

THE STATE OF TEXAS :
COUNTY OF HIDALGO :

VCL 0128 PAGE 655

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 6TH day of
AUGUST, 1991, after due notice having been given, there was
begun and holden, a PUBLIC HEARING on the HIDALGO COUNTY TDOC
EMERGENCY FUND by the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners'
Courtroom of the Administration Building in the City of
Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas with the following members of
said Court present and participating:

Hon. J. Edgar Ruiz
County Judge

Hon. Ramiro Cavazos
County Commissioner, Precinct #1

Hon. Lalo Arcaute
County Commissioner, Precinct #2

Hon. Norberto Salinas
County Commissioner, Precinct #3

Hon. Leonard Camarillo
County Commissioner, Precinct #4

and with the following members of the public present:

E.J. (Jesse) Izaguirre
Elida Bocanegra
Emilio Garcia
Beatriz Flores
Ramiro A. Gonzalez
Anthony Covacevich
Rudy de la Vina
Lee Halle
Joaquin Cerda
Charles E. Curtis
Rosalinda M. Reyes

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

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JUDGE RUIZ

Item 5, is a public hearing to solicit comments on the project performance of the Texas Department of Commerce Emergency Funds. Commissioners, if you recall, back two years ago, about a year and a half ago...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ

Yea, in, then we, I have just a brief saying on this, Judge, you may want to add some. Back in 19.., well in March 1990, we were awarded, the County was awarded an Emergency Assistance Grant of \$100,000.00 for the December freeze in '89; and this is, since we were awarded in March, I have a brief there on the, on the memo, by contract how many homes were assisted. We have a total of 45 homes that were assisted with this contract. It was a \$100,000.00 grant, however, the amount that was expended was \$26,133.89; therefore the amount remaining is approximately \$73,866.11. One and sixty-two residents were, were assisted and all being amount. If there's any questions, you can ask, other than that, I do have a list that must, needs to be signed and needs to be passed around for my public hearing.

JUDGE RUIZ

Now, Annette, the request for the public hearing is actually to close the grant itself?

ANNETTE NEVAREZ

Right, this is for the performance project, for services.

JUDGE RUIZ

On the performance, itself? If you recall, Commissioner Salinas, and Commissioners, we had discussed the possibility of reapplying through the emergency basis for the entryway to Anzalduas Park.

COMM. SALINAS

Yes.

JUDGE RUIZ

We, we, we have discussed with...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ

The State.

JUDGE RUIZ

...the staff people there...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ

Uh-hum, with TDOC.

JUDGE RUIZ

...and basically, they, they felt they had a small problem with it, in the sense that it's a totally different project versus housing versus repairs. We may still want to pursue that, or continue to pursue that for, the sake of not in essence losing this money, or we having to return this money. Although they said if you submit a project that is housing related, that that may stand a better chance.

ANNETTE NEVAREZ

Correct.

JUDGE RUIZ

Okay, so, that's where we are now, the total balance is \$73,866.11?

ANNETTE NEVAREZ

Correct, \$73,866.11.

JUDGE RUIZ

So, we spent what, \$26,133.89. Okay.

COMM. CAMARILLO

You know in, in the information that you gave us it only reflects \$19,125.00.

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Uh-hum, that was on the planning contracts themselves. On the inspector fees \$2,925.00 was spent, and then we have general administration...

COMM. CAMARILLO ----to that...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ ...right, we have an inspector and advertising services, which is general administration, which totals to the \$26,000.00.

COMM. CAMARILLO I certainly would like to recommend that we find a way to use these funds, particularly in the area of water, either to extend lines or use it in the park. I've got problems in, in Delta Park, with the plumbing, and of course, some of it was due to the freeze, but, because it was a park, I never, I...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ ...were not able...

COMM. CAMARILLO ...I've heard that this money will be used in residential areas, but if there is a way, I certainly would like to, to use part of this money, in, in fixing the plumbing in, in Delta Park and I'm pretty sure that the other parks might also...

COMM. SALINAS Well, this is the problem, that we wanted to use that money for Anzalduas Park and they just said no. There is no relations with housing, so the best thing to do is to find some colonias that do not have portable water or maybe extend a major water line to a colonia where it's, do not have portable water and that would not have any problems with the Texas Department of Commerce.

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Right, I., that would just require a program amendment.

COMM. SALINAS Exactly. So if you would get with the water supply corporations and maybe some, we have some in our area, we, we are also applying for that \$500,000.00 for water lines. I'm thinking you won't have a hard time finding the money to be spent.

COMM. CAMARILLO Is, is there a way that we can divide this money, throughout the four precincts and, and allow ea., an equal share to water development, I mean water suppliers...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Corporations.

COMM. CAMARILLO ...for their use to extend lines in, in subdivisions, colonias or, where there is no way that they can do it, with their budgets.

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Being that this grant was, we need to remember it's an emergency fund...

COMM. CAMARILLO I understand.

ANNETTE NEVAREZ ...and so we'll need to go, that's why, we need to take care of this portion first the \$26,000.00 that we have spent; and then probably more than likely reapply, under another fund, where it is not an emergency, where we have to be declared a disaster, in order to use those funds...

JUDGE RUIZ Commissioner, I would see no problem...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ ...because we were granted.

JUDGE RUIZ ...with, with dividing projects...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ The balance.

JUDGE RUIZ ...that we could go in there and complete. In other words, there's no problem with having four different projects in four different precincts, that would cost \$25,000.00 each and we can go in there, define the most need and complete the project. To actually piecemeal it, or just divide the, the, the issue monetarily would cause, I think, an administrative problem overall. Either that or as a high priority just choose a project that has of most need in Hidalgo County and go out and do it with the \$73,000.00 plus whatever funds we have and, and get it done.

COMM. SALINAS Can, can you work with colonias and maybe do rehab, where very badly homes, in the colonias? Maybe we can work something out where...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Housing rehab?

COMM. SALINAS ...as in rehab, some of the small shacks that we have. Help people out.

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Yea, we're working on a proposal that we're trying to get together and get that approved from TDOC, cause...

JUDGE RUIZ There's an actual, also deadline on this project. We have a...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ We have a time event, would to, which is during two years, since we're awarded in March 1990, we have until '92, which is a couple of months.

JUDGE RUIZ It is feasible to actually spend it in rehab, but I know that we bid out on water or sewer projects, just to get that done today. So that probably maybe the, the-----

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Other way, and work through a program. And that would just require a program amendment to the contract.

COMM. CAMARILLO I still would like to see it divided in four equal parts and get each precinct project; I'm pretty sure that we have needs all over the County, and I feel that that will be, everybody will take a piece of the pie.

COMM. SALINAS How much is it, \$73,000.00?

ANNETTE NEVAREZ \$73,000.00 is the balance.

COMM. SALINAS Would tell us what? \$20,000.00? \$15,000.00?

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Approximately a little less.

COMM. CAMARILLO Put a water extension line.

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Okay.

COMM. SALINAS I want, I'll just wait for the \$500,000.00 myself.

ANNETTE NEVAREZ Okay.

COMM. SALINAS \$15,000.00 won't do me any good. The whole \$73,000.00 would do me some good, but appropriating a big water line, from Expressway to Homeville, who do not have any water supply, that would take about \$65,000.00 to do that project. Now that's an easy project...

ANNETTE NEVAREZ You'd take care of the balance.

COMM. SALINAS ...but I would feel that the Commissioner, might want part of that. If you really want to spend that money you could spend it there in sixty days; and you'll have about six or seven colonias with waterwells, which we were approved one about four months ago, remember? But, of course, you know it's up to this Court.

JUDGE RUIZ We're just making comments, this is a public hearing.

COMM. SALINAS I could spend it in sixty days, if you all give it to me, all. If you give me \$15,000.00 I'll do...

JUDGE RUIZ You could spend it in two days.

COMM. SALINAS ...spend it in two days.

COMM. CAMARILLO Now, you know that was, that was not too long ago, Commissioner, that, there is no secret that all the water corporations or water suppliers are heavily indebted. Again, it was a couple of weeks ago that, that there was a news report that Sharyland was almost, cut the water because, of the fact that they didn't pay their bills, or something like that. So, and they were something like \$200,000.00 back due.

COMM. SALINAS Well, that has no problem. Sharyland Water Supply has supplied all the colonias, have done well for the last years and their problem is a feud between them and Water District, United Irrigation District and everybody knows that. If they would only just take care of the differences, you know, it's just a simple management problem, I think they are going to be okay; but, as far as providing for all the area, they've done well. I think, Sharyland has done better than, than most of the other water supply corporations, as far as extending lines, but their Board and United Irrigation District are in odds, about the water rates, and they've been, they spent half a million dollars on legal fees. those are the people that are making the money.

COMM. CAVAZOS Judge...

JUDGE RUIZ Yes sir, Commissioner?

COMM. CAVAZOS At this time I want to recognize a lady from my area, Elida, are you, this is a public hearing, are you hearing everything, do you have any comments, to this Court?

JUDGE RUIZ Este, antes de principiar, Comisionado, para que, para ----- el sistema, estamos en una audiencia publica en terminos de cerrar un contrato que nos dieron los principios del 1989. Fue un total de \$100,000.00 para asistir residentes que tuvieron problemas con la plomeria, en, despues de la helada o durante la helada. Desafortunadamente, este, no pudimos, este, gastar todo el dinero que se, que nos dieron; reparamos 45 casas, asistiendo a 162 residentes, gastando un total de \$26,133.89. Ahorita tenemos una audiencia publica

para discutir en que otros modos podemos usar estos dineros, en total \$73,866.11. No pesque el ultimo nombre...

COMM. CAVAZOS

Elida Bocanegra.

JUDGE RUIZ

Sra. Bocanegra, si usted tiene un comentario, por favor pase, este, cualquier cosa que usted pueda decir, este esta bien recibido.

ELIDA BOCANEGRA

Thank you, Commissioner, Judge thank you. Well, my, my comment is about, that the, we need a, a lot of tab on the colonias, you know, so that sewers problem because as you know and even heard that this cholera disease is coming to, close to us; and if the Commissioners and Judge, Hidalgo County Commissioners do something about this. We need you to do something about it, before this cholera disease gets here. It's getting too close. It is very important to the Commissioners to do something about it.

JUDGE RUIZ

Sra. tienen agua de noria?

ELIDA BOCANEGRA

Some of the colonias, they do. They have alot of these, and as, as, septic tanks, you know, when it's alot of raining this is not usable. No good. So that's what we need, the colonias need a lot of help on, on sewage project.

COMM. SALINAS

Maybe the area of, maybe fixing some of the septic tanks in some of these colonias, we can spend that money well. In helping some of the people that don't have septic tanks; and we can go ahead and install all those privies that we have throughout colonias and, but we need just to work fast and help them with septic tanks, instead of having outdoor toilets. I think that would be spent real well. La cosa es de que los, los servicios de afuera, y podemos usar este dinero, a la mejor a ponerles un septic tank a la gente y replacerlos con el bano de afuera.

ELIDA BOCANEGRA

That's right.

COMM. SALINAS

One of the things that I think we should do is not approve another single colonia with the water well, and we just send a message out there, make a commitment, you know, not to do it anymore.

COMM. ARCAUTE

How, how can you keep from it, as long as it's allowed by the State Health Department?

COMM. SALINAS

Well, I would like to see one of these days for them to appeal it to the State Health Department, over there. See what they get to do with, put their monkey on their backs.

ELIDA BOCANEGRA

Thank you, Commissioners.

COMM. CAVAZOS

Thank you, Elida.

JUDGE RUIZ

Gracias, Sra. Bocanegra. Well we're still under public hearing for the use, the proposed use and closing of this contract, for \$100,000.00 remaining balance \$73,866.11. Any other comments? We've got representation from a water supply corporation.

COMM. SALINAS

(INAUDIBLE)

MILTON KERSTEN

---- for this one and the next hearing which you all had asked me for comments, but we North Alamo pledges its support of your project. We've had, helped Anthony identify some colonias that don't have water. And I imagine we'll help you all in cooperating with you in identifying these and facilitating getting the construction done.

JUDGE RUIZ

Okay sir, good. I appreciate it.

COMM. CAMARILLO

Thank you for being here sir.

JUDGE RUIZ

Any other questions or comments? Commissioners, any other questions or comments? Cualquier otra pregunta o comentario? If there are none we hereby call this public hearing closed on the contract #766307 with the Department of Commerce Emergency Fund. We will, Commissioners take all the comments and we will come back with a final statement, okay.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME
BEFORE SAID PUBLIC HEARING, the hearing on the Hidalgo County
TDOC Emergency Fund was hereby closed.

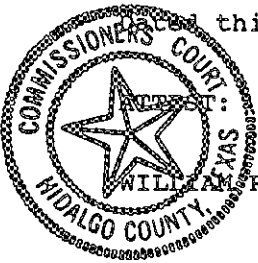
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Attest this 6TH day of AUGUST, 1991.

WILLIAM R. LEO, COUNTY CLERK

By: Jennifer Castillo
Jennifer Castillo, Deputy