

The Honorable J. Edgar Ruiz, County Judge, called this Commissioner's Court Meeting to order, whereupon the following items were had to wit:

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF BILLS - COUNTY AUDITOR

GENERAL FUND	- #127199 - #127389	- \$3,362,992.14
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	- #126746 - #126911	- \$1,247,184.98
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND	- # 6047 - # 6073	- \$ 198,112.07
ENTERPRISE FUND	- # 3026 - # 3038	- \$ 34,071.61

(EXHIBIT A)

ITEM 2. COURT REPORTER FEES: (1997)

A. ALMA A. GARZA - \$40.00

(NO EXHIBIT)

ITEM 3. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

A. SUBDIVISIONS:

1. LONE STAR BANK SUBDIVISION PHASE I - PCT. 3
2. COLONIAS DEL RIO PHASE II SUBDIVISION - PCT. 3
3. LA ESCONDIDA SUBDIVISION - PCT. 3
4. RAMON BARBA SUBDIVISION - PCT. 3
5. SANDLEWOOD SUBDIVISION - PCT. 3
6. LA LOMITA HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION - PCT. 4

(EXHIBIT B)

ITEM 4. COUNTY TREASURER:

A. INVESTMENT REPORT - 4TH QUARTER 1996

(EXHIBIT C)

ITEM 5. PERMITS:

A. NORTH ALAMO WATER SUPPLY - PCT. 4

(EXHIBIT D)

ITEM 6. INTERNAL LINE ITEM TRANSFERS: (1996)

A. COUNTY COURT AT LAW #4	- \$ 82.50
B. 332 ND DISTRICT COURT	- \$ 200.00
C. ELECTIONS	- \$ 1,794.25
D. HEALTH DEPARTMENT (SANITATION)	- \$ 650.00
E. HEALTH DEPARTMENT (MOBILE CLINIC)	- \$ 3,345.00
F. HEALTH DEPARTMENT (ADMINISTRATION)	- \$ 385.00
G. HEALTH DEPARTMENT (HEALTH CENTERS/CLINICS)	- \$87,035.00
H. COUNTY JUDGE	- \$ 2,000.00

(EXHIBIT E)

ITEM 7. INTERNAL LINE ITEM TRANSFERS: (1997)

A. VISITING COURT SYSTEM (JAIL COURT) - \$300.00

(EXHIBIT E)

Judge Ruiz opened by stating that there were two changes under internal line item transfers. Items 6C & 6G will be for no action. **A motion was then made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.**

MOTION CARRIED

(EXHIBITS A-E)**REGULAR AGENDA****Judge Ruiz opened the regular agenda with item 6A****ITEM 6. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:****A. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH MISSION HOSPITAL INC. - RURAL HEALTH CLINIC (SULLIVAN CITY)****6A**

Judge Ruiz opened by stating that this was in relation to a pilot project in which they are privatizing the Sullivan City Health Clinic. This is between the County and Mission Hospital and both parties have agreed to the Contract. Steve Crain addressed the Court and stated that there had been a change made just this morning. Both parties have also agreed to this change. The change was on the first page under recitals. Before the Commission went on with this, Commissioner Arcaute stated that he was not aware of any contract for this. This is his first time seeing this document. Mr. Crain then went on with the first change being on recital A. It says that WIC will still be occupying a portion of the building and the remainder is what Mission Hospital will be leasing. The second change is on page 4, second line from the top where it states not less than ten days. The parenthetical number is 20 and it should be 10 to correspond with the written number. Also on the same page, referring to (3), the word Hospital will be added at the end of the sentence next to Mission. The last change was on page 6. It will now have a paragraph 4.7 which will read {Mission and County agree, county's sole obligation and liability under this agreement is the lease of the facility in accordance with the terms of this agreement}. Again, both parties have agreed to these changes. Paul Vazaldua then added that there was another change on page 1 section 1.1 concerning the terms of the agreement. Mission Hospital has requested a 3-year term instead of two, contingent on the fact that this does not conflict with what was advertised in the Newspaper. They are still looking for the advertisement to review it. Judge Ruiz proceeded to review the contract as per the exhibit. He felt that these services were severely needed in this area. Commissioner Arcaute asked how many staff would be at this clinic. Terra Cyball for Mission Hospital stated that they will place a mid level practitioner in the clinic 6 hours per day and they have to be overseen by physicians by law. The amount of staff will depend on the need at the clinic. They will adjust to the number of patients. The clinic will have extended hours two nights per week and on Saturdays and on Sundays by appointment. She went on to state what types of services they will provide. After the discussion that ensued, **a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the proposal that has been submitted for two year term, effective date unless sooner terminated as provided herein as far as article 1 as presented with the amendments that were done this morning as described by our legal counsel, Mr. Steve Crain.**

***MOTION CARRIED (COMM. ARCAUTE OPPOSED)
(EXHIBIT F)***

THE COMMISSION RESUMED THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA.**ITEM 1. URBAN COUNTY:**

- A. PRESENTATION - LARRY PAUL MANLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**
- B. CITY OF HIDALGO STREET IMPROVEMENTS YR. 7 (1994)**
- C. CITY OF PALMVIEW - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (PLANNING) WITH SALINAS & ASSOC. INC. FY '96**
- D. HOME - HOMEOWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING REHABILITATION APPLICATIONS**

- E. **HOME FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER CONTRACT AGREEMENT AND LETTER OF COMMITMENT TO MORTGAGE COMPANY**
- F. **APPROVAL OF 1997 - YR. 10 UCP ALLOCATION**

1A

Anthony Covacevich opened by stating that Mr. Manley could not be present to make this presentation due to being called away by the Governor. Joe Saenz will be taking his place at this time. Mr. Saenz addressed the Court and stated what they are doing in the area. They are on a fact-finding mission to assess the need for programs and initiatives. They are visiting other counties as well to talk about the future of these programs and initiatives for the colonias as well as the people of South Texas. They will be touring some of the colonias in the valley throughout the day. Some comments were made from other members of the Committee followed by Mr. Covacevich giving some numbers as to how many people they have helped throughout the program after which **no further action was taken.**

NO ACTION
(EXHIBIT G)

1B

Mr. Covacevich stated that this was a change order for the number of days. They would like to increase it to 101 days and also \$2,364. This amount will be paid by the City of Hidalgo. **A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the change order as presented.**

MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT G)

1C

Mr. Covacevich stated that this contract with Salinas & Assoc. would be in the amount of \$30,000. This will allow for some utility identification and activities. This has been the proper procedure. Upon his recommendation, **a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to authorize a professional service agreement with Richard Salinas & Assoc., County of Hidalgo, City of Palmview.**

MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT G)

1D

Mr. Covacevich stated that this applicants as per the exhibit, have been approved by their respective cities. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the homeowner occupied housing rehab applications as presented. It is 5 particular cities, totaling 20 applicants.**

MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT G)

1E

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the first time homebuyer contract agreement and authorize letter of commitment to Frontera Mortgage as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT G)

1F

Mr. Covacevich stated that they were in the process of establishing the budget for year. Some public hearings have been held. The cities have approved the year 10 allocations. This years funding is reduced in comparison to the previous year. This reduction is due to other projects by HUD as well as an increase in administration. The previous year, this cost was covered by County Wide funding but this year, they will be provided by the cities themselves. The County will receive 5 shares in the amount of \$2,806,659.97 and the split is \$505,969.08 except for the City of Weslaco who gets 562,680. The Commission will decide how to split those monies. The precincts will get \$399,790.01 each. County Wide will get \$162,472.22. Administration will get 586,745.30. The cities of Progreso Lakes, Granjeno, Penitas and Progreso will be reduced to \$137,007.73. Palmhurst has not been allocated money at this time due to them being a new member. This will be decided from the Commission's share. There was some discussion concerning why Palmhurst was not allocated any monies. Palmhurst was a member during the second three year allocated. They have not been allocated any monies because the other cities felt that this city should go into the small cities pot as does granjeno, progreso lakes, penitas and progreso. During further discussion, Judge Ruiz stated that he felt like they as a County have been more than generous with the cities with some of the funding but he also felt that the areas that are growing more are the rural areas. Mr. Covacevich then stated that if the County were to go on it's own, they would get 50% of the allocation due to the population in the rural areas. Judge Ruiz then stated that he would like to have the cities to consider giving back to the County \$83,000 and that would be in the area of \$6,000 more which would put them at \$500,000 and recover the large portion of those \$83,000. They have tried this in the past and there was discontent from the mayors, but Judge Ruiz feels that now more than ever before, this money is needed back in the County being that this area is the fastest growing. At this time, Judge Ruiz made a recommendation that at the minimum, the allocation for the cities be placed at \$500,000 except for Weslaco and take the exact same amount from Weslaco as another city and still leave Weslaco with a slightly higher allocation. Mr. Covacevich asked if then Palmhurst would be taken care of as far as allocation and Judge Ruiz responded by stating that they are taken care of anyway. Their first priority is to recover as much of the \$83,000 as possible. Following further comments, **Judge Ruiz recommended that \$5,969.08 be reduced from every city and that that portion be placed aside of the total Hidalgo County allocation and that the following week, they allocate these monies as the Commission sees fit. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Garces. Commissioner Handy expressed her discontent with this issue being that the process has been completed. She felt that maybe they should wait until the following year. The motion was then put to a vote.**

***MOTION CARRIED (COMM. HANDY OPPOSED)
(EXHIBIT G)***

ITEM 2. WIC:

- A. **APPROVAL OF SALARY INCREASE FOR WIC EMPLOYEES**
- B. **BUDGET AMENDMENT**

2A&B

Norma Longoria addressed the Court and stated that she would to give her staff a 7% cost of living increase. The monies will be state monies. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve a 7% across the board salary increase for all WIC employees and from that an amendment of \$129,176.03.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT H)***

ITEM 3. RIGHT OF WAY DEPARTMENT:

- A. **RESOLUTION DECLARING THREE TRACTS OF PROPERTY SURPLUS AND APPOINTING SPECIAL COMMISSIONER TO SELL SAME**

3A

Vona Walker stated that this was concerning 3 tracts of land that are along FM 2993. They have done this previously and now some Mission residents have expressed an interest in buying this property. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to accept the resolution.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT H)**

ITEM 4. PCT. 1:

- A. **APPROVAL TO FINANCE PURCHASE OF ROLLER WITH FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE LOAN PAPERS**
- B. **APPROPRIATION OF LOAN PROCEEDS**

4A&B

Ms. Walker stated that this roller had been awarded the previous week in the amount of \$56,584. Pct. 1 would like to finance through the bank and pay in 3 annual installments. Commissioner Handy is in agreement with the bid. Commissioner Arcaute and Judge Ruiz felt that being that this was a small amount, they could just buy without going through the bank. Judge Ruiz stated that he wanted to look at some other alternatives before this is acted upon. Commissioner Handy had no problem with this. **No further action was taken.**

**NO ACTION
(EXHIBIT J)**

ITEM 5. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

- A. **PRELIMINARY PLAT APPROVAL:**
 - 1. **LAS MARIBELS - PCT. 2**
- B. **FINAL PLAT APPROVAL**
 - 1. **NEW MONTE CRISTO S/D PHASE II - PCT. 3**

5A1

Roy Gonzalez stated that this has been approved by the City of Alamo. The Planning Department is recommending preliminary plat approval subject to traffic control devices, testing of the streets, final letter from the water corporation and the affidavit of drainage swales. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to give preliminary plat approval to las maribels in pct. 2 as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT K)**

5B1**NO ACTION****ITEM 6. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:**

- B. **REQUESTING EXEMPTION FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATION OF AUDIT FIRM**

6B

Martha Salazar addressed the Court and stated that this request for qualification had been advertised recently. She stated that there were 3 statements received. The Commission discussed briefly the 3 firms who made a proposal on this issue. **Commissioner Arcaute made a motion and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to engage Juan Nunez**

for the independent audit. Commissioners Garces and Rosel had a problem with this at this time due to them not reviewing the proposals and them wanting to do so. After further comments, **the motion to award to Juan Nunez, CPA, Independent Auditor for the County of Hidalgo was put to a vote.**

***MOTION CARRIED (COMM. ROSEL & GARCES OPPOSE)
(EXHIBIT L)***

ADD. 1. APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF HIDALGO COUNTY GROUP INSURANCE ON A MONTH TO MONTH BASIS UNTIL COMPLETION OF PROCUREMENT PROCESS BY AWARD OF RFP

Mrs. Salazar stated that the RFP is currently being developed by Mr. Wethe. He arranged with the current vendor to keep us on a month to month basis and they are in agreement with this extension to March 1, 1997. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Garces and Arcaute to authorize the extension of contract with Hidalgo County Group Health and Life/AD&D on a month to month basis until completion of procurement process for award and transition of a new company or same company.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT M)***

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to adjourn Commissioner's Court Agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

There being no further business to come before this Commissioner's Court, this meeting is adjourned.

DRAINAGE DISTRICT

The Honorable J. Edgar Ruiz, County Judge, called this Drainage District Board Meeting to order, whereupon the following items were had to wit:

CONSENT AGENDA

**ITEM 1. INTERNAL LINE ITEM TRANSFER:
(EXHIBIT N)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the line item transfer of \$5,000 as presented.

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT N)***

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1. PRUCHASING DEPARTMENT:

- A. REQUESTING EXEMPTION FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - AUDIT SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATION OF AUDIT FIRM**

1A

A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and was seconded by Judge Ruiz for the sake of a vote.

***MOTION TIED (COMM. GARCES AND ROSEL OPPOSED & COMM. HANDY HAD DEPARTED)
(NO EXHIBIT)***

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW OFFICE BUILDING AND ARCHITECTS FEES

Vona Walker addressed the Court and stated this budget amendment is for \$162,000 to build the new offices for the drainage district. She went on to state that this project started out under \$100,000 but because of unforeseen circumstances, it is now at this amount. After further comments, a motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve a budget amendment in Drainage District to provide for the construction of the new office building and also architectural fees along with amendments. The amount is \$162,000.

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT O)***

ITEM 3. APPROVAL TO TRANSFER 1996 FUNDS COVERED BY 1996 PURCHASE ORDERS TO 1997 BUDGET

Ms. Walker stated that this was for an ongoing project in Weslaco in the amount of \$119,264. They have also awarded a truck in the amount of \$19,440 as well as a telephone PO in the amount of \$528.39. These are all covered by 1996 funds and they would like to transfer 1996 funds to pay for these items. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to carry over the purchase orders and re-appropriate the funds of \$119,264, \$528.39 and \$19,440.

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT P)***

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOARD, THIS MEETING STANDS ADJOURNED.