

THE STATE OF TEXAS :

COUNTY OF HIDALGO :

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 11TH day of DECEMBER, 1991, after due notice having been given, there was begun and holden a meeting of the Grievance Committee in the Commissioners' Courtroom of the Hidalgo County Administration Building, in the City of Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas with the following members of said Committee present and participating:

Hon. J. Edgar Ruiz
County Judge

Charles D. Cardenas

Elva Caceres

Antonio M. Garcia

Sheila P. DeLair

Ubaldo Perez

Verne Offerman

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings

were had, to-wit:

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The Grievance Committee met to hear the grievances of:

Judge Arnaldo Corpus
Judge Lupe Garces
Judge Jesse Morales
Judge Rosa Trevino
Judge E. Jackson
Sheriff Brig Marmolejo

Grievance Committee members present were:

Charles Cardenas
Elva Caceres
Antonio M. Garcia
Sheila P. DeLair
Ubaldo Perez
Verne Offerman

Judge Ruiz opened the meeting by calling roll and introducing the elected officials present. He then proceeded to explain the budgeting process and the setting of salaries. He also informed the Committee how they were chosen to serve on this Committee and also their responsibilities, as well as his own. He mentioned that each elected official would present his/her grievance and then formal vote would be taken by the Committee on whether or not to approve the request. The Judge also stated that since only six members of the Committee were present, their actions today would be submitted to the Commissioners' Court as a recommendation. Judge Corpus inquired if they, could request that all members of the Committee be present, and the Judge responded that all efforts were made to have them all present, but since they could not then all they could hope for was a recommendation. Sheriff Marmolejo asked if they would have to go before the Commissioners' Court, after the Committee's decision and the Judge responded that they didn't, since the Commissioners' Court would base their decision on the Committee's recommendation.

Judge Corpus then asked if this meeting could be reset so as to be able to get all the Committee members present and the Judge responded by reading from the statutes. He then addressed the Committee, by asking them how they felt about resetting this hearing and he also mentioned that if they don't recess and reconvene within twenty-four hours then there would have to be a ten day notice posted. It was then decided that this hearing would recess and reconvene at 2:00 PM this same afternoon.

At this time, all the elected officials excused themselves and Judge Ruiz proceeded to give the Committee some background information on the salaries and budgets of the JPs and the Sheriff. He stated that of the nine JPs only five were requesting a hearing and also that the Commissioners' Court does not gauge overall compensation on the revenues brought in by the JPs, due to the size of the districts. Mr. Charles Cardenas then asked how many of the JPs were newly elected and if they knew what the salary was when they took office. The Judge indicated that although their salary had increased, in previous years, their personal expense budget had stayed the same and proceeded to explain what their personal expenses might be.

Following this, Judge Ruiz continued by informing the Committee what the request of the Sheriff was and this was to increase his auto allowance by \$3,100.00 to be funded from the Sheriff's Investigation Fund. The Committee then questioned

on how the voting for the requests would take place and also what the Investigation Funds were used for; this was followed by a discussion. Mrs. Delair inquired as to the salaries of those elected officials who don't come before the Grievance Committee, with the Judge responding that all officials were given a 5% raise.

After further discussion, the hearing was recessed until 2:00 PM this afternoon.

Meeting was reconvened at approximately 2:00 PM with the same Committee members present and the same Elected Officials present, with the exception of Judge "Speedy" Jackson.

Judge Ruiz explained that his office had tried to contact the other Committee members but was unable to get anyone else to come to the hearing. He then explained to the elected officials present that he had given a brief rundown to the Committee members on the requests. He then began with the JPs and briefed the Committee on their requests. This was followed with comments from Judge Arnaldo Corpus as to the duties of a Justice of the Peace.

In his explanation, Judge Corpus mentioned the extra jurisdiction given to him, because of the redistricting and also the presence of attorneys in civil suits in the JP Courts. He then gave a brief comparison of the salaries of JPs in other Counties in the State and also the cost to maintain a building to house the JP Court. Questions from the Committee members were as follows: When did he, Judge Corpus, move? Is he up for reelection? What is the increase in number of constituents? What types of cases are handled by the various Courts? Aside from answering these and other questions, the JPs also made a few comments as to the reasons for their requests. Mr. Cardenas then asked why the remaining four JPs weren't requesting a hearing at this point in time, with responses from all the JPs present.

There being no further questions or comments from the Committee and/or the JPs, the Judge reviewed the requests of those JPs present, beginning with Judge Corpus' request, which is to increase his salary to \$27,500.00 and his compensation to \$9,000.00, for a total increase of \$3,050.00. The remaining JPs are asking for an increase in compensation of \$2,800.00.

A motion was then made by Mr. Charles Cardenas, seconded by Mrs. Sheila DeLair, that on the request of Judge Arnaldo Corpus, that his salary remain at the recommended \$26,250.00 and that his expense account be increased by \$2,800.00, up to \$10,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED.

On the remaining JPs and after a discussion ensued by Mr. Verne Offerman, a motion was made by Mr. Antonio Garcia, seconded by Mr. Charles Cardenas, to approve a personal expense increase to Judge Jackson, Judge Morales, Judge Trevino and Judge Garces, from \$7,200.00 to \$10,000.00; leaving the salary at \$26,250.00.

MOTION CARRIED.

Judge Ruiz then presented Sheriff Marmolejo's request and allowed him to make a few comments. Judge Ruiz also mentioned that all auto allowances were kept at the same rate as last year's. A question then arose as to whether the auto allowances were also taxed.

A motion was then made by Mr. Charles Cardenas, seconded by Mrs. Sheila DeLair, to approve the request of increasing the auto allowance, of \$5,400.00 by \$3,100.00 to \$8,500.00.

MOTION CARRIED.

Judge Ruiz then made some closing comments and reiterated that these approvals would be presented to Commissioners' Court as recommendations and informed the Committee that they were welcome to come into Commissioners' Court and present any further comments that they may have. He then thanked all the Committee members for taking the time to come and sit in this Committee. There being no further business to come before the Grievance Committee the Judge then closed the hearing.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME
BEFORE SAID COURT, the meeting of the Grievance Committee was
adjourned.

J. Edgar Ruiz _____
County Judge

Charles D. Cardenas _____

Elva Caceres _____

Antonio M. Garcia _____

Sheila P. DeLair _____

Ubaldo Perez _____

Verne Offerman _____

Dated this 11TH day of DECEMBER, 1991.



LEO, COUNTY CLERK

By:


Jennifer Castillo, Deputy