

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

CONSENT AGENDA

**ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF BILLS - COUNTY AUDITOR
(NO EXHIBIT)**

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- MAY 28, 1996
- JUNE 4, 1996
- JUNE 10, 1996
- JUNE 18, 1996
- JUNE 25, 1996

(NO EXHIBIT)

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF COURT REPORTER FEES:

- A. SHANA LILES (2) - \$98.00

(EXHIBIT A)

ITEM 4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

A. SUBDIVISIONS:

- 1. EL GAVILAN SUBDIVISION - PCT. 1
- 2. JACKSON COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT PHASE II - PCT. 2
- 3. LOT 159 & 160 HIGH SCHOOL EAST SUBDIVISION - PCT. 2
- 4. ANGEL ESTATES PHASE III - PCT. 4
- 5. CONTERA RIDGE - PCT. 4
- 6. SOUTHWEST ESTATES PHASE III - PCT. 4
- 7. SUGAR HILL ESTATES PHASE II - PCT. 4
- 8. PARTIAL RELEASE OF CREDIT - R.M.R. SUBDIVISION

(EXHIBIT B)

ITEM 5. PERMITS:

- A. VALLEY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE - PCT. 1
- B. SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY - PCT. 4

(EXHIBIT C)

ITEM 6. INTERNAL LINE ITEM TRANSFERS:

- A. PCT. 3 - ADMINISTRATION - \$ 400.00
- B. PCT. 3 LANDFILL - \$ 1,400.00
- C. HEALTH DEPARTMENT - \$ 1,838.00
- D. CONSTABLE PCT. 5 - \$ 1,300.00
- E. PCT. 1 - ADMINISTRATION - \$ 1,500.00
- F. VETERANS SERVICE - NO ACTION
- G. COUNTY CLERK - \$ 300.00
- H. HIDALGO COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM - \$ 300.00
- I. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - PCT. 3 - PL. 2 - \$ 100.00
- J. WIC - \$10,000.00
- K. CONSTABLE PCT. 3 - \$ 300.00
- L. RIGHT OF WAY - \$14,000.00

(EXHIBIT D)

Judge Ruiz called this meeting to order. He stated that item 6F, Veterans Service two parts, would be no action at this time. It is supposed to be \$2,800 instead of \$2,385. Judge Ruiz will also abstain from vote on the consent agenda being that item 48A is a subdivision under the name of his wife. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBITS A-D)****EXECUTIVE AGENDA****ITEM 1. CLOSED SESSION:**

COMMISSIONER'S COURT MAY GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING MATTER:

A. PERSONNEL:

1. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR**

At this time, the Commission retired into Executive Session.

ITEM 2. OPEN SESSION:**A. PERSONNEL:**

1. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR**

2A

Judge Ruiz stated that they have not finished the discussion for this item. They will go on with the Regular Agenda and will return to the executive session.

REGULAR AGENDA**ITEM 1. 92ND DISTRICT COURT:**

- A. **AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER EXCESS FUNDS FROM COURT COORDINATORS SALARY TO BAILIFF SALARY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000 AND SET SALARY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,000 BAILIFF SALARY \$23,000 PLUS INTERPRETER SALARY \$6,000**

1A

Judge Ed Aparicio addressed the Court and stated that he will not be requesting additional monies. He would like to upgrade his bailiff by \$2,000. His coordinator is actually getting paid \$34,000 instead of the \$37,000 that is budgeted. This is where he is obtaining his \$2,000. This will bring the salary of the bailiff to \$29,000. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT E)***

ITEM 2. TAX OFFICE:

- A. REQUESTING APPROVAL TO INCREASE AUTOMOBILE LICENSE DEPARTMENT CHANGE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500 PER OFFICE**

2A

Armando Barrera addressed the Court and stated that this was needed due to the increase of transactions especially at the sub stations. They always run out of change and it is an inconvenience to go back and forth to the bank. The most recent change to this amount was in 1991. The total amount of the change fund will be \$2,000 to be distributed to each station. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to authorize an increase in the change fund for each sub station in the automobile licenses department, Edinburg, McAllen, Mission and Weslaco an increase of \$500.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT F)***

ITEM 3. COUNTY AUDITOR:

- A. APPROVAL TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS IN 1997 TO COVER OUTSTANDING PURCHASE ORDERS AS OF 12/31/96 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$265,150.51**
- B. APPROVAL TO TRANSFER \$24,292.00 FROM LANDFILL ACCOUNT TO GENERAL FUND IN ORDER TO PAY OPEN PURCHASE ORDER FOR TRASH COMPACTOR**

3A

Manuel Cavazos stated that these outstanding bills for the departments. These were encumbered in 1996. After further brief comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to authorize the appropriation of funds into 1997 to cover outstanding purchase orders as of 12/31/96 in the amount of \$265,150.51.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT G)***

3B

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to transfer \$24,292 from the Enterprise Fund to the General Fund in order to pay for the purchase.

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT G)***

ITEM 4. ADULT PROBATION:

- A. **REQUEST ACCEPTANCE OF CJAD GRANT MONEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$122,315.00**

4A

NO ACTION

ITEM 5. JUVENILE PROBATION:

- A. **REQUEST APPROVAL OF 1998 CJAD JUVENILE ALTERNATIVE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,640.00**

5A

Buddy Silva addressed the Court and stated that these funds will be used to provide services such as primary psychological services, counseling services etc. **A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to authorize the submittal of the application for grant funding from the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor on the Juvenile Alternative Grant in the amount of \$40,640.00.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT I)**

ITEM 6. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

- A. **REQUEST APPROVAL OF CHANGE #9 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,750, ALLOCATED FOR BLOOD SPECIMEN COLLECTION, TO THE PUBLIC REGION II BORDER GRANT**

6A

Ofelia Espinoza stated this will be used to conduct a survey of households along the Texas/Mexico Border. This will be used to assess environmental health conditions with emphasis on the children. The health department will receive \$30 for each specimen totaling 125 subjects. This money will go to health fees revenue. Lydia Serna stated that her nurses from the larger clinics will be conducting the screening. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve attachment #9 to the contract of Department of Public Health for the blood specimen collection under the Public Health Division Region 11 Border Grant.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT J)**

ITEM 7. HIDTA TASK FORCE:

- A. **APPROVAL TO APPROPRIATE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$616,870.00**

7A

Joe Cabrera stated that this grant had been approved on February 18, 1997. The fiscal year of this grant is 1/1 thru 12/31 1997. They will appropriate to the proper departments. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to appropriate funds in the HIDTA Grant totaling \$616,870 as per budget submitted.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT K)***

ITEM 8. RIGHT OF WAY:

- A. **REPORT OF SALE**
- B. **ORDER CONFIRMING SALE OF PROPERTY ALONG FM 2993**
- C. **AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE DEED**

8A,B&C

Vona Walker stated that this was 3 tracts that were sold February 28. They sold for \$1,297.50, \$817.50 and \$1,245. There were three bidders and they were sold on the Courthouse steps. **A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Garces confirm the sale as the three tracts for \$1297.50, \$817.50 and \$1245 and authorize the execution of deed.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT L)***

ITEM 9. PCT. 1:

- A. **AUTHORIZATION TO RE-APPROPRIATE 1996 PARK FUND INTO 1997 PARK FUND - \$40,005**
- B. **AUTHORIZATION TO PAY INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,960.00**

9A

Raul Lozano that these funds will be used for contracts for architectural services and construction. These contracts were initiated in 1996. These contracts will carry into 1997. **A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to authorize the appropriation of 96 park fund into 97 totaling \$40,005.**

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

9B

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to authorize the payment for architectural fees in the amount of \$3,960.

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

ITEM 10. PCT. 4:

- A. **APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EDINBURG AND HIDALGO COUNTY PCT. 4 FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

10A

Commissioner Garces stated that this was approved previously but it is now being brought back. They are now addressing the contribution of Hot Mix. This mix is being given by the Texas Department of Transportation and the pct. is working with the City. This is for three projects with the City of Edinburg. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the amended interlocal agreement between the City of Edinburg, County of Hidalgo, Pct. 4, for improvements to certain roads within Pct. 4.**

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

ITEM 11. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

- A. **SUBDIVISIONS:**
 - 1. **KAYLEN HEIGHTS NO. 3 - PCT. 4**
- B. **FINAL PLAT APPROVAL:**
 - 1. **PINKSTON MEADOWS SUBDIVISION - PCT. 4**
 - 2. **INCA SUBDIVISION - PCT. 2**
- C. **PRELIMINARY APPROVAL:**
 - 1. **DEL MAR SUBDIVISION - PCT. 1**
- D. **VARIANCE REQUEST SECTION 4.2 - 4.2.6**
 - 1. **DANIEL CASTILLO**

11A1

Emilio Garcia stated that this subdivision has been approved by the City of Edinburg. This also meets with the approval of the Planning Department. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to give final plat approval to Kaylen Heights No. 3, Pct. 4 as presented.**

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

11B1

Mr. Garcia stated that this had preliminarily been approved Dec. 9, 1996. Since then, all improvements have been completed. Upon his recommendation, **a motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve final plat for Pinkston Meadows Subdivision as presented.**

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

11B2

Mr. Garcia stated that this was given preliminary approval Dec. 17. The developer has completed all improvements in accordance with County Regulations. **A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to give final plat approval to Inca Subdivision as presented.**

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

11C1

Mr. Garcia stated that this subdivision was approved by the City of Weslaco. He is recommending prelim approval subject to the extension of the water line. **A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to give preliminary plat approval to Del Mar Subdivision as presented.**

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

11D1

Mr. Garcia stated that this request was in the family partition. The reason is because the land is not abutting a public road. This request has been granted by the City of Edinburg. This land used to be owned by his parents in the 50's. Copies of the deed were not drawn up until 1991. He would like to use an existing 20 ft. easement to get to his tract. ON the rest of the tracts, there is already homes built by other family members. Before he can get a permit, the variance must be granted. During further discussion, Judge Ruiz expressed some reluctance to this request because of the acceptance of the easement where the County would assume responsibility for the maintaining of this road. He felt that since this land was already separated into tracts, they had authority to build on them as long as they are not subdividing or building more than one building on the tract. The permit does require access but if they do ask for it, then they request 50 feet and if they are not going to do so, then just give them the permit. **He is recommending that a variance be requested from the City and that a building permit be issued to Mr. Castillo. He will not address the easement issue. A motion was then made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve.**

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

ITEM 12. URBAN COUNTY:

- A. CITY OF DONNA - APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 1996 (YEAR 9)
- B. CITY OF EDCOUCH - APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 1994, 1995 & 1996
- C. PCT. 1 - APPROVAL OF PROGRAM AMENDMENT - FY 1996 (YEAR 9)
- D. PCT. 1 - AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH MISSION PAVING INC. (NO CHANGE IN OVERALL AMOUNT OF CONTRACT)
- E. PCT. 2 - YOUTH SERVICES - SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT UCP YEAR 9, 1996 CITY OF HIDALGO - BOYS AND GIRLS YOUTH CLUB
- F. HOME FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER CONTRACT AGREEMENT AND LETTER OF COMMITMENT TO MORTGAGE COMPANY (2 FAMILIES)
- G. CITY OF ALAMO - HOME - HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM - CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD
- H. CITY OF DONNA - HOME - HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM - CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD
- I. HOME/HOMEOWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING REHAB APPLICATIONS

- J. CITY OF ALTON - ACTION ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT AMENDMENT - PFI - STREET IMPROVEMENTS (FY 1995-96)
- K. CITY OF ALTON - APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #2 PFI - STREET IMPROVEMENTS (HEADSTART FACILITY) (FY 1995-96)

12A

Anthony Covacevich stated that this amendment will move \$200,000 from other improvements and \$221,969 from park and recreation facilities. Increasing neighborhood facilities by \$5,000 and creating water and sewer improvements for \$416,929.69. All procedures have been followed. **A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to give budget amendment request approval for fiscal year 96.**

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

12B

Mr. Covacevich stated that this amendment was for 3 years. In year 1994, they are adding to parks and recreation and taking from water and sewer and eliminating DADC funding for economic development. In 1995, they are taking from water and sewer improvements, eliminating DADC funding and adding a planning activity and a parks and recreation facility. Under 1996, they are taking from parks and recreation and eliminating DADC economic development planning activity and adding to street improvements and creating a landfill closure study and a water and sewer improvement line item. The bottom lines remain unchanged. **A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the budget amendment for fiscal year 94, 95 & 96 as presented.**

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

12C

Mr. Covacevich stated that this has to be done any time an entity needs to change different activities. This for year 9 and they will be changing streets as per exhibit where they have a list of existing streets to proposed streets. There was a public hearing held concerning this. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve program amendments to the fiscal year 96 year 9 program of pct. 1 Urban County changing the proposed project by streets.**

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

12D

Mr. Covacevich stated that this contract was with Mission Paving Company. The amount is \$385,097.09. The amount will not change. There are some streets that will be changes as per the exhibit. **A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve an amendment to the construction contract with Mission Paving Co. to change the scope of work.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT P)**

12E

Mr. Covacevich stated that this agreement is for \$5,000 with the Boys and Girls Club. **A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve a sub-recipient agreement with the City of Hidalgo's Boys and Girls Club and the County's Urban County through Pct. 2.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT P)**

12F

Mr. Covacevich stated that there were 2 families have qualified for this program. All requirements have been met. **A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve 2 first time home buyer contract agreements and authorize letter of commitments to the mortgage companies as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT P)**

12G

Mr. Covacevich stated that Alpha Construction was the low bid with option #1 in the amount of \$77,405. This will rehab 7 units in Alamo. **A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the housing rehab contract award, low bid to Alpha Construction totaling \$77,405.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT P)**

12H

Mr. Covacevich stated that this bid was received Wednesday. Lerma Construction was the low bidder with option 1 in the amount of \$67,300. This will rehab 6 units. **A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve a housing rehab construction contract, low bid, City of Donna under the Home Program to Lerma Construction in the amount of \$67,300.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT P)**

12I

Mr. Covacevich stated that there were some families that were approved by different cities. Some families have more money than others and that is because some homes need more work than others and the cities have the choice of awarding \$12,000 or \$15,000. The amount awarded will dictate how many homes they will affect. There are a total of 28 families. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and**

was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the Home Owner Occupied Housing Rehab Applications. There are 26 listed for various cities. Alton, Edcouch, Granjeno, Penitas, Palmview, Mercedes, Progreso and Countywide.

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT P)**

12J

Mr. Covacevich stated that this item had been tabled the previous week. This contract will be for additional services. They will be adding parking spaces at the municipal park. **A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve a professional service contract with L.L. Rodriguez Inc. Contract amount increases \$1200.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT P)**

12K

Mr. Covacevich stated that this change order was for the same project in Alton. This will be with A & E Paving for additional parking spaces. This will be for additional 30 days and the amount of the change order will be \$15,440. **A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve change order #2 increasing the contract by \$15,440 and also 30 days.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT P)**

ITEM 13. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:

- A. **AWARD BIDS:**
 - 1. **UNIFORMS - SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
- B. **AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE FOUR VEHICLES THROUGH AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT THROUGH THE HOUSTON/GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL - PLANNING DEPARTMENT**
- C. **DECLARE SURPLUS:**
 - 1. **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - 27 VEHICLES**
 - 2. **RESTITUTION CENTER - OMEGA IV 616 TELEPHONE SYSTEM**
- D. **REMOVAL FROM INVENTORY:**
 - 1. **AUDITOR'S OFFICE:**
 - ***TEAL 221 PD CALCULATOR**
 - ***TEAL 220 P CALCULATOR**
 - ***UNIDEN SPEAKER PHONE MODEL 1050**
- E. **REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AND APPROVAL OF PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH PATRICIA SIMPSON - JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$720.00 PER YEAR (\$60.00 PER MONTH)**
- F. **REQUESTING EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/TREATMENT SERVICES - HIDALGO COUNTY ADULT PROBATION**

- G. **AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR TREATMENT SERVICES WITH TDCJ-CJAD APPROVED VENDORS:**
 - 1. **TREATMENT ASSOCIATES**
 - 2. **RIO GRANDE VALLEY COUNCIL**
- H. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND CONTRACT FOR A PERIOD OF 90 DAYS FROM JANUARY 1, 1997 THROUGH MARCH 1, 1997 - HUMANE SERVICES**
- I. **REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS - HUMANE SERVICES**
- J. **AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL TO EXTEND CONTRACT FOR LANDFILL SERVICES WITH BFI**
- K. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON HARDWARE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT CENTAURI SYSTEMS**

13A1

Martha Salazar stated that there were four bidders. She is recommending Texas State Distributors. **A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to award bid to the low bidder be it Texas State Distributors out of San Antonio.**

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

13B

Mrs. Salazar stated that the monies for this item have already been appropriated. The amount of these vehicles is \$59,770.45. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve an interlocal agreement between the County of Hidalgo and the Houston/Galveston Area Council for the purchase of 4 vehicles for the Planning Department.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT Q)***

13C1

Mrs. Salazar stated that there were initially 51 vehicles. 27 were previously confirmed and now they can confirm the remaining 24. They are requesting the surplus of 24 vehicles for disposition by auction. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to authorize the declaration of equipment surplus of 24 vehicles for the Sheriff's Department and authorize our Purchasing Agent to dispose of said equipment.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT Q)***

13C2

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to authorize the declaration of equipment surplus for an Omega IV 616 telephone system that will be used as a trade in for a new purchase at the restitution center.

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT Q)**

13D1

Mrs. Salazar stated that the Auditor's Office has searched for these items but they cannot be located. They would like to have these removed from inventory. **A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to authorize the removal of equipment inventory from the Auditor's Office which are calculators and a speaker phone.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT Q)**

13E

Mrs. Salazar stated that this contract has been ongoing for several years. There was a question as to why a contract was needed for this amount. Mrs. Salazar responded that this was requested by the previous auditor, to have something in place in order to pay the bills. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Judge Ruiz to enter into a personal service contract with Patricia Simpson for janitorial services for County Library System in the amount of \$720 per year..**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT Q)**

13F&G

NO ACTION

13H

Mrs. Salazar stated that she would like to extend this contract through March 31 so that they can complete the procurement process. Judge Ruiz asked Mrs. Salazar if this was enough time and she stated that it should be. **A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to authorize the extension of contract for 90 days to the present Humane Service contract, extension through March 31. Mrs. Salazar then requested that they make until April 30, 1997. The Commission was in agreement with this request. Judge Ruiz then restated that motion to extend the contract for a period of 120 days through April 30 for Humane Services while we advertise for bids for a new contract.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT Q)**

13I

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to authorize the advertisements for bids or proposals for Humane Services for Hidalgo County for a period of two year.

MOTION CARRIED

(EXHIBIT Q)**13J**

Mrs. Salazar stated that this contract was awarded in 1995 but it has yet to be signed. She would now like to have that done. The contract initially called for a one year option to extend. Judge Ruiz stated that they have been paying for these services since 1995 and they finally were able to locate this contract. She would also like to extend this contract. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Handy to authorize the County Judge to sign a contract between the County of Hidalgo & BFI for landfill disposal service agreement. Said contract to begin November 28, 1995 and end November 27, 1996.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT Q)**

Another motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to authorize the extension of said contract from November 27, 1996 through May 31, 1997 for the authorization to advertise or an interlocal agreement with the City of Edinburg.

MOTION CARRIED**13K**

Mrs. Salazar stated that they currently hold this contract with Centauri. The issue came about because of the term of the contract. What was occurring was the contract was renewing itself without any approval from the Court. This was concern of the Legal Counsel. The language stated that the contract would be for a one year period and shall continue for additional one year periods thereafter under the same terms and conditions. The ideal contract should be one year with a one year option. This contract began in April 1995. With the one year option, it should go until April 1997. Judge Ruiz asked Mrs. Salazar is she was ready to advertise at this time and she stated that she was not. She was also asked if April would be enough time to do so. She also answered in the negative. She also added that Centauri was the only authorized vendor for parts for Alpha Micro which is still used by several departments in the County. Judge Ruiz asked if this has been verified and Mrs. Salazar stated that she was in the process of doing so. Judge Ruiz felt that she should complete the verification process. During further comments, Steve Crain stated that the contract does state that the contract can be terminated with 90 days notice. He proposed the they initiate the 90 day notice procedure and then go out for bids to set this contract for one year. Judge Ruiz agreed. He felt that they need to look into this further and bring this back to Court before doing so. Mrs. Salazar stated that she would. **No further action was taken.**

NO ACTION**AT THIS TIME, THE COMMISSION RETURNED BACK TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Judge Ruiz reiterated what was previously discussed. They have now come to an agreement with Mr. Keenan. This is to be a one year contract as amended with a

one year renewal option on the contract. The salary will be \$60,000 plus fringes. Auto Allowance will have be redone by budget and they will bring this back the following week. **A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve a contract as amended employing Mr. James Michael Keenan as the Public Health Administrator for the County of Hidalgo's Health Department at a salary of \$60,000 plus auto allowance and fringes.**

**MOTION CARRIED
(NO EXHIBIT)**

ITEM 14. DISCUSSION JAIL OVERCROWDING REPORT

Joe Jackson stated that he has broken down some numbers as to how many cases are to what courts and who is being more and less productive. The average time for getting sentenced felons out of the county jail is approximately 45 days. He went over the numbers as to how may inmate were at the jail and how many were out of county. He stated that the problem at this item seems to lye with the District Court. After further comments, the Commission expressed their discontent with this issue at this time. **No further action was taken.**

NO ACTION

ITEM 15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR HIDALGO COUNTY AND

RENOVATION PROJECTS:

- A. **RENOVATION OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**
- B. **RENOVATION OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND STORAGE BUILDING**
- C. **HIDALGO COUNTY SUB-STATIONS:**
 - 1. **PRECINCT 1**
 - 2. **PRECINCT 3**
 - ***PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION**
 - ***PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION**
- D. **RENOVATION OF HIDALGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE**
- E. **RENOVATION OF ADULT DETENTION FACILITY**
 - a. **1000 BEDS**
 - b. **500 BEDS**
 - ***DESIGN BUILDING OPERATION**
 - CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**
 - CONVENTIONAL CONSTRUCTION**

Judge Ruiz stated that he has placed this issue on the agenda because of the severity of the need for these renovations. He would like to take some type of vote to see if they are will to undertake these projects. This will be strictly prioritizing. If there is a consensus to go forward, they will bring back a budget for final approval.

Judge Ruiz stated that this building has had very little work done. They have recently attempted to repair the roof but that was not done. There was some confusion as to whether or not any work was done to this building. After further comments, the Commission was in agreement to forge forward with this project. **A motion was then made by Commissioner Rosel and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to proceed with the renovation of the Health Department Administration contingent on budget.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT R)***

15B

This item was addressing the warehouse in San Carlos where mainly the records for the County and District Clerks are housed. This was donated to the County by Right of Way Foods. There are two buildings in this area. One houses voting machines and surplus equipment and the other is for the records. They both need to be upgraded. Commissioner Rosel suggested that this could be taken care of with the records management budget. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to proceed with the renovation of the records management storage building which is the better defined as the San Carlos Building in Hidalgo County.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(NO EXHIBIT)***

15C1/a

Judge Ruiz stated that has been talked about in the past. This was for possible substations in the Mission and Weslaco areas. They would house various departments in them. A discussion ensued where it was suggested that maybe they conduct a pilot project in the Pct. 1 area and then work from there. It was suggested that maybe the privatize this to see what type of offer could be attracted. Judge Ruiz felt that the worse scenario that could come about is that they could reject these offers and then advertise for themselves. Commissioner Handy requested that the pilot project be conducted in Pct. 1. There was a consensus by the Commission to do so. **A motion was then made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Garces to choose Pct. 1 for a substation under the private construction and bring back some facts and figures for review.**

***MOTION CARRIED (COMM. ROSEL ABSTAINED FROM ANY DISCUSSION AND VOTING)
(EXHIBIT R)***

Commissioner Rosel stated that he felt that the County Clerk as well as the Tax Office and the Personnel Office should be directed to set up offices in the areas of Pct. 1 & 3.

15D

Judge Ruiz stated that this was the second highest priority in the County. There was several items that needed to be addressed with regards to the courthouse such as the auditorium, compliance with fire code as well as ADA and the jail sub-station

in the basement. The problem with the sub-station will possibly only get worse because of proposed legislation creating more district courts. There are other requests but Judge Ruiz feels that these are more pressing matters at this point in time. After further comments, **a motion was made by Commissioner Garces and was seconded by Commissioner Handy for the renovation of the County Courthouse and bring back a budget in the future.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT R)***

15E

The Commission engaged in a discussion where the sentiment was expressed that this was the most pressing issue in the County. Right now, there are 405 beds in the facility without the temporary buildings. These beds can still be used. The temporary facilities need to be closed and replaced. Captain Jackson stated that there were some representatives from the Jail Commission looking at the possible renovation of the core building. The decision that has to be made now is the amount of beds needed to build the new jail. The County should be at approximately 1200 beds for the size of this County at this time. During further discussion, it was stated that as of now, they are understaffed in terms of ratio of guard to inmate. The Commission tentatively decided on 1000 beds. **A motion was then made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve.**

***MOTION CARRIED
(NO EXHIBIT)***

The Commission took up the issue of the method of construction. Judge Ruiz stated that he has been a proponent of design build because of the lessor amount of monies needed for this process. After further comments concerning the different methods of construction, **a motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute for design build operate.**

MOTION CARRIED (COMM. ROSEL ABSTAINED)

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:

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1. APPROVAL TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS IN 1997 TO COVER OUTSTANDING PURCHASE

ORDERS AS OF 12/31/96 - \$1,182.21

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve.

***MOTION CARRIED
(EXHIBIT S)***

Judge Ruiz adjourned Drainage District #1.

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