

DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1

The Honorable Renato Cuellar, County Judge, called the Drainage District #1 Board meeting to order, whereupon the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS/BILLS - COUNTY AUDITOR

ITEM 2. LINE ITEM TRANSFERS - 1998 (See Exhibit A)

ITEM 3. PERMIT

A. City of Weslaco - Caballero Subdivision #2
(See Exhibit B)

The County Judge introduced the Drainage District No. 1 Consent Agenda and there being no changes, additions or deletions, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve it as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibits A & B)

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:

A. Recommending award of bid for One (1) New Trailer

Martha Salazar, the Purchasing Director, informed the Court that this was on a bid opening for one new trailer held on January 21st. She stated that they had three bidders: TrailNor from Pharr, Art's A & A Truck City from McAllen and Anderson Equipment Co., from Pharr. She was recommending the low bidder and accepting the variation of the two oak floor in lieu of the two inch apitong. The bid was for \$34,750.00 to Art's A & A Truck City. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit C)

There being no further business to come before the Drainage District #1 Board, a motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Garces that said meeting be hereby adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

The Honorable Renato Cuellar, County Judge, called the Commissioners' Court meeting to order whereupon the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS/BILLS - COUNTY AUDITOR

ITEM 2. LINE ITEM TRANSFER

- A. Auditor's Office - \$26,509.61
- B. Elections Department - \$9,971.41
- C. Road & Bridge Administration - No Action
- D. Health Dept. (Sanitation) - \$847.00
- E. Health Dept. (Early Childhood Intervention) - \$1,332.00
- F. JP Pct. 1 Pl. 1 - \$86.75
- G. County Court at Law #3 - \$300.00
- H. 13th Court of Appeals - \$120.00
- I. Commissioner Pct. 1 - Parks - \$3,000.00
- J. Commissioner Pct. 1 - Road & Bridge - \$45,000.00
- K. Texas D.P.S. - \$60.00
- L. County Clerk - \$715.00

(See Exhibit D)

ITEM 3. RIGHT OF WAY:

- A. Pct. #1 - North Alamo Water Supply
- B. Pct. #4 - North Alamo Water Supply

- Southwestern Bell Telephone
(See Exhibit E)

ITEM 4. URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM:

- A. HOME First-Time Homebuyer Contract Agreement and Letter of Commitment to Mortgage Company - 2 families
(See Exhibit F)

ITEM 5. DISTRICT CLERK:

- A. Fee Report for the Month of January 1998 - total \$222,307.93
(See Exhibit G)

ITEM 6. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

- A. Subdivisions:
 1. Vega Subdivision - Pct. 1
 2. Frontier Estates Phase I - Pct. 3
 3. Ponderosa Park Phase II - Pct. 4
(See Exhibit H)

The County Judge introduced the Commissioners' Court Consent Agenda and announced that there would be no action on Item 2/C. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the Consent Agenda with the change.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibits D-H)

REGULAR AGENDA

ADD. 2. ALLIED HEALTH DEPT. STCC

- A. Discussion and possible action on proposal to assist in the construction of an Allied Health Building for South Texas Community College
- B. Discussion and possible action on financing of an Allied Health Building for South Texas Community College

Dr. Ramiro Casso came before the Court and reported that that everyone was familiar with the proposed Allied Health Building for STCC. He mentioned that this Commissioners Court had unanimously approved to help with this project in 1996 and again in 1997 and they were now coming to request this assistance. He indicated that South Texas Community College was putting up \$2.5 million, the City of McAllen was prepared to deed over approximately ten

(10) acres of land on south Ware Road and the Expressway. He was present today to ask for the County's participation to the extent of \$1.2 million so that a state of the art Allied Health and Nursing Building could be constructed. Dr. Casso then introduced Mr. Glen Roney, the Secretary of the STCC Board to come forward and say a few words about the commitment from STCC.

Mr. Roney began by saying that South Texas Community College was slightly over four years old and when it began the enrollment was just over 500 students and today it is at over 7,000 students. He added that the City of McAllen has been the backbone of the school, since it has provided all the initial buildings some funding as well. He stated that they have continued to grow and this proposed Allied Health Building will continue to enhance the viability of the school and provide the educational facilities that they need to educate the people in this area and to prepare them for the kind of job growth that is needed in so far as medical services. He was present today to ask for the County's support in assisting them with \$1.2 million to help build this facility and he hoped that action would be taken on this issue today.

Dr. Casso introduced Mr. Jim Darling, the legal counsel for the City of McAllen, who would be giving a report on behalf of the City of McAllen. Mr. Darling informed the County Commissioners' Court that the City Commission had approved the land transaction involving ten acres to STCC for the building of the Allied Health Building and five acres immediately adjacent to that for the COPC clinic. He added that they had also approved the Economic Development Corporation budget which included the funds to build the COPC clinic and they were anxious to have both of the projects be carried out contemporaneously with the County and the College. He stated that he knew that the Mayor would probably say that in this day and age, this was not unique anymore, the evidence of cooperation between three governmental entities that will provide a very valuable asset to not only McAllen but the who Community College District which encompassed Starr and Hidalgo Counties. He pointed out that he had discussed this matter with Mr. Steve Crain, the County Legal Counsel, and they did not believe that they would have any problem carrying out the contracts from the legal standpoint and meeting all the purposes. Commissioner Rosel stated that one of his concerns was that the clinic would be built, but his concern was who was going to provide for what. Mr. Darling indicated that once the proposal was approved he and Mr. Crain would work together in preparing the contract and this would then be brought before the Commission for ratification and/or approval. Commissioner Garces informed the County Judge that the only action needed was transferring the commitment that was made back in 1996, from the COPC building to this Allied Health Building and he felt that all that was needed was for it to be finalized and set up the financial scenario. Judge Cuellar stated that there were some questions by Mr. Crain and the allowed him to voice those concerns. Mr. Crain explained that the issue at this time was how this was going to be funded and he thought that it was the intention of the County that when they do their bond issue that they will put this into their bond issue. He did say that he was not the bond counsel but he did want to let them know that they did have the authority to do this because the County meet certain criteria. He saw

no problem with the bond issue but he did state that the County would have to talk to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and get their permission to do this. Commissioner Garces asked him to help the Commission as far as what the action called for at this time would be. Mr. Crain replied that the action would be to approve going forward with this and then submitting this to the bond counsel subject to bond counsel approval and that the prerequisites of Section 1182 (n) are met. Commissioner Rosel wanted some clarification as to what the County was investing in and how the youth would be taking advantage of this program and Dr. Casso responded to his inquiry. The Mayor of McAllen, Mr. Leo Montalvo came in at this time and indicated that all they needed was the commitment from the County for the \$1.2 million. He continued by saying that the day before the City Commission had voted to go ahead and designate the ten acres for the Allied Health Building as well as the land for the COPC clinic. He added that they were ready and STCC was ready to act and begin on the design and construction as soon as the County makes its commitment for the \$1.2 million that had been previously committed to the Milagro Clinic. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the proposal to assist and finance in the construction of an Allied Health Building for South Texas Community College, subject to the bond attorneys looking into statute 1182(n) and straightening all the legalities.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit I)

ADD. 1. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

- A. Authorization and approval to appropriate Title V Program Income in the amount of \$70,933.24
- B. Approval of the Immunization Action Plan Contract
- C. Authorization to appropriate the Immunization Action Plan Contract in the amount of \$162,211.00
- D. Approval to set salaries
- E. Authorization and approval of a line item transfer

ADD.1/A

Mike Keenan, the County Health Director, came before the Commissioners' Court requesting approval to appropriate Title V Program Income in the amount of \$70,933.24. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit J)

ADD.1/B

Mr. Keenan explained that the next item was for the approval of the Immunization Action Plan contract from the Texas Department of Health; this is a renewal of this contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit J)

ADD.1/C

Mr. Keenan was requesting authorization to appropriate the Immunization Action Plan contract in the amount of \$162,211.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit J)

ADD.1/D

The next item was for approval to set salaries for persons paid on the two previously approved grants. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioners Handy and Arcaute to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit J)

ADD. 1/E

Mr. Keenan stated that this item was to authorize and approve a line item transfer in the amount of \$6,837.00. This would take money from Immunization local funds and transferring it to fringe retirements. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit J)

ITEM 3. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

- A. Request authorization to appropriate Program Income in the amount of \$340,831.13
- B. Approval and authorization for a 5% pay increase for all grant funded employees
- C. Approval and authorization for a 5% increase of supplements for Grant and General Fund employees
- D. Approval and authorization to make these 5% pay increases retroactive to January 5th, 1998

3/A

Mike Keenan, County Health Director, was requesting authorization to appropriate Program Income in the amount of \$340,831.13. He explained that this was a distribution according to Article 15 of the 1998 General Contract Provisions and applicable law and standards. He also added that this was the first time that this was being done in accordance to the contract regulations. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit K)

3/B

Mr. Keenan informed the Court that he was requesting approval and authorization for a 5% pay increase for all grant funded employees. He added that these individuals will be getting the 5% pay increase approved for all county employees and it will be coming from program income. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit K)

3/C

The next item was for approval and authorization of a 5% increase of supplements from Grant and General Fund employees. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit K)

3/D

NO ACTION.

Commissioner Rosel brought up the issue of the LVNs regarding the salaries and Mr. Keenan stated that he would place this issue on next weeks agenda for further discussion.

ITEM 1. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

A. Preliminary Plat Approval:

1. Armando Garza Subdivision - Pct. 3

B. Final Plat Approval:

1. La Estrella Subdivision - Pct. 3

1/A

Emilio Garcia, Chief Planner, came before the Court requesting approval of Armando Garza Subdivision. This subdivision was in Precinct Three, located on the northeast corner of Mile 5 Road and Brushline Road. It has been approved by the City of Mission; it is a nineteen (19) lot subdivision and they are recommending preliminary approval subject to the street signs, traffic control devices, the testing of the streets and the affidavit from the drainage facilities. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioners Handy and Garces to give preliminary approval as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit L)

1/B

Mr. Garcia was also requesting approval of La Estrella Subdivision. This subdivision was also in Precinct Three, located approximately 1500' west of Abram Road and on the south side of Loop 374(Business 83). The Planning Department was recommending approval of this subdivision subject to the inspection from the Right of Way Department and Drainage District No. 1 on the swales. Vona Walker, the Right Way Director, and Godfrey Garza, the Drainage District Manager, did not feel comfortable with this request and recommended that the subdivision be held until all drainage improvements are done. Commissioner Rosel recommended that no action be taken until all inspections are done.

NO ACTION
(See Exhibit L)

ITEM 2. RIGHT OF WAY:

- A. Approval of resolution authorizing condemnation - Earl Beamsley - FM 3362 (Jackson Road)

Vona Walker, Right of Way Director, came before the Court requesting approval of a resolution authorizing condemnation of a parcel on Jackson Road, owned by Earl Beamsley. She explained that it was 27/100's of an acre and they have been unable to arrive at a mutual price for the property. She added that Atlas & Hall would have to disqualify themselves from representing the County in this case so she would also ask permission to have Mr. James Darling represent the County in this action. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit M)

ITEM 4. JP PCT. 4 PL. 1

- A. Authorization for a \$25.00 change fund

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit N)

ITEM 5. PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT:

- A. Approval of auto allowance for Personnel Director

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit O)

ITEM 6. LUCY CANALES:

- A. Delinquent Tax Attorney Report

Juan Pena, from the firm of Linebarger, Heard, Goggan, Blair, Graham, Peña & Sampson, LLP, came before the Court and explained that Ms. Lucy Canales could not be present today and therefore he would be giving the report. He began by stating that the firm of Calame, Linebarger, Graham & Peña have merged with their biggest competitor and therefore the change of name on the report. He then went into an in-depth explanation of the delinquent tax attorney report. In his report he stated that for the period from April 1996 to December 1996 they had collected \$4,837,698.95 and for the same period in 1997 they collected \$5,205,313.06. He went on to indicated how this amount was collected, i.e. tax sales, tax warrants, lawsuits, mailings, etc..

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit P)

ITEM 7. COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE:

- A. Approval of Job Description for the Head Start Director
- B. Authorization to advertise for the Head Start Director

7/A

Lisa Saucedo came before the Court requesting approval of the job description for the Headstart Director. She stated that Commissioners' Court has had a week to look over the proposal and if there were any comments she would like to address them at this time as they needed to move on this issue. Commissioner Rosel brought up the Education Guidelines with regards to a

Masters Degree in Behavioral Science or you could substitute that with fifteen years of experience. He felt that fifteen years was too much and he felt that it should read "eight years or more". Another thing was under General Responsibilities, he had a concern with the work "familiar" in the phrase "must be familiar with Early Childhood Education" and he felt that the word should be "experienced". Commissioner Rosel asked Ms. Saucedo if she had drawn up this job description herself and she replied that she had looked at different job descriptions from the different programs in the region and she had compiled it to fit the Headstart Program. He then turned to the second page where it read "keep informed of directives and guidelines" and he was wanting to get a clarification on this and possibly add "and also the implementation of those guidelines". The Commissioner then turned to the third page where it read "will display a positive and professional image at all times during working hours and non-working hours" and he thought that they should have some kind of language in there that is explicit and says that "any conduct that is unbecoming to the County of Hidalgo, to the Agency" or etcetera, that "that particular person will be fired, dismissed". The County Judge warned Commissioner Rosel that if this issue was not addressed properly it could limit the Commission's right to discharge them for some other reasons. Commissioner Rosel informed the County Judge that the only reason that these issues were being brought up was because he had brought it to their attention that they needed to become more involved in it and he is just practicing what they've been preaching. They then asked Ms. Saucedo when the Policy Council would meet and she replied that they meet once a month and they would be meeting tonight, but that this item would not appear on their agenda until the following month. She informed them that the job description needed to be presented to the policy council for ministerial approval only or out of courtesy, as this was a position that was already in existence in Headstart. They did have to present the person for approval or disapproval to the Policy Council, but not the position. Judge Cuellar informed the Court that they needed to move on putting this job description out. Ms. Saucedo reported that there would be a meeting of the policy council tonight and it would be held at 701 East Bowie in Alamo, at the Alamo Center. She mentioned that they have been getting some phone calls about some problems that are going on right now, with regards to miscommunication between the Council and Administration at Headstart concerning the agenda process. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the job description given to the Commissioners' Court for the Headstart Director, with the changes as noted; Item 1, instead of fifteen years that it be at least eight years of experience, which will substitute for a Masters Degree, which in no way can it substitute but maybe a possibility; Number Two, under General Responsibilities, the first two items which say "must be familiar", the language must be changed and have "must have at least five years of experience" in dealing with those two items, one is federal budget and the other is education departments; on the second page on the very first item which says "keep informed of directives and guidelines regulating all agencies" the intent should be "to keep up with all of the new policies and regulations handed down

to us from the funding agencies and that that particular person be able to keep informed and also be able to implement all of the new policies sent to us by the funding agencies"; and leave the part which reads "will display a positive and professional image at all times during working hours and non-working hours" can be left as is.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit Q)

7/B

Lisa Saucedo explained that the advertisement for the Headstart Director position would be done on a State-wide basis, by selecting the top five newspapers in the different regions and this would be done either on Wednesdays and Sundays or just Sundays for a month. She did add that this would be a costly process. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to advertise for the Headstart Director position as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit Q)

ITEM 8. THE COPELAND COMPANIES:

- A. Approval to provide and administer a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for the employees of the County of Hidalgo

Commissioner Rosel called on Martha Salazar, the Purchasing Director, and asked her about the next item and he was asking why her department was not involved in the process of getting the following item on the agenda. He felt that there was a sensitive issue in that when the County went out for RFPs there was a stipulation that there be no contact between the County Commissioners and that vendor. He recommended that in the future they needed to direct this type of service to the Purchasing Department and have them bring a proposal to them with a recommendation. The County Judge added that this Commissioners Court also had the right to inform them that there was not RFP so they would not listen to them. Commissioner Garces recommended that if an item should come before the County Judge's office or a Commissioner's office if the item is not check off then it should be redirected and processed properly. Mrs. Salazar reported that she had seen the item and she had reviewed it, but some months back a gentleman by the name of Charles Clark had come before this Court and made a presentation and at that time the Court had not given her a direction but had discussed that the eventual receipt of more offers would constitute

prompting the Court to go out on an RFP. The County Judge announced that no action would be taken on this item as there was no RFP.

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit R)

ITEM 9. SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

- A. Authorization to enter into an Interlocal agreement with Brazoria County for the Housing of Hidalgo County Inmates

Captain Joe Jackson, from the Sheriff's Department came before the Court requesting authority to enter into an interlocal agreement with Brazoria County for the housing of Hidalgo County Inmates. He explained that presently they have a contract with Limestone County to house these individuals, but the facility in Brazoria County is a little bit closer to Hidalgo County. He added that the contract with Brazoria County is identical to the one with Limestone County and they will be dealing with the same company and the costs will remain the same. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioners Arcaute and Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit S)

ITEM 10. HIDTA TASK FORCE:

- A. Approval of the FBI HIDTA South Texas Partnership Budget in the amount of \$272,781.00
- B. Set Salaries

Celia Haro came before the Court on behalf of Mr. Lupe Trevino and requested approval of the FBI HIDTA South Texas Partnership budget in the amount of \$272,781.00 and to set salaries. She explained that this was on contract that the County of Hidalgo has with the FBI and this program is being funded 100% by the FBI, so there will be no costs incurred by the County. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit T)

ITEM 11. COUNTY CONSTABLES PCT. 2, 3 & 4:

- A. Approval of Budget Amendment
- B. Set Salaries

Mrs. Loura Etnire explained that this was on an issue where Commissioners' Court had agreed to. Constable Rumaldo Cerda came forward requesting approval of a budget amendment to fund the deputy constable position that was approved the previous week and also to set the salaries. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the budget amendment of \$21,501.45 per Constable in Precincts Two, Three and Four and also setting the salaries at \$21,501.45, including benefits. This position to be effective immediately.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit U)

ITEM 12. ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT:

- A. Authorization to rent two mobile phones for the 1998 primary election

Noe Perez, Elections Director, came before the Court requesting authorization to allow him to rent two mobile phones to be used for the Primary election. He added that these mobile phones would be used to communicate with his troubleshooter out in the area on election day and during early voting. Commissioner Garces asked him if it would be feasible to request these phones through the General Election in November. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Handy to authorize the rental of two mobile phones for the 1998 Primary Election and possibly through November.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit V)

ITEM 13. COMMISSIONER PCT. #3:

- A. Authorize exemption from competitive bidding as authorized by Texas Local Government Code, Section 262.024 (A)(4) and approve contract with Hinojosa Engineering for professional services

Commissioner Rosel explained that this item was a continuation of a discussion that was held last week in which they had forgotten to place an exemption on the competitive bidding for professional services with Hinojosa Engineering. He stated that this was for the design on a road that was going to be constructed in cooperation with the County, the City of Mission and some private entities in the donation of right of way. He continued by saying that they

were looking at Bryan Road and taking it all the way to FM 1016 in order to provide access from Granjeno and Madero, especially in an emergency. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to authorize the exemption from competitive bidding services and also approve the contract with Hinojosa Engineering for professional services in the design of Bryan Road. Commissioner Rosel explained that they did not have the amount of the contract today, but the State may also come in later and change the specifications to fit their needs. Mr. Godfrey Garza, the Drainage District Manager, explained the Commissioner's concerns regarding this issue. Commissioner Rosel stated that the only reason that he brought this up was because if this scenario should occur then he would have to bring it back for further approval and this time he was just doing it as per the County's specifications.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit W)

ITEM 14. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

- A. Authorization to create 9 new positions
- B. Approval of budget amendment
- C. Set Salaries

14/A

Raul Hernandez, the Building Superintendent came before the Commissioners' Court requesting authorization to create nine (9) new positions for the Buildings and Grounds departments. Of the nine positions, eight would be for housekeeping and would be a general office clerk. Mr. Hernandez explained that the Buildings and Grounds Department had not received an increase in personnel since he has taken over the Department back in 1991. During this same time the number of buildings maintained by the County has increased by at least a dozen and most of these have no housekeepers on duty and any time. There were also some up and coming new buildings, such as the new OET building and the new Precinct One complex. Commissioner Rosel asked him how much it would take to pay for these new positions and Mr. Hernandez replied that it would take approximately \$117,776.42 and this was pro-rated for 1998. Commissioner Handy pointed out that in his request he had listed five areas in Precinct One and she felt that they were the farthest away from the County Seat and they were having some problems because of the lack of housekeeping personnel, as a result she was in favor of this request. Mr. Hernandez added that they presently do not have any housekeepers assigned to the Adult Probation Department, both the third and fourth floors in the Administration Building. Commissioner Garces commented on the fact that both of these floors were in need of repair and that was why this Commissioners' Court was looking into moving the Adult Probation out of the Administration

Building. After further discussion Commissioner Handy indicated that these positions were really needed and she felt that this action should have been taken a long time ago. A motion was then made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to create the positions for eight housekeepers and one general office clerk. Commissioner Arcaute brought up the issue of discussing this previously and the discussion had revolved around possibly going out and contracting for these services. Commissioner Rosel joined the discussion and asked what the outcome had been and Mrs. Etnire replied that they had looked into it about two years ago and she went into an explanation of the results at that time. There being no further discussion the motion was put to a vote and it carried.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit X)

14/B

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve a budget amendment of \$117,776.42, pro-rated for the balance of the year.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit X)

14/C

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to set the salaries for the eight housekeepers at minimum wage and for the general office clerk at \$15,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit X)

ITEM 15. OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING:

- A. Summary of Welfare to Work to Work Legislation
- B. Discussion and possible action to approve the Request for Proposal for the Title IIB Calendar year Program
- C. Discussion and Possible action to approve the IIB Plan for Calendar year 1998
- D. Discussion and possible action to approve the CHAMP Fund Account's remaining balance of \$81,000.00 be returned to the State
- E. Discussion and Possible action to approve increase of mileage reimbursement from \$.315 to \$.325
- F. Discussion and possible action to approve the transfer of \$200,000.00 from Title IIB to Title IIC

15/A

Dick Dickinson, OET Director, came before the Court and introduced the new PIC Chairman Mr. George Lara. Mr. Lara thanked the Commission and announced that he would like to put to rest some rumors that the Board was having trouble with the Executive Director and this was not true. Mr. Dickinson then went into the Summary of Welfare to Work and indicated that the Department of Welfare has allocated \$5.3 million to this SDA directly as its Welfare to Work recipient and with that a one-third match would follow; and half of this would be matched by the State with a hard match and the County would have to provide the rest in either hard or soft match. After further explanation, no action was required.

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit Y)

15/C

Mr. Dickinson stated that as proposed and stated the previous year, the Department had received final draft figures that went from \$8 million and now it was at \$7,736,894.00 and this may change as the final figures come out, but taking this amount and the approximate \$2 million carry-over that they have in the current Title IIB Plan, would put them at almost \$10 million. He went into the plan and indicated that they planned to serve approximately 4200 participants this year and they would be lowering their cost per participant by about 10%, due to continued streamlining. He continued with an explanation of the plan with the help of Mr. Lara and some questions from the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the IIB Plan for calendar year 1998, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit Y)

15/B

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the Request for Proposal for Title IIB calendar year Program.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit Y)

15/D

Mr. Dickinson informed the Court that this was an issue that has lingered since Program Year 1990-91 and it deals with the CHAMPS fund. These funds were placed at Texas Commerce Bank for and in the names of participants that completed successfully, by which they would get savings bonds. He added that these monies have been left and they have attempted to contact all the participants and late last year the State has indicated that these funds can

longer be sent out and they were wanting their monies back. There are certain letters of authority from the County Judge's Office and himself that are needed that ascertain that there is verifiable proof that the office of Employment and Training has effectively replaced the Department of Community Affairs. He was, at this time, requesting approval to authorize the County Judge to sign the appropriate documents in order to get this money back to the State. Commissioner Rosel reiterated that all they were wanting to do was to take the money that was given to the County and sending it back to the provider and Mr. Dickinson concurred. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioners Handy and Arcaute to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit Y)

15/E

Mr. Dickinson asked that the Commissioners approve an increase in the mileage as was done last week from .315¢ to .325¢ per mile. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioners Garces and Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit Y)

15/F

Mr. Dickinson announced that the final item was for approval of a transfer of \$200,000.00 from Title IIB to Title IIC. He indicated that they had a balance of \$2.9 million and they have received formal approval of the \$450,000.00 that was approved previously and they are projecting an expenditure of approximately 90%. Mr. Dickinson announced that in their Governor's Report to the State, they have placed what they feel are their success stories and they were told by the Texas Workforce Commission that one of their specific success stories is going to be placed in the Governor's Report to the Department of Labor, along with some other things that are in their Governor's Report. Commissioner Garces informed Mr. Dickinson that this Court had approved the Allied Health Building and he was wanting to know if the OET Program had paired up with STCC in any type of program. Mr. Dickinson responded that they had a non-financial agreement by which the County has so far given STCC in books and tuition for their participants in excess of \$800,000.00 and that is just for July 1997 to the present. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit Y)

ITEM 16. EXTENSION SERVICE:**A. Introduction of County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences**

Dr. Ida Acuña, formerly Ida Patrick, the County Extension Agent, came before the Court and introduced Ms. Luisa Colin. Ms. Colin was a new County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. Acuña continued by given a brief biography of Ms. Colin. She then turned the floor over to Mr. Brad Cowen who briefed the Commission on some of the cost share arrangements that they've had with Extension on their computer system. After a brief discussion no action was needed on this item.

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit Z)

ITEM 17. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:**A. Hidalgo County:**

1. Requesting authority to advertise for "Type D Hot Mix Asphalt-Gravel and Limestone"
2. Report on status of enrollment of personnel under new Group Health, Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment (A D & D) Plans
3. Discussion and possible action on status of finalized contracts for Group Health, Life and Accidental Death Dismemberment (A D & D) with:
 - Certus Health Care for our Group
 - Group Life & Health for our Group Life and A D & D
 - or in the alternative, the moving of the effective date from March 1, 1998 to April 1, 1998 to allow the completion of all contract negotiations
4. Report on status of Justices of the Peace occupancy (See Exhibit I -Grid)
5. Discussion & Possible action on Authority to advertise for justice of the Peace office space

B. Hidalgo County Precinct No. 1:

1. Recommending award of bid for "One (1) 1988 or Newer Roll Off Tandem Truck" to lower bidder

C. Hidalgo County -Precinct No. 1, 3 & 4 -

1. Recommending rejection of bids by Precinct #1 & #3 on "Culvert Pipe Installation"
2. Recommending award of bid by Precinct #4 on "Culvert Pipe Installation" to low bidder.

3. Recommending approval of proposed contract on "Culvert Pipe Installation: for Precinct No. 4
- D. Hidalgo County Precinct No. 4:
1. Request from Martin Rendon, current dual-awarded contractor for Hauling services (specific projects under Urban County Road & Bridge awarded on 07-22-97, for permission to sub-contract additional haulers for same contract as required under present terms and conditions and as per specifications).
- E. Hidalgo County Health Department:
1. Recommending award of bid on "Medical Supplies, Medical Equipment and Repair and Maintenance" to multiple vendors
 2. Requesting approval of contracts on "Medical Supplies, Medical Equipment and Repair and Maintenance: multiple Vendors
- F. Hidalgo County HIDTA Task Force:
1. Requesting the following forfeited vehicle be declared surplus - 1988 Ford Van (VIN #1FDKE37HOJHB52253)
- G. Hidalgo County Master Court No. 1:
1. Requesting various office equipment be declared surplus
- H. Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department'
1. Recommending to award bid for "Plumbing Services" - H2O W. Mechanical Contractor
 2. Requesting approval of service contract for H2O W. Mechanical Contractor

17/A/1

Martha Salazar, the Purchasing Director, came before the Court requesting authority to advertise for "Type D Hot Mix Asphalt, Gravel and Limestone". A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the request to advertise.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit AA)

17/A/2

Mrs. Salazar gave a report on the status of the enrollment of personnel under the new group health insurance. She stated that 71%, or 1600, of the employees have been enrolled as of 6:00 AM this morning. As of this meeting there were going to be enrolling approximately 200 more employees and there is an increase on the family participation enrollment rate. She indicated that no action was needed on this issue.

NO ACTION.

(See Exhibit AA)

17/A/3

Mrs. Salazar noted this item dealt with discussion and possible action on the status of the finalized contracts for both the Group Health, Life and

Accidental Death and Dismemberment . It being a big movement from a self-funded program to the new insured program, the draft contracts have been faxed to the local counsel for Certus and it is being reviewed. It is because of this that she is requesting that the effective date for the commencing of the plans be moved to April 1, 1998 to allow these contracts to be reviewed by local counsel and then returned. She did add that if the contracts were returned before this date she would place them on the agenda for approval at the earliest possible date. Commissioner Rosel asked if there was a problem with the change in the provider, without having a contract in place and Mr. Crain explained that there was no contract in place. The discussion continued with regards to this issue, with comments from Commissioners Rosel, Handy and Garces, Mr. Steve Crain and Ms. Salazar. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to move the effective date from March 1, 1998 to April 1, 1998 or sooner to allow the completion of all contracts and negotiations as set forth by the Purchasing Agent and Legal Counsel. Another discussion was begun by a question from Commissioner Rosel regarding reinsurance and this was explained by both Mrs. Salazar and Mr. Crain. Commissioner Rosel also noted that on the voting ballot there was a proposition regarding HMOs

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/A/4

Mrs. Salazar informed the Commissioners that in their packets her Department had furnished them with a grid of the present Justices of the Peace occupancy. On the grid was the information to date on the occupancy of the JPs, be-it their own building, a rental, another entity or the County. As part of the grid there was also a proposal by Mr. Raul Hernandez, the Buildings Superintendent of how these courts could be housed. Commissioner Garces provided an explanation of how his office was set up when he was JP and the square footage that was used.

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/A/5

Mrs. Salazar explained that in order to go out for bids the Commissioners' Court would need to set some specifications, as far as square footage needed, number of offices, etc.. After a brief discussion it was established that they would go out for a maximum of 800 square feet, to include bathroom facilities, a clerk's office, a reception room etc. Commissioner Rosel indicated that he would need only one in his area, as the other JP was being housed by the City of Mission. After further discussion regarding the JPs that were in the process of getting evicted, Manuel Cavazos, the County Auditor, asked the Commission if they would allow him to work these things out, as best as they could, pending going out for proposals and taking care of this problem and the Commissioners agreed. The discussion continued after which a motion

was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to advertise for office space for all of the JPs contingent on the specifications being sent to all the Commissioners and all the Commissioners signing off on those specifications; as a part of the specs, all utilities will be provided by the County of Hidalgo.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

Commissioner Garces mentioned that if they were going to go for a rental fee of \$750.00 per month maybe they could just solicit quotes. Mrs. Salazar agreed and indicated that they might look into solicit three quotes.

17/B

Mrs. Salazar reported that this was on a bid opening that was held on February 11, 1998 for one 1988 or newer roll-off tandem truck. She stated that they had received two bidders: Superior Disposal Systems Inc., from La Villa at \$46,900.00 and Art's A & A Truck City at \$57,750.00. She was at this time recommending the low bid of Superior Disposal Systems Inc. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Garces to award the bid as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/C/1

Mrs. Salazar explained that this next item was for Precincts One, Three and Four. She reported that after they had the bid openings they were advised by Precincts One and Three that after the changes in the subdivision regulations there was a backlog of culvert pipe installations that could be done by in-house forces and they would not be needing additional assistance. Precinct Four has a backlog as of May 1997 and they have quite a bit of culvert pipes and they are in need of the services on the bid. She informed the Court that they had sent the low bidder a document advising them of the events that are taking place here today and asking him to acknowledge if he is in agreement that Precincts One and Three would not be needing his services and would he opt that only Precinct Four's backlog would be under the contract. She mentioned that the bidder has been out of town and she would recommend if the Court decides to award contingent on his approval. She added that he had verbally agreed, but she would like to have something in writing to that effect. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the rejection of bids by Precincts Number One and Three for culvert pipe installation.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/C/2

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Handy to award bid, upon the need by Precinct Four, for culvert pipe installation to the low bidder being Newton Construction at \$395.00 per culvert, contingent on his agreement that only Precinct Four backlog installations will be done.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/C/3

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to authorize approval of the draft contract for Newton Construction for culvert pipe installation for Precinct Four, contingent on the bidders approval.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/D

Mrs. Salazar disclosed that they had a situation that was brought to their attention by Precinct Four. Currently Mr. Martin Rendon is one of the dual-awarded contractors for hauling services under some specific project for Urban County and Road and Bridge. This contract was awarded back in July 1997 and since Precinct Four has tried to contact Mr. Rendon on additional work under these projects as they are ongoing. They found out at the point of contact that his insurance has lapsed and he has offered them a new binder on some insurance. The contract provides that if a contractor requires additional services of subcontractors they must get permission by Commissioners' Court to use those subcontractors. Those subcontractors must also prove that they have all the permits, licenses and insurance's so that they can continue the work. Mr. Rendon has brought them the proofs of insurance on the proposed subcontracted haulers and he is requesting this permission. Mrs. Salazar went into a brief discussion with regards to allowing contractors to hire subcontractors and the reasons why this is being done. After further discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute, to approve to subcontract additional haulers, on the same contract awarded to Mr. Martin Rendon, as required under present terms and conditions.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/E/1

Mrs. Salazar informed the Court that she was recommending award of bid on medical supplies, medical equipment, repair and maintenance,

of same. She mentioned that this bid opening was held on December 31st and they had two bidders: International Medical Supply and The Medicine Shoppe. The bids were quite lengthy and as a result it took some time to tabulate them. She was at this time recommending the dual award of the bid as follows: on medical supplies, the award to International Medical Supply would be all the highlighted items on their list and the award to The Medicine Shoppe would get the items that are highlighted under their list. The bid for medical equipment would go all to International Medical Supply. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to award the bid as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/E/1

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the contracts for medical supplies and medical equipment as approved previously.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/F

Mrs. Salazar reported that the Hidalgo County HIDTA Task Force was requesting that the following forfeited vehicle be declared surplus. The vehicle was a Ford Van, VIN#1FDKE37HOJHB52253. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
(See Exhibit AA)

17/G

She then announced that the Hidalgo County Master Court No. One was requesting that various office equipment be declared surplus, as specified on the exhibit. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

17/H/1

Mrs. Salazar informed the Commissioners that the Sheriff's Department had gone out for bids for plumbing services. She explained that the bid opening was February 4th and they had one sole bidder. This bidder has been reviewed by both the Sheriff's Department and the Purchasing Department.

She added that the price listed was \$35.00 per hour for a two man crew with an 18% markup on at cost supplies. The award is being given to H2O W Contractor out of McAllen. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the bid award as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit AA)

17/H/2

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the service contract with H2O W Contractor, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit AA)

ITEM 18. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE JAIL SPACE

County Judge Renato Cuellar informed the Court that they had held their first negotiations by the negotiation team with the architect. He stated that four of the negotiating team members were present and they were able to get a lot of the language out of the way and they have another meeting set for this coming week.

NO ACTION.

The County Judge asked if there were any questions or comments regarding this Commissioners' Court and Valde Guerra came up and announced that Gilbert Garza, from the Auditor's Office had a question with respect to the setting of salaries for the Deputy Constables; he had not heard what the salary had been set at. Commissioner Garces informed him that it had been set at \$16,008.06. Mr. Guerra indicated that that was the pro-rated amount and the County Judge affirmed that it was the same salary as a current deputy constable, \$18,918.62.

Commissioner Rosel went back to the issue of office space for the JPs. He mentioned that after hearing some of the concerns of the other Commissioners, he felt that maybe they should make a motion to properly procure office spaces for all of the JPs. This way they could save some money on advertising and he asked if the Commissioners felt comfortable with this. The County Judge emphasized that this would be only way to go. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to rescind the action taken on item 17/A/5, for the advertising for the JPs for office space in the County.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit AA)

A motion was then made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to authorize the advertising for office space for the JPs to the extent that is necessary.

MOTION CARRIED

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners' Court, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute that said meeting be hereby adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED.