

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 14th day of MARCH, 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

COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 1

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:

PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES

CARLOS H. CASCOS, C.P.A.



The meeting was called to order by Judge Hinojosa at 9:08 A.M. He then led the Court and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on March 8, 2002, at 4:00 P.M.:

ACTION ITEMS

**(2) AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE ONE HUMVEE
VEHICLE FROM THE FEDERAL SURPLUS
PROPERTY PROGRAM IN SAN BENITO**

At this time, Mr. Javier Mendez, Parks System Director, explained that the Chief Parks Ranger had traveled to San Antonio with the Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor and inspected the 1986 Hummer Army surplus vehicle. He stated that the cost would be in the amount of \$12,500.00, noting that the vehicle was a diesel automatic, with only 15,000 miles, worth about \$60,000.00. He added that it would be used for beach patrol, for emergency response and for recovery during hurricane season, and would be available to other law enforcement agencies should there be a need. Mr. Mendez explained that Capital Improvement Funds not utilized this year would be allocated for the purchase.

Commissioner Garza questioned whether the vehicle could be maintained.

Mr. Lee Lozano, Vehicle Maintenance, responded that the vehicle could be maintained with the assistance of the diesel mechanic in the County Engineer's Department.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa noted that if Capital Improvement funds were being re-directed, he wanted to make sure of the need; adding that he preferred to see other capital improvements, such as duplicating the playground at Cameron Park in Laguna Heights. He explained that the carpenters were available and could work on the playground and make better use of the funds.

There was some discussion concerning the possibilities of grant funding for the park, the need for another four (4) wheel drive vehicle, and the suggestion was made that perhaps the Sheriff's Department would be interested in the vehicle.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, noted that the purchase price was not the only consideration, adding that funds would be needed to renovate and tailor the vehicle for the Parks Department. He cautioned the Court regarding the Parks revenues not being as strong as expected.

Commissioner Garza questioned whether the Parks Department had been experiencing difficulties in reaching any area of the Island that was patrolled with the vehicles available.

Mr. Mendez responded in the affirmative, noting that the Department had incurred three (3) of four (4) towing charges in the past year for four (4) wheel drive vehicles.

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

At this time, Commissioner Garza suggested that the Court should consider the matters before staff spent time driving to San Antonio and checking out vehicles.

Mr. Mendez explained the need for staff to inspect the vehicle before submitting a bid, since other agencies had expressed an interest in the vehicle.

At this time, there was discussion that perhaps the Sheriff's Department could acquire the vehicle and the suggestion was made to authorize the Sheriff to purchase the vehicle, if funds were available.

Commissioner Garza moved that the Sheriff's Department be authorized to purchase one (1) humvee vehicle from the Federal Surplus Property Program in San Benito, if funds were available.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously.

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**(3) ADOPTION OF THE JURY PLAN AS PROPOSED
BY MAJORITY OF THE DISTRICT JUDGES, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 62.011 OF TEXAS
GOVERNMENT CODE**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously, the Jury Plan, as proposed by the majority of the District Judges, in accordance with Article 62.011 of Texas Government Code, was adopted.

The Plan is as follows:

[REDACTED]

(4) APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND/OR SALARY SCHEDULES

Commissioner Garza moved that the Salary Schedule for the Juvenile Probation Department, Fund No. 330-5712, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously.

The Salary Schedule is as follows:

CONSENT ITEMS

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

(4) APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS

Commissioner Garza moved that the County claims be approved as presented, with the exception of Warrants No. 00071538 and No. 00071539.

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

AYE: Commissioners Garza and Valdez,

NAY: None,

ABSTAIN: Judge Hinojosa as to Laguna Madre, Warrant No. 00071723, in the amount of \$154.29; and Southwest Key Program, Warrant No. 00071797, in the amount of \$37,838.78.

Judge Hinojosa moved that the County claims be approved as presented, with the exception of Warrants No. 00071723 and No. 00071797.

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

AYE: Judge Hinojosa and Commissioner Valdez,

NAY: None,

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Garza as to the Medicine Shoppe, Warrant No. 00071538, in the amount of \$1,038.94 and Warrant No. 00071539, in the amount of \$80.61.

The Affidavits are as follow:

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- (5) **APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONERS' COURT MINUTES:**
(A) **FEBRUARY 14, 2002 - SPECIAL**
(B) **FEBRUARY 19, 2002 - REGULAR**
(C) **FEBRUARY 26, 2002 - REGULAR, and**
(D) **MARCH 5, 2002 - REGULAR**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously, the following Minutes were approved, and the Minutes of February 26, 2002, were **TABLED**.

- (A) **FEBRUARY 14, 2002 - SPECIAL**
(B) **FEBRUARY 19, 2002 - REGULAR, and**
(C) **MARCH 5, 2002 - REGULAR.**

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TRAVEL ITEMS

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

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously, the following Travel Items were approved:

- (a) Program Development and Management Community Development Coordinator to attend the "Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Professional Advisory Review Panel Meeting" in Weslaco, Texas, March 13, 2002;
- (b) Safety Risk Coordinator to attend the "6th Annual Health and Safety Conference" in Austin, Texas, April 17-18, 2002;
- (c) Personnel Director and Safety Risk Coordinator to attend the "2002 County Management Institute" in Austin, Texas, on April 3-5, 2002;
- (d) Juvenile Probation employee to attend the "Microsoft Excel Workshop" in McAllen, Texas, May 28, 2002; and
- (e) Juvenile Probation employee to attend the "Defy - Train - the-Trainer Workshop" in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 24, 2002.
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There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Valdez and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:30 A. M.

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APPROVED this 26th day of **March 2002**.

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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.