

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 5th day of AUGUST, 1997, 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:

4:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1

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

JAMES R. MATZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

HECTOR PEÑA
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

Hilda V. Treviño Deputy
COUNTY CLERK

ABSENT:

PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES

The meeting was called to order by Judge Pro-tem Carlos H. Cascos.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on August 1, 1997, at 11:43 A.M.:

(1) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 4:11 P.M. to discuss the following matters:

- a) Confer with County Counsel pertaining to the Cameron County Trustee property, known as Brownsville-Elizabeth Heights, Block No.1, Lot No. 2, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (2);
- b) Confer with County Counsel concerning the potential litigation regarding the Dancy Building; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (1)(A&B); and
- c) Interview for the position of Emergency Management Coordinator/Intergovernmental Liaison; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.074 (1).

At this time, Judge Hinojosa 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.

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Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in Regular Session at 5:38 P.M.

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(2) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Confer with County Counsel pertaining to the Cameron County Trustee property known as Brownsville-Elizabeth Heights, Block No. 1, Lot No. 2, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, reported that County Counsel should be directed to negotiate arrangements with the Property owners from the stand point of the purchase price and clearing the title regarding said matter.

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, County Counsel was directed to negotiate arrangements with the property owners, based on the purchase price and clearance of the title regarding Cameron County Trustee property, known as Brownsville-Elizabeth Heights, Block No. 1, Lot No. 2, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas.

- b) Confer with County Counsel concerning the potential litigation regarding the Dancy Building.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, reported that County Counsel should be authorized to direct outside Counsel concerning the Professional Services Contract regarding said matter.

Commissioner Matz moved that County Counsel be authorized to direct outside Counsel concerning the Professional Services Contract regarding the potential litigation involving the Dancy Building.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

- c) Interview for the position of Emergency Management Coordinator/Intergovernmental Liaison.

Commissioner Cascos reported that the interviews for the position of Emergency Management Coordinator/Intergovernmental Liaison be acknowledged.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the interviews for the position of the Emergency Management Coordinator/Intergovernmental Liaison were acknowledged.



(13) **SELECTION OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD RECEIVE THE JURY DUTY FEES DONATED THROUGH THE OPTIONAL DEFERMENT ON THE JURY DUTY FORM**

At this time, Ms. Aurora De La Garza, District Clerk, introduced the following individuals in support of said issue:

- Ms. Alma Garza, Friendship of Women,
- Ms. Carmen Martinez, Friendship of Women,
- Ms. Judy Cuellar Garcia, Friendship of Women,
- Ms. Grace Salinas, Friendship of Women,
- Ms. Gayle Irby, Family Crisis Center,
- Mr. Remberto Arteaga, Child Welfare, and
- Mr. Oscar Ponce, Friendship of Women,

Ms. De La Garza stated that the process regarding the Jury Summons Card had been changed by Legislation guidelines, in order for the donated fees to be designated to local organizations.

Upon motion by Judge Hinojosa, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Cameron County Child Welfare Board, People Against Violent Crimes and the Brownsville Women-s Shelter/Family Crisis Center were selected to receive the Jury Duty Fees donated through the Optional Deferment on the Jury Duty Form.



(3) APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS

At this time, Mr. Larry Ditto, Texas Parks and Wildlife, presented a check from the United State Fish and Wildlife Service to the County, in the amount of \$153,338.00, in lieu of taxes. He commended the Commissioners= Court for their position regarding the Boca Chica County Park and offered the Department=s services to assist the County in working on the Park, noting that the natural history would be preserved for the citizens of Cameron County.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the majority of the County residents were in support of the Project and requested that the Texas Parks and Wildlife should attend the Public Hearings, in order to explain the importance of government taking control of the deteriorating park.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, presented a Conflict of Interest Affidavit for Commissioner Matz, as to Warrant No. 40291, in the amount of \$287.00, noting that the Policy would be enforced regarding Commissioners affiliated with the Warrants.

Commissioner Cascos moved that the County Claims be approved as presented by the County Auditor.

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

AYE: Commissioners Cascos, Peña and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: None

ABSTAINED: Commissioner Matz, as to Warrant No. 40291, in the amount of \$287.00.

The Budget Officer=s Comments Report and the Affidavit are as follow:

(4) **IN THE MATTER OF THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND/OR SALARY SCHEDULES (NO ACTION TAKEN)**

At this time, the County Auditor noted that there were no Budget Amendments and/or Salary Schedules for approval.

(5) **PRESENTATION BY ESMERALDA GARCIA ON THE STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION PLANNING GRANT FOR THE STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE FREE TRADE BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR**

At this time, Ms. Esmeralda Garcia, Economic Development Specialist, presented the Third Quarter Activity and Financial Report concerning the status of the Economic Development Administration Planning Grant for the Strategic Economic Development Plan for the Free Trade Bridge Industrial Corridor and highlighted the achievements and the planned activities related to the Grant.

Mr. Joe Galvan, Bridge Systems Director, briefly highlighted the Financial Report for the Strategic Economic Development Plan for the Free Trade Bridge Industrial Corridor.

NOTE: JUDGE HINOJOSA LEFT THE COURT ROOM.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Presentation by Esmeralda Garcia on the status of the Economic Development Administration Planning Grant for the Strategic Economic Development Plan for the Free Trade Bridge Industrial Corridor was acknowledged.

(17) **ADOPTION OF THE \$80,000.00 BUSINESS PLAN-MARKETING BUDGET FOR THE FREE TRADE BRIDGE**

NOTE: JUDGE HINOJOSA RETURNED TO THE COURT ROOM.

At this time, Mr. Joe Galvan, Bridge Systems Director, stated that extension of the Bridge hours had been implemented and resulted in had increased Bridge crossings. He explained that the proposed funds would be utilized to advertise the availability and hours of operation of the Bridge by media, purchasing and installing large and small billboards for the United States and Mexican sides and by distributing flyers and maps.

Commissioner Cascos expressed concern as to the future Budgets being impacted and whether the funds should be encumbered into the current Budget.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, stated that there was a special Budget set up for said matter, confirming that the future Budget would be impacted and added that the funds would be encumbered in the roll-over. He questioned

whether the marketing would cease at the end of the funds and Mr. Galvan responded that said issue was a one-time promotion intended to reach the traffic targets set up by the United States Customs, noting that once the goal was achieved, the necessary funds would decrease.

Commissioner Matz suggested that the smaller billboards be eliminated, in order to obtain more of the larger billboards to give the County a better marketing impact.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the \$80,000.00 Business Plan-Marketing Budget for the Free Trade Bridge was adopted.

[REDACTED]

(6) APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GUSTAVO F. STERN, M.D., EXTENDING THE TERM TO A MONTH-TO-MONTH TERM

At this time, Ms. Dylbia Jefferies-Vega, County Counsel, explained that the original Contract was being extended on a month-to-month basis.

Commissioner Peña expressed concern as to the Liability Indemnity, in which the County would not hold Dr. Gustavo F. Stern harmless for any medical services provided and as to Dr. Stern maintaining insurance for individuals outside the facility.

Judge Hinojosa clarified that Dr. Stern currently provided his own insurance policy, which would not change the Contract.

Commissioner Peña questioned whether the Contract stated that if Dr. Stern made a medical error, the County would be liable.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, recommended that the Contract be entered into on a month-to-month basis and that the issues be reviewed by County Counsel. He stated that there were other Contractual Provisions that Dr. Stern provided besides said Contract, and assured that said issues would be reviewed by County Counsel.

Commissioner Peña clarified that the understanding would include limiting the County's exposure.

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Gustavo F. Stern, M.D., be approved extending the term to a month-to-month term, with the understanding that the County's exposure would be limited.

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

AYE: Commissioners Cascos, Peña and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: Commissioner Matz.

At this time, Commissioner Matz stated that the Contract provided a payment to Dr. Stern, in the amount of \$7,062.23, plus \$945.00 for the Adult Detention, and \$2,000.00 for a Medical Consultant. He stated that the State Comptroller's Report pointed out an appearance of a conflict of interest with the Health Authority and added that Bids should be advertised, in order to separate the Health Authority and the County Physician.

Commissioner Cascos stated that there was a thirty (30) day ratification, in which the Request for Proposals could be advertised and suggested that the similar Contracts with the Health Department should be addressed in the same manner.

The Agreement is as follows:

(7) **IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONERS=COURT=S SELECTION OF A THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR (TPA), PREFERRED PROVIDER ORGANIZATION (PPO) AND A STOP LOSS INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTY=S EMPLOYEE BENEFITS HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN AS DESIGNED BY THE COUNTY AND THE AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE ON THE CHANGES IN THE PLAN (TABLED)**

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

(8) **IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUESTED SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE COUNTY PARKING LOTS (TABLED)**

At this time, Commissioner Cascos suggested that due to Jurisdictional problems with the Sheriff=s Office, this Item should be Tabled.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, recommended that said issue should be discussed with the County Sheriff, and added that based on the Local Government Code 291.003 concerning the Courthouse Security, Atthe County Sheriff shall have charge and control of the Courthouse, subject to the regulations of the Commissioners= Court®. He recommended that a light duty program should be implemented due to the Workers= Compensation Plan.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the issue regarding the exclusive jurisdiction of the Sheriff=s Department should be reviewed and added that a Law Enforcement Deputy was necessary, in order to control the thefts.

At this time, Constable Conrado Cantu, Precinct No. 2, stated that there were many occasions in which Law Enforcement Officers were needed in the Courthouse and added that the Deputy patrolling the parking areas could also assist the Courthouse Security in emergency situations.

Commissioner Cascos questioned how absenteeism and vacation would be addressed, due to only one (1) Deputy being utilized for the security of the parking areas and Constable Cantu responded that the Reserve Deputies would be utilized to assist in the Deputy=s absence.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the position would be a training and/or starting position for the Deputy and suggested that the Deputy=s Vacation hours should be scheduled during the month of July, when there was no jury duty and the number of vehicles and individuals decreased.

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

[REDACTED]

(9) **APPROVAL OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND MATA AND VILLARREAL, ARCHITECTS, ETCETERA, FOR THE DESIGN AND PROJECT COORDINATION OF THE RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BUILDINGS**

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the Architectural Services Agreement between Cameron County and Mata and Villarreal, Architects Etcetera, were approved for the Design and Project Coordination of the Rural Law Enforcement Buildings, said funding to be allocated from Fund No. 5.

The Agreement is as follows:

- (10) **IN THE MATTER OF A 1-800 TELEPHONE LINE FOR USE BY CAMERON COUNTY RESIDENTS (TABLED)**
- (25) **IN THE MATTER OF A 1-800 TELEPHONE LINE WHICH WILL BE USED TO DETER GRAFFITI AND TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING IN CAMERON COUNTY (TABLED)**

At this time, Judge Hinojosa stated that the 1-800 telephone line would be installed in the County Judge's Office for the benefit of the residents of the Northern part of the County, in order for complaints and inquiries to be phoned into the Courthouse without a long distance charge.

There was some discussion regarding the rates and whether a better rate could be obtained by an alternate telephone company.

Judge Hinojosa moved that this Item be tabled, subject to obtaining and approving the best rate possible with an alternate telephone company.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa stated that alternate suggestions on handling said issue would be considered, with the understanding that the Northern County residents could contact the Courthouse without a long distance charge.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, recommended that the lowest rates be obtained and suggested that said issue should be advertised for Bids to receive the best rate for the County.

At this time, Commissioner Cascos expressed concern as to Item No. 12, regarding purchasing Cellular Phones for the Justices of the Peace and whether the Policy regarding Cellular Phones was complete.

Mr. Yates stated that the following Cellular Phone Policy had been drafted and briefly highlighted the rates for Law Enforcement and County employees:

Commissioner Cascos suggested that the Commissioners= Court be included with the Elected Officials, in order to maintain consistency and uniformity among the Cellular Phone users and added that the individuals should reimburse the County for the minutes exceeding the limit.

Judge Hinojosa recommended that the Cellular Phone/Services for the Justices of the Peace be approved as long as the matter complied with the Policy.

There was some discussion concerning the issue being approved until the next Fiscal Year and whether the funds existed within their Budgets.

(12) IN THE MATTER OF THE PURCHASE OF MOBILE PHONE/SERVICES FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT NO. 2, PLACE 2 AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT NO. 3, PLACE 1 (DENIED)

Commissioner Cascos moved that this Item be tabled until the funds were allocated from the next Fiscal Year=s Budget, subject to the Cellular Phone Policy being approved.

The motion was seconded by Matz and the vote is as follows:

AYE: Commissioners Cascos and Matz

NAY: Commissioner Peña and Judge Hinojosa.

Judge Hinojosa moved that the purchase of the Mobile Phone/Services be approved for Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 2, Place No. 2, and Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 3, Place No. 1, to be effective next Tuesday once the Cellular Phone Plan was approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and the vote is as follows:

AYE: Commissioner Peña and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: Commissioners Cascos and Matz.

(11) AUTHORIZATION FOR PRECINCT NO. 2 AND PRECINCT NO. 1 TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE=S AMAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY@ ON AUGUST 9, 1997

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, Precincts No. 1 and No. 2 were authorized to participate with the City of Brownsville=s AMake a Difference Day@ on August 9, 1997.

(14) AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND THE TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR TO CANCEL AND REMOVE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE ACCOUNTS FROM THE DELINQUENT TAX ROLL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE PROPERTY TAX CODE SECTION 33.05

At this time, Tony Yzaguirre, Jr., explained that based upon State Statute, Real Estate Accounts over twenty (20) years and Personal Property Delinquent Taxes over (10) years could not be collected and reported that the amount of \$1,191,000.00, in Personal Property Taxes and the amount of \$34,708.00, in Real Estate Accounts were uncollectible. He added that said accounts needed to be purged from the Computer System and noted that per State Statute, the County could not file suit or seize the accounts.

Commissioner Matz moved that the County Auditor and the Tax Assessor-Collector be authorized to cancel and remove Personal Property and Real Estate Accounts from the Delinquent Tax Roll in accordance with the State Property Tax Code Section 33.05.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.



(15) APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL/CUSTODIAL SERVICES AT THE PORT ISABEL COUNTY BUILDING BETWEEN LUZ MARIA R. DOMINGUEZ AND CAMERON COUNTY

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Contract for Janitorial/Custodial Services at the Port Isabel County Building between Luz Maria R. Dominguez and Cameron County was approved.

The Contract is as follows:

(16) **APPROVAL OF THE RESERVE DEPUTY
CONSTABLES FOR PRECINCTS NOS. 1, 2, 6 AND
7**

Commissioner Peña moved that the following Reserve Deputy Constables be approved for Precincts Nos. 1, 2, 6 and 7:

Mr. Gilberto Sotuyo, Precinct No. 2,

Mr. Victor H. Alvarado, Precinct No. 2,

Ms. Leslie De Los Santos, Precinct No. 2,

Ms. Arabella Acosta, Precinct No. 1,

Mr. Richard Narez, Precinct No. 6,

Mr. Michael Brinegar, Precinct No. 7, and

Mr. Angel Perez, Precinct No. 7.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

The Bonds are as follow:

(18) APPROVAL OF THE GRANT CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR THE CAMERON PARK RECYCLING CENTER PROJECT

Commissioner Matz moved that the Grant Contract Extension be approved with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council for the Cameron Park Recycling Center Project.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

(19) APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH THE HARLINGEN PAPER RECYCLING FOR THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES AT THE CAMERON PARK RECYCLING CENTER FROM AUGUST 31, 1997, TO OCTOBER 31, 1997

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz , seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Contract Extension was approved with the Harlingen Paper Recycling for the Project Management Services at the Cameron Park Recycling Center from August 31, 1997, to October 31, 1997.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa expressed concern as to whether said Project was being utilized.

Mr. Frank Bejarano, Program Development and Management Director, reported that the Project was being utilized but stated that comparison figures were not available, due to the non-existing recycling centers of the same capacity.

Commissioner Matz noted that the County should be aware of the State Law which was changed regarding the recycling of tires, which could affect the Project and suggested that a report be presented and recommendations be made by a member of the Harlingen Paper Recycling Center.

The Contract is as follows:

(20) IN THE MATTER OF A TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE COLUMBIA VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER INSIDE THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE REINVESTMENT ZONE NO. 2 (TABLED)

At this time, Mr. Frank Bejarano, Program Development and Management Director, stated that the City of Brownsville had approved a Tax Abatement Agreement with the Hospital, effective May 27, 1997, and reported that the County had ninety (90) days in which to consider the abatement. He stated that the County would be bound to the terms and conditions of the same Agreement approved by the City, in which the County would be able to change the level or length of the abatement. Mr. Bejarano stated that the County would generate approximately one million dollars over a ten (10) year abatement period, based on future market values and current tax rates.

Mr. Pete Delgado, Columbia Valley Regional Medical Center's CEO, stated that the hospital was a good investment for the community which had room for potential growth and highlighted the three (3) story building features.

Mr. Bejarano stated that the County had previously participated with the Cities of Brownsville and Harlingen on other Tax Abatement Projects and noted that said Project was the first Medical Business Type Project which was not strictly an Industrial Type Project, but was allowed under State Law.

Commissioner Matz questioned the intent of said action and Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, responded that Tax Abatements were utilized to attract business to certain areas.

At this time, Commissioner Matz questioned the land and the amount of \$450,000.00, being donated by the hospital to the City of Brownsville and Mr. Delgado clarified that the donation was made to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Commissioner Matz expressed his opposition to the matter and stated that the hospital was already in place, noting that the County no longer had to lure them into the area.

Mr. Delgado clarified that the hospital was a new Project, which was replacing the old facility to a new location and added that the intention was to continue growing and to promote growth in the community.

Mr. Bejarano clarified that Tax Abatements were not only utilized to attract business, but were also utilized to retain businesses and existing jobs.

At this time, Commissioner Cascos expressed concern regarding the minimum amount of 1.1 million dollars that the County would forego, subject to the Tax Rate remaining constant and the creation of new jobs.

Mr. Delgado clarified that the package presented included an increase in jobs and would attract a number of Physician Providers, noting that a proposed Medical Office Building was to be constructed.

Commissioner Cascos stated that if said Project was approved, the County should stand ready to fulfill the requests of the surrounding hospitals and suggested that this Item be Tabled for one (1) week, in order to further review the issue.

Commissioner Cascos moved that this Item be tabled for one (1) week.

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

AYE: Commissioners Cascos, Matz and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: None

ABSTAINED: Commissioner Peña.

[REDACTED]

(21) **APPROVAL OF THE GRANT EXTENSION WITH THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR THE LOCAL SOLID WASTE ENFORCEMENT PROJECT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Grant Extension with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council was approved for the Local Solid Waste Enforcement Project.

[REDACTED]

(22) **AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR MATERIALS LAB TESTING FOR GSA BUILDING PAD SITES**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Contract be awarded to Raba Kistner Consultants, Incorporated, McAllen, Texas, for material lab testing for the Government Services Administration (GSA) Building pad sites, said funding to be allocated from the Los Tomates Construction Fund.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

[REDACTED]

(23) **AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED (PSI) THE CONTRACT TO DESIGN THE FOUNDATION SYSTEM FOR THE COUNTY TOLL BUILDING AS REQUESTED BY KELL, MUÑOZ ARCHITECTS**

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the Contract was awarded to the Professional Services Industries, Incorporated, (PSI) to design the foundation system for the County Toll Building as requested by Kell, Muñoz Architects.

(24) **APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A NEW PHONE SYSTEM FOR THE UNIFIED NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE**

Commissioner Cascos moved that a new Phone System be purchased for the Unified Narcotics Intelligence Task Force.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE RECOMMENDED FOR A CONSENT® AND WERE EITHER RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT HEAD, WITHIN BUDGET OR AWARDED TO THE LOW BIDDER:

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, clarified Item No. 27 and stated that the County did not pay the License Fees for employees, due to the anticipated termination of the individual from the County, in which the individual would take the license with them and questioned whether the Policy allowed the County to pay for Professional Licenses.

Commissioner Cascos expressed concern as to whether the County was going to pay the Professional License for every individual, in order to maintain equality within the County.

Commissioner Matz requested that additional information be submitted to the Court with clarification of the issue and suggested that this matter be Tabled.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, stated that the District Attorney was in the process of allocating the funds from the Drug Forfeiture Fund 90, in order to pay the license fees for the Attorneys in the District Attorney's Office. He stated that many issues would need to be addressed, as to effective dates and reimbursements and suggested that a Committee be created to determine the professions that would be paid.

Commissioner Matz moved that this Item be Tabled.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and the vote was as follows:

AYE: Commissioners Matz and Cascos

NAY: Commissioner Peña and Judge Hinojosa.

Judge Hinojosa moved that the AConsent® Agenda Items be approved as follow, subject to a Policy being created regarding Item No. 27, to be presented at the next Meeting.

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

AYE: Commissioners Cascos, Peña and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: Commissioner Matz, as to Item No. 27.

(26) APPROVAL OF TRAVEL AND/OR TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR THE FOLLOWING, SUBJECT TO FUNDS IN THEIR BUDGET:

- a) One (1) Member of the Commissioners= Court Legal Counsel to attend the ALegal Seminar on Ad Valorem Taxation@ in Austin, Texas, on August 27-29, 1997;
- b) Unified Narcotics Intelligence Task-Force Director to attend an AExecutive Committee Meeting@ in San Antonio, Texas, on July 28-29, 1997;
- c) Health Department employee to attend the AWorkshop on Texas Department of Health Medicaid Administrative Claiming and Reporting@ in Austin, Texas, on August 19, 1997;
- d) Health Department employee to attend the ATexas Department of Health Title V Workshop@ in Austin, Texas, on August 13-16, 1997;
- e) Health Department employee to attend the ATexas WIN Training@ in Austin, Texas, on August 11-15, 1997;
- f) Four (4) County Drug Enforcement Task-Force Agents to attend the ASouthwestern Bell Telephone Company=s Subpoena Land Line or Wireless Telephone Records Conference@ in McAllen, Texas, on July 31, 1997;
- g) Deputy Constable Precinct No. 1 to attend the ALaw Enforcement Continued Education Seminar@ in McKinney, Texas, on August 18-21, 1997;
- h) Constable Precinct No. 1 to attend the ALaw Enforcement Continued Education Seminar@ in McKinney, Texas, on August 26-29, 1997;
- I) Three (3) County Extension Agents to attend the ATexas County Agriculture Agents Association (TCAAA) Convention@ in Laredo, Texas, on July 25-30, 1997;
- j) Tax Assessor-Collector and four (4) Deputies to attend the ATexas Association of Assessing Officers Educational Course@ in Edinburg, Texas, on August 14, 1997;
- k) Gateway International Bridge Manager and Free Trade Bridge Supervisor to attend the AStress Management for Women Seminar@ in McAllen, Texas, on August 13, 1997; and
- l) Three (3) Unified Narcotics Intelligence Task-Force employees to attend an AAnalytical Investigation Methods Course@ in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 22-26, 1997.



- (27) **AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE FEES FOR REGISTRATION AS ENGINEERS WITH STATE BOARD FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY ENGINEERING OFFICE (SUBJECT TO POLICY)**
- (28) **APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING PURCHASES WITHOUT PURCHASE ORDERS:**
- a) **DON BREEDEN ART STUDIO, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$115.00 - COMMISSIONERS= COURT;**
 - b) **FELCO OFFICE SYSTEMS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,959.99 - JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT NO. 3-1;**
 - c) **BRUSH COUNTY INN, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18.99 - DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE; AND**
 - d) **LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120.00 - CONSTABLE PRECINCT NO. 7.**

There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED**.

APPROVED this 2nd day of September, 1997.

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

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