditures were reported in the amount of \$751,258.98, through November, 2001, but that after reviewing the details in the general ledger it appeared that some payments were doubled and presented the following Report:

NOTE: JUDGE HINOJOSA JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS TIME.

- ITEM NO. 35 "a": Commissioner Cascos questioned whether the three (3) employees from the District Clerk's Office would receive the certification. Mr. Xavier Villarreal, Budget Officer, responded that based on the information provided, they would receive certification.
- ITEM NO. 15: Ms. Juanita Brodecky, Rio Hondo resident, questioned the delay in presenting the Commissioners' Court Minutes for approval, noting that the Agenda indicated November 11, 2001. Mrs. Nellie Garcia, Chief Deputy County Clerk's Office, clarified that it was a misprint and that the Minutes of December 11, 2001, were being considered.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously, the following "Consent" items were approved:

- (14) **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS;**
- (15) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - A) **DECEMBER 11, 2001.**
- (16) **LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MR. JOSEPH GRAHAM, ATTORNEY AT LAW, TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION FOR THE INDIGENT DEFENDANTS OF THE COUNTY COURT OF LAW NO. 1; THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:**
- (17) **LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MR. DANIEL MORA, ATTORNEY AT LAW, TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION FOR THE INDIGENT DEFENDANTS OF THE COUNTY COURT OF LAW NO. 1; THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:**
- (18) **ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$468,724.00, AWARDED TO CAMERON COUNTY PARKS SYSTEM FROM THE COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CIAP) TOWARDS THE BOCA CHICA PARK PROJECT;**
- (19) **CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY PARKS AND MR. ANDY ANDREWS FOR THE BINGO DIRECTOR POSITION AT ISLA BLANCA PARK; THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:**
- (20) **CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY PARKS AND MS. ELIZABETH LITWILLER FOR THE RECREATION AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR POSITION AT ISLA BLANCA PARK; THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:**
- (21) **UTILIZATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS GENERAL SERVICES COMMISSION-QUALIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS VENDOR INTER-LOCAL PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF NINETY-EIGHT (98) BATTERY BACKUP FOR COMPUTERS;**
- (22) **UTILIZATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS COOPERATIVE PURCHASING NETWORK REGION IV INTER-LOCAL PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF FORTY-THREE (43) PRINTERS;**
- (23) **AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND DR. MARY LOUISE WATKINS, M.D., PH.D., FOR THE PROVISION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STD) PROGRAM MEDICAL SERVICES; THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:**

- (24) **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) FOR INFIRMARY RADIOLOGIST SERVICES;**
- (25) **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CONTINUATION APPLICATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR THE 2003 CAMERON COUNTY DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE GRANT;
THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**
- (26) **COOPERATIVE WORKING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CAMERON COUNTY DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE AND ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENTS IN CAMERON AND WILLACY COUNTIES;
THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:**
- (27) **INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES: CITY OF SAN BENITO, CITY OF LOS FRESNOS, CITY OF RAYMONDVILLE AND WILLACY COUNTY, AS REQUIRED FOR THE 2003 CAMERON COUNTY DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE GRANT APPLICATION;
THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:**
- (28) **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CONTINUATION APPLICATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR THE JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S PURCHASE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE SERVICES GRANT;
THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**
- (29) **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE CONTINUATION APPLICATION FOR THE JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION;
THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**
- (30) **UTILIZATION OF THE HOUSTON/GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS INTER-LOCAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) PATROL CARS;**
- (31) **PRELIMINARY APPROVAL:**
 A) **PRECINCT NO. 3 - ATASCOSA-LAGUNA VISTA SUBDIVISION, A 16.006 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, TRACT OF LAND, BEING OUT OF BLOCK NO. 18, OUT OF THE LAGUNA VISTA CLUB SUBDIVISION IN CAMERON COUNTY.**
- (32) **FINAL APPROVAL:**
 A) **PRECINCT NO. 3 - CONDE GARDENS SUBDIVISION, BEING 6.44 ACRES OF LAND OUT OF THE WEST 14.53 ACRE TRACT OF BLOCK NO. 163, SAN BENITO LAND AND IRRIGATION COMPANY;**
 B) **PRECINCT NO. 4 - BALES/ I.T.D. INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION, BEING A 9.722 ACRE TRACT OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, BEING OUT OF BLOCK NO. 39, THE PALMETAL COMPANY SUBDIVISION; AND**
 C) **PRECINCT NO. 4 - RESACA PALOMA NO. 3 SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION OF A 6.745 ACRE TRACT OF LAND, BEING ALL OF LOT NO. 1, BLOCK NO. 4, RESACA PALOMA SUBDIVISION NO. 1.**
- (33) **FINAL APPROVAL:**
 A) **PRECINCT NO. 4 - CRAGON ESTATES, BEING THE EAST THIRTY (30) ACRES OF BLOCK NO. 28, WILSON TRACT SUBDIVISION.**

- (34) **OPENING OF THE FOLLOWING BIDS/PROPOSALS:**
A) **CARS (MISCELLANEOUS AND PATROL) (QUANTITY 12).**

TRAVEL ITEMS

- (35) **AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL/OR APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENSE FOR THE FOLLOWING (PLEASE NOTE: TRAVEL REQUESTS ARE SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE COUNTY POLICIES):**

- (a) District Clerk, Criminal Supervisor and three (3) Deputy Clerks to attend the “30th Annual County and District Clerks’ Continuing Education Seminar”, in College Station, Texas, January 13-17, 2002;
- (b) Justices of the Peace Precinct No. 3 - Place No. 1, Precinct No. 7 - Place No. 1 and Precinct No. 7 - Place No. 2, to attend a “Twenty (20) Hour Seminar for Justices of the Peace”, in Corpus Christi, Texas, January 15-18, 2002;
- (c) Seven (7) Detention Officers to tour the County Detention Facilities, in Houston, Beeville, Victoria, and Kountze, Texas, January 9-11, 2002;
- (d) Election Administrator to attend the “Election Center’s Professional Education Courses and Special Workshop on Poll Worker Recruitment/Training”, in Charleston, South Carolina, February 8-12, 2002;
- (e) Assistant County Auditor to attend a “Two (2) Day Seminar”, in Austin, Texas, February 11-12, 2002;
- (f) Underage Drinking Officer to attend the “Training with Texas Standing Tall on the Topic of Deterring Underage Drinking”, in Austin, Texas, January 11-14, 2002;
- (g) Weed and Seed Coordinator to attend the “Training with the National Latino’s Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Control”, in Washington, D.C., February 13-18, 2002;
- (h) Evidence Officer to attend a “Two (2) day Seminar presented by International Association for Property and Evidence, Inc.”, in San Antonio, Texas, February 24-26, 2002;
- (i) Parks Director to meet for a Joint Evaluation Meeting with State and Federal Officials regarding the Boca Chica Beach Project, in Corpus Christi, Texas, January 8, 2002;
- (j) U.N.I.T. Director to attend a “South Texas HIDTA Manager’s Meetings”, in San Antonio, Texas, January 17-19, 2002;
- (k) Three (3) U.N.I.T. employees to attend a “Financial Training Seminar”, in San Antonio, Texas, February 3-8, 2002; and
- (l) Sheriff Investigator to attend a “Five (5) Day Training on Homicide and Forensic Death Investigation”, in San Antonio, Texas, February 17-22, 2002.

- (16) **LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MR. JOSEPH GRAHAM, ATTORNEY AT LAW, TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION FOR THE INDIGENT DEFENDANTS OF THE COUNTY COURT OF LAW NO. 1.**
The Agreement is as follows:

- (17) **LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MR. DANIEL MORA, ATTORNEY AT LAW, TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION FOR THE INDIGENT DEFENDANTS OF THE COUNTY COURT OF LAW NO. 1.**
The Agreement is as follows:

- (19) **CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY PARKS AND MR. ANDY ANDREWS FOR THE BINGO DIRECTOR POSITION AT ISLA BLANCA PARK.**
The Agreement is as follows:

- (20) **CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY PARKS AND MS. ELIZABETH LITWILLER FOR THE RECREATION AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR POSITION AT ISLA BLANCA PARK.**
The Agreement is as follows:

- (23) **AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND DR. MARY LOUISE WATKINS, M.D., PHD., FOR THE PROVISION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STD) PROGRAM MEDICAL SERVICES.**
The Agreement is as follows:

- (25) **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CONTINUATION APPLICATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR THE 2003 CAMERON COUNTY DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE GRANT.**

The Resolution is as follows:

- (26) **COOPERATIVE WORKING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CAMERON COUNTY DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE AND ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENTS IN CAMERON AND WILLACY COUNTIES.**
The Agreement is as follows:

- (27) **INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES: CITY OF SAN BENITO, CITY OF LOS FRESNOS, CITY OF RAYMONDVILLE AND WILLACY COUNTY, AS REQUIRED FOR THE 2003 CAMERON COUNTY DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE GRANT APPLICATION.**

The Agreement is as follows:

- (28) **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CONTINUATION APPLICATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR THE JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S PURCHASE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE SERVICES GRANT.**
The Resolution is as follows:

- (29) **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE CONTINUATION APPLICATION FOR THE JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION.**
The Resolution is as follows:

[REDACTED]

**(6) ACTION REGARDING A BID FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAMERON PARK
SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION**

Judge Hinojosa stated that Mr. Frank Bejarano, Program Development and Management Director, had addressed the issue of a shortfall in the funding for the construction of the Cameron Park Sheriff's Substation. He explained that \$237,000.00 were reimbursed to the County from the Texas Historical Commission for the exterior renovations expenses of the Dancy Building, and that the reimbursements were no longer Bond monies, resulting in unrestricted funds. Judge Hinojosa recommended that the amount of \$69,765.00 be allocated from the reimbursement, in addition to the \$60,000.00 already budgeted for the construction of the Cameron Park Sheriff's Substation.

Commissioner Cascos moved that the allocation in the amount of \$69,765.00 from the \$237,000.00 reimbursement, in addition to the \$60,000.00 already budgeted, for the construction of the Cameron Park Sheriff's Substation, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valdez.

Commissioner Cascos questioned whether the high cost of the \$64.00 per square foot price was inclusive of the land preparation.

Mr. Frank Bejarano, Program Development and Management Director, stated that the building was priced at \$85,000.00, equaling \$64.00 per square foot, adding that the additional costs were for site improvements.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the Sheriff was prepared to have personnel at the substation twenty-four (24) hours, adding that the building would not only serve the community but would have a nice view as well.

At this time, the following Cameron Park representatives spoke in favor of the Cameron Park Substation:

Brother Albert Phillips, Catholic Church;

Pastor Victor Alvarez, Baptist Church; and

Mrs. Gloria Moreno, Cameron Park resident.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the Boys and Girls Club have approved the construction of a \$365,000.00 facility within Cameron Park.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, clarified that the building could serve as a substation for both the Sheriff's and the Constables Departments.

Mr. Bejarano noted that the building was modeled from the City of Brownsville's Southmost Police Station, with a multi-purpose room.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa translated Mrs. Moreno's comments, as requested by Ms. Juanita Brodecky, Rio Hondo resident.

Commissioner Cascos moved that the allocation in the amount of \$69,765.00 from the \$237,000.00 reimbursement, in addition to the \$60,000.00 already budgeted for the construction of the Cameron Park Sheriff's Substation, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valdez.

Commissioner Garza requested assurance that the reimbursement for the exterior restoration of the Dancy Building, in the amount of \$237,000.00, was unrestricted money and that the balance of the \$150,000.00 would be available.

Mr. Bejarano responded that he was assured by the County Auditor that the reimbursements were unrestricted.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously, the allocation in the amount of \$69,765.00 from the \$237,000.00 reimbursement, in addition to the \$60,000.00 already budgeted for the construction of the Cameron Park Sheriff's Substation was approved.

PRESENTATION

(1) PRESENTATION BY MS. MARY JANE RANGEL REGARDING THE TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

Mr. Abel Morales, Texas Homeless Network, reported that the Texas Homeless Network would meet at the Brownsville Public Library, January 16th, 2002, and extended an invitation to the Court. He stated that the Texas Homeless Network intended to visit some of the Homeless Shelters in Cameron County and reported that the County had assisted in obtaining Technical Assistance for the Social Service Providers from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Program, noting that although the Cities were participating, the application process required one (1) applicant, that being Cameron County. Mr. Morales stated that the over population per household was not considered a homeless situation, according to the HUD Regulations; therefore, resulting in a burden to the Housing Authority, adding that a Supportive Housing Program was being implemented and that another application would be submitted.

Commissioner Garza moved that the Presentation by Mr. Abel Morales regarding the Texas Homeless Network, be acknowledged.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.

The Meeting's Agenda is as follows:

(7) **ACTION REGARDING REVISING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY PARKS SYSTEMS, CONSTRUCTION REPAIR DIVISION**

Mr. Javier Mendez, Parks System Director, requested a pay increase, in the amount of \$900.00 for four (4) employees that worked on stand-by for the Parks Systems, adding that the Salary range for two (2) positions permitted the pay increase, and that the pay increase for the other two (2) employees would be funded from lapse salaries.

Commissioner Benavides moved that the revised Salary Schedules for the Cameron County Parks Systems, Construction Repair Division, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valdez.

At this time, there was discussion of whether the positions were included in the Budget, the pending Salary Matrix, the possible need of additional personnel to review the numerous surveys, and the need to develop Job Descriptions for individual positions.

Commissioner Garza remarked that he had no problem approving a raise for an individual, if the job description justified that raise; however, he noted that he had a problem giving someone a raise because they were "on-call".

Mr. Mendez noted that the Parks System's employees were underpaid as compared to the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Cascos clarified that the Public Works Department employees earned comp-time and the Parks System employees were paid over-time.

Mr. Dagoberto Barrera, County resident, asked how employees could perform a job without a Job Description.

Judge Hinojosa explained that the matter was to develop a Job Description consistent to the different positions throughout the County's personnel.

Commissioner Garza moved that the motion be amended to allow for the change in Salaries based on their job description, not for being on-call; by revising the Salary Schedules and changing the position of an Equipment Operator to Equipment Operator II and that of Assistant Carpenter to Assistant Carpenter II.

The "friendly" amendment was accepted.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Benavides that the Salary Schedules for the Cameron County Parks Systems, Construction Repair Division, be approved based on the revised Job Descriptions, said positions being changed to Equipment Operator II and Assistant Carpenter II.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously.

The Salary Schedules are as follow:

**(8) IN THE MATTER REGARDING THE POSSIBLE
INCREASE IN INDIGENT BURIAL FUNERAL
COMPENSATION TO FUNERAL DIRECTORS
(TABLED)**

Ms. Yvette Salinas, Health Department Administrator, reported that since no bids were received for the Indigent Burial Funeral Compensation, she surveyed local Funeral Homes and Hidalgo County as to the costs. She recommended that the Infant Indigent Burial Funeral Compensation be increased to \$250.00 from the \$150.00 approved in 1989, and that all other Indigent Burial Funeral Compensation be increased to \$850.00 from the \$500.00 approved in 1989.

Judge Hinojosa questioned how the plot expenses were funded.

Ms. Salinas noted that the \$850.00 was inclusive of the body preparation, burial and the cemetery plot.

At this time, Mr. Allie Besterio, Delta Funeral Director, explained that the County was paying \$500.00 for the funeral home to go to the river, take the cadaver and find a cemetery, and get compensated for the cemetery costs. He noted that they had worked with the County Auditor and were being compensated \$500.00 for the cemetery costs, and the proposal changed the amount to \$850.00. Mr. Besterio noted the differences between the removal of a body from the river, that being a gruesome case, and removal from the hospital, that being a natural case.

Commissioner Cascos noted that at a previous meeting, the discussion dealt with going out for bids, and conducting a pre-bidders conference to allow the Funeral Home's Directors the opportunity to comment and scrutinize the proposal, and questioned why no bids were received.

Mr. Besterio noted that no corporate companies had submitted bids and that they, as independent owners, could not afford to serve all the indigent burials for the County.

Commissioner Cascos noted that the bidding was intended to determine the market value for the related services, but that there appeared to be some confusion as to the request for proposal.

Mr. Freddie Elizondo, Trinity Funeral Homes, remarked that the independent funeral homes could not afford to serve all the indigent burials for the County because they would go broke.

He stated that the way the request for proposal was presented, it was interpreted that the lowest bidder would be selected for the southern part of the County and another would be for the northern half of the County, adding that they could not afford it. He noted that the independent funeral directors were the only ones willing to retrieve bodies from the river. Mr. Elizondo then added that they lost money doing these services, and were requesting to be compensated to meet costs.

Judge Hinojosa asked whether the current Infant Indigent Burial Funeral Compensation would be sufficient, if all the other Indigent Burial Funeral compensations were increased to the recommended \$850.00.

[REDACTED]

There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Cascos seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 6:32 P. M.

[REDACTED]

APPROVED this 22nd 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.