

COUNTY OF HIDALGO COMMISSIONERS' COURT

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 27th day of January, 1998 after notice duly having been given, a Special Meeting of the Commissioners' Court and the Drainage District #1 Board was begun and holden in the Commissioners' Courtroom, in the County Administration Building, in the City of Edinburg, County of Hidalgo, State of Texas, with the following being members of said Court:

**HONORABLE RENATO CUELLAR
COUNTY JUDGE**

**HONORABLE SYLVIA HANDY
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1**

**HONORABLE ABELARDO "LALO" ARCAUTE
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2**

**HONORABLE JUAN ROSEL
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3**

**HONORABLE GUADALUPE "LUPE" GARCES
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4**

and where the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

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 - HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR

The County Judge introduced the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any questions and/or comments. There being none, a motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve.

MOTION CARRIED.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 - SUMMIT CONTRACTING, INC., EXTENDING COMPLETION DATE FROM 30 DAYS TO 90 DAYS FOR LEVEE STRUCTURE AT MILE 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ NORTH

A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve a change order number one with Summit Contracting, Inc., for an extension of the completion date from thirty days to ninety days for the levee structure at Mile 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ North.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit A)

ITEM 2. PURCHASING DEPT. FOR HCDD #1

- A. Requesting approval of "Sole Source Declaration" to Anderson Equipment Company for the repair for Dozer #11
 - 1. Attempts to repair Dozer #11 with in-house forces proved to be unsuccessful
 - 2. Private mechanic also attempted to repair said vehicle and was also unsuccessful
 - 3. Dozer #11 (in numerous pieces and stages of disassembly) was then transported to Anderson Equipment (dealer for FIAT-ALLIS) where repairs were completed
 - 4. Due to the state of disrepair and complexity of machine, a dealership was the only source available to Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 for the repair of Dozer 11
- B. Requesting payment of a claim from Anderson Equipment in the amount of \$21,879.66 for repairs to Dozer #11
- C. Requesting authority to exercise sixty (60) day grace period contained in original contract or Gas on Off Highway Diesel so as not to have lapse in service'

2/A

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to authorize a sole source declaration to Anderson Equipment Company for the repair of Dozer #11, as indicated.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit B)

2/B

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to authorize payment of a claim from Anderson Equipment in the amount of \$21,879.66 for repairs to Dozer #11.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit B)

2/C

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to exercise the sixty day grace period contained in original contract for "Gas on Off-Highway Diesel" so as not to have lapse in service".

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit B)

There being no further business to come before the Drainage District #1 Board, a motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Handy 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 - HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR

ITEM 2. 1997 LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

- A. Commissioner Pct. 1 - Sanitation - \$8,519.28
- B. Commissioner Pct. 4 - Landfill - \$1,710.00
- C. Commissioner Pct. 4 - Lateral Roads - \$900.00
- D. 206th District Court - \$70.00
- E. Texas D.P.S. Assistance - \$172.00
- F. County Clerk - Records Management - \$7.58

G. County Clerk - \$179.10

H. Health Department - Immunization Program - \$5,000.00 &
\$1,925.00

I. J.P. Pct. 1 Pl. 1 - \$83.40

(See Exhibit C)

ITEM 3. 1998 LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

A. Commissioner Pct. 2 - County Shop - \$500.00

B. Commissioner Pct. 2 - Paved/Unpaved - \$2,000.00

C. Commissioner Pct. 4 - Landfill - \$250.00

D. Texas D.P.S. Assistance - \$1,300.00

E. Buildings & Grounds - No Action

F. J.P. Pct. 1 Pl. 1 - \$34.00

G. Treasurer Department - \$180.00

(See Exhibit D)

ITEM 4. COUNTY AUDITOR

A. Monthly Collection Reports for the Month of November, 1997

1. Sheriff Enrique Escalon	\$30,373.51
2. Anzalduas Park	\$ 2,100.00
3. Law Library	\$ 3,629.00
4. Constable Horacio Aguirre	\$ 147.00
5. Constable Gilberto Alaniz	\$ 385.00
6. Constable Roberto Peña	\$ 980.00
7. Constable Rumaldo Cerda	\$ 320.00
8. Constable Eduardo Bazan	\$ 50.00
9. J.P. Arnaldo Corpus	\$ 1,729.35
10. J.P. Jesus E. Morales	\$ 9,107.75
11. J.P. E. Speedy Jackson	\$ 5,581.85
12. J.P. Rosa E. Treviño	\$14,638.35
13. J.P. Gilbert Saenz	\$ 8,950.90
14. J.P. Dario L. Martinez	\$ 8,507.36
15. J.P. Ismael "Melo" Ochoa	\$14,127.94

(See Exhibit E)

ITEM 5. PLANNING DEPARTMENT

A. Subdivisions

1. Lot 60-A Cimarron Country Club Phase I - Section IV - Pct. 3
 2. Las Misiones Subdivision - Pct. 3
- B. Release of the Letter of Credit
1. Cotton Estates Phase II - Pct. 1
- (See Exhibit F)

ITEM 6. RIGHT OF WAY DEPARTMENT

- A. Permits
1. Pct. #1 - Southwestern Bell Telephone
 2. Pct. #3 - BNP Petroleum Company
- (See Exhibit G)

ITEM 7. COUNTY TREASURER

- A. Hidalgo County Quarterly Investment Report - period ending 12/31/97
- (See Exhibit H)

The County Judge introduced the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any questions and/or comments. It was noted that no action would be required on Item 3/E under 1998 Line Item transfers. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the Consent Agenda with the change, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE AGENDA

ITEM 1. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioners' Court may go into Closed Session pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 & 551.072 to discuss the following:

- A. Litigation
1. Civil Action C-2726-97-C - Adolfo Cantu -vs- Hidalgo County

2. Civil Action C-3175-96-D - Luciano Ozuna, et ux -vs- Hidalgo County

B. Property

1. Potential Acquisition of Real Property - City of Weslaco

The County Judge and County Commissioners went into Executive Session accompanied by Steve Crain, the County legal counsel.

NO ACTION.

ITEM 2. OPEN SESSION

A. Litigation

1. Civil Action C-2726-97-C - Adolfo Cantu -vs- Hidalgo County
2. Civil Action C-3175-96-D - Luciano Ozuna, et ux -vs- Hidalgo County

B. Property

1. Potential Acquisition of Real Property - City of Weslaco

2/A/1

The County Judge indicated that no action would be required on this item at this time. Commissioner Arcaute noted that this item belonged in the Drainage District #1 Agenda.

NO ACTION.

2/A/2

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to authorize the attorneys to continued with the direction given by Commissioners' Court to proceed.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit I)

2/B

Judge Cuellar reported that no action would be required on this item at this time.

NO ACTION.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1. PLANNING DEPARTMENT

A. Final Plat Approval

1. Pradera Subdivision - Pct. 3

Emilio Garcia, Chief Planner, was requesting approval of Pradera Subdivision. This is in Precinct Three located approximately two miles north of F.M. 492. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit J)

ITEM 2. RIGHT OF WAY DEPARTMENT

A. Acceptance of Road Easement for Extension of County Road

Vona Walker, Right of Way Director, came before the Court requesting acceptance of a Road Easement for the extension of a County road in Precinct Four. She did add that Foremost Paving would put the road in at no expense to the County. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit K)

ITEM 3. COUNTY CLERK

A. Approval of Official Bond

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the official bond for the County Clerk.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit L)

ITEM 4. COMMISSIONER PCT. 1

A. Proclamation declaring January as School Board Recognition Month

After a reading of the proclamation by Commissioner Handy, a motion was made by Judge Cuellar and seconded by Commissioners Garces and Arcaute to approve the proclamation declaring January as School Board Recognition Month.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit M)

ITEM 5. PENDULUM MANAGEMENT GROUP - JUAN J. HINOJOSA

A. Approval of Risk Management proposal contract by the Pendulum Management Group

5/A

Juan Hinojosa addressed the Court and stated he was now ready to present a contract to the Court as it relates to the previous proposal for this contract. This was to do the risk management for the County. He feels that this will help minimize the exposure of liability that the County has. He also added that with this in place, they can save the County a minimum of \$3 for every \$1 that is spent on this project. He feels that his qualifications in this area are the fact the he has sued the County in the past and has served in the Texas Legislature. This contract is for \$125 per hour for the professional

services and not the clerical work. There is a 90 day cancellation clause. If the County is not satisfied, they can cancel with 90 days notice and the firm will turn over all files, documents etc. in their possession to the County. The contract can be modified by the County in some issue arises. There will be a monthly report as to what they have done and what they will do so that the Commission can make informed decisions regarding the rules and regulations for the departments within the County. The firms books will be open to the County so that they can be audited at any time. He also based this on the fact that the County spends too much money on legal fees and they do not even know exactly how much is spent in fees. A discussion ensued whereby there was a question and answer session. Sheriff Escalon then addressed the Court and stated that they have been working on this issue for the past six months to alleviate the problem with workman's compensation. They are attempting to bring down the cost for this. He stated that there was a letter from the Judge to him that addressed this issue where TAC will give the County a 10% discount in the area that Mr. Hinojosa is talking about. He also added that he had a concern on this request with Mr. Hinojosa being that there might be a conflict of interest due to Mr. Hinojosa currently being involved in a claim against the County. Cynthia Gutierrez, Legal Counsel to the Sheriff, addressed the Court and she reiterated some of the views that Sheriff Escalon has with this. She stated that Sheriff Escalon has also been working on a policy to get his employees back to work quicker from workman's comp injuries. She went on to state that Sheriff Escalon is requesting to be on the agenda the following week to present his proposal for this issue, which will be less than \$50,000 to implement as Mr. Hinojosa is asking for in his contract. All they are asking for is that this item be tabled for another week so that they can present this proposal as well. The program that TAC is proposing will cut down the workman's comp premiums by about \$94,000. Another concern that the Sheriff has with Pendulum Management is the experience and track record of this firm. The experience that Mr. Hinojosa referred to was all in the litigation field being that they have sued the County on several occasions. The Sheriff has been under contact with Universal Rehabilitation Institute. What this company does, is they prepare job descriptions for employees and they also evaluate the training to make sure that the employees are being

properly trained to prevent accidents and injuries. This company also addressed the post accident issues. She feels that this is where the county is having the biggest problem. They would like the head of this company, Dr. Frasier to also address the Court the following week to explain exactly what it is they do. The cost of what the Sheriff would like to implement is about \$4,000, which is considerably less than \$50,000. They would just like a chance to state their proposal so that all of the efforts to curb workman's comp will not be wasted efforts. This proposal by Dr. Frasier will go into other areas aside from workman's comp. because they have law enforcement personnel and non-law enforcement personnel. Mr. Hinojosa re-addressed the Court and responded to some of the comments from Sheriff Escalon and Ms. Gutierrez. He stated that if the Sheriff was doing what he is supposed to, the jail would not get sued. He then responded to Ms. Gutierrez and her comments, on his experience or lack thereof. He felt that his résumé speaks for itself. He then touched on the issue that this is the problem. The fact that the Sheriff is before the Court and he has his own attorney. He then added that if the Sheriff feels comfortable with Dr. Frasier then they can work with him as well as the Sheriff to address their needs. He is amenable to working with who they have to. As far as the conflict of interest is concerned, he did state that there is a pending lawsuit concerning some mentally retarded inmates who have been in jail for three or four months without an arraignment. There was some further discussion whereby the Commission was in agreement that something definitely needed to be done. Judge Cuellar stated that he felt that the Sheriff was asking for too much in his request of another week. Commissioner Handy asked Ms. Gutierrez if this proposal by Dr. Frasier included all aspects of lawsuits or was it just workman's compensation. Ms. Gutierrez responded by stating that it was just with personal injury and accidents. Steve Crain also addressed the Court and stated that he cannot give out any opinion at this time being that his firm is currently involved in the suit that Mr. Hinojosa has pending. He did suggest in correspondence that they hire an attorney to review this issue because of this conflict. Commissioner Rosel asked if the hiring of an attorney required action or was it administrative. Commissioner Arcaute stated that that would be an administrative action under professional service. Manuel Cavazos brought six issues before the Commission: (1) the conflict of interest

has not been resolved, (2) the qualifications of the contracting party are not known for risk management, (3) a person must be licensed by the State Board of Insurance, (4) a consultant is not needed; what is needed is a risk manager who can do the job at a fraction of the cost that is being proposed, (5) no money has been appropriated for this contract and (6) if the contract is approved, he will not pay. He will get a court order if necessary. Commissioner Rosel told Mr. Cavazos that he can't say he will not pay just because he does not want to. Judge Cuellar stated that he saw the County Auditor's unwillingness to pay for this contract to mean that he was not recommending it as it now stands. Commissioner Rosel suggested that this matter be presented to Mr. Preston Henrichson, as he has represented the County in other matters. Judge Cuellar then stated that this name was also the recommendation of Mr. Hinojosa and Mr. Hinojosa stated that he has not outside affiliation with Mr. Henrichson. The reason he suggested Mr. Henrichson is because Judge Cuellar had told him that Mr. Henrichson had done work for the County and they were satisfied. Judge Cuellar is recommending to take this under advisement. Martha Salazar stated to the Court that there is no statutory obligation by the County to put out an RFP for this service. Although, this would first have to be exempt from competitive bidding. It is strictly the option of the County. Mr. Hinojosa stated that he is willing to work with anyone but he does not appreciate being ambushed. Sheriff Escalon stated that this issue has been requested to be placed on the agenda since December 10, 1997. Ms. Gutierrez also expressed her objection to the statement of Mr. Hinojosa with regards to the ambushing. Mrs. Salazar verified that this item has been in her office. The reason for it not being on the agenda as of yet is because of her reviewing it and also three other major projects that they have been grading and preparing for. She stated that she informed the Sheriff's Office that it would be placed on the agenda for the Commissioners' Court meeting of February 3rd. After further comments, a motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and was seconded by Commissioner Rosel to **table** this item at this time.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit N)

ITEM 6. MASTER COURT #2

- A. Approval of budget amendment for Bailiff/Interpreter Position
- B. Set Salary for Bailiff/Interpreter

6/A

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$4,411.73 for Master Court #2.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit O)

6/B

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Garces to set the salary for the Interpreter/Bailiff at \$28,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit O)

ITEM 7. COMMISSIONER PCT. 3

- A. Discussion and possible approval of budget amendment in General Fund

Commissioner Rosel stated that this was for the dues for the Texas Conference of Urban Counties. The amendment was for an amount of \$4,010.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve. Steve Crain, the County legal counsel, indicated that there was a question on whether the County could pay dues with General Fund monies. He was asking that this item be considered at the end of the agenda in order to allow him time to research this item. The Commission concurred.

NO ACTION. (This item was again considered after the Addendum)
(See Exhibit P)

ITEM 8. OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

A. Discussion and possible action to Transfer \$450,000.00 from Title IIB to Title IIC

B. Discussion and possible action on Request for Proposal Format and Solicitation

8/A

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to authorize the transfer of \$450,000.00 from Title IIB to Title IIC.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit Q)

8/B

Dick Dickinson, OET Executive Director, asked that no action be taken on this item at this time.

NO ACTION.

(See Exhibit Q)

ITEM 9. PALMER DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM

A. Discussion and possible action to support the Palmer Drug Abuse Program for a three year period out of the Confiscated Drug Fund

Judy Hernandez, from the Palmer Drug Abuse Program, came before the Court to thank them for their prior support. She then proceeded to explain the services that were offered through this program. Mrs. Hernandez was also requesting that this Court commit to supporting this Program for an amount of \$100,000.00 per year for a two-year period with the funding to be taken from the Confiscated Drug Fund. During discussion, Commissioner Garces indicated that it was very hard to commit because the amount in this fund varied from year to year. After further discussion, the Commission concurred that this

was a valuable program, but they could not commit at this time and therefore no action was taken on this item at this time.

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit R)

ITEM 10. LIBRARY SYSTEM

A. Appointment of Board Members for the Hidalgo County Library System

Bill McGee, Library System Director, was requesting the appointment of a representative and an alternate from the Alamo area to the Hidalgo County Library System. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Garces to appoint Charles Wilmoth, as the representative and Robert VanderVen as the alternate.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit S)

ITEM 11. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- A. Authorization and approval to reduce the position of Risk Coordinator from \$34,608.00 to \$24,000.00**
- B. Authorization and approval to create a Certified Social Worker position and set salary at \$12,568.00**

The County Judge indicated that no action would be required on these items at this time.

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit T)

ITEM 12. YOUTH VILLAGE

- A. Approval to accept Cameron County's Contract for residential services, FY 1998

The County Judge indicated that no action would be required on these items at this time.

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit U)

ITEM 13. URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM

- A. City of La Joya - PFI Municipal Park Improvements Year 1993
- Approval of Change Order #1 with Corner Stone Construction
- B. Pct. #3 Approval of a subrecipient agreement with Palmer Drug Abuse Program Year 10 - 1997
- C. Pct. #3 - Approval of a Subrecipient Agreement with Dismas Horizons, Year 10 - 1997
- D. Approval of Urban County Program Year 11 funding allocation
- E. Ratification of action taken by the Urban County Director to assume all managerial administrative and compliance responsibility in relation to the expenditure of Urban County funds for the City of Edcouch
- F. Approval of Testing of Standards for all Urban County Program construction projects
- G. HOME "First-Time Homebuyer contract Agreement" and Letter of Commitment to Mortgage Company - 1 family
- H. Increase of HOME Owner Rehab Deferred Loan/Grant

13/A

The City of La Joya was requesting approval of a change order #1 with Corner Stone Construction. The change order was for an amount of \$2,490.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit V)

13/B

Precinct Three was requesting approval of a subrecipient agreement with Palmer Drug Abuse Program in the amount of \$16,000.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit V)

13/C

Precinct Three was requesting approval of a subrecipient agreement with Dismas Horizons in the amount of \$16,000.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit V)

13/D

Anthony Covacevich, Urban County Director, was requesting the approval of the Urban County Program Year 11 funding allocation. It represents 2.5% reduction for each of the participating entities with the addition of the City of Palmhurst. The total amount of funding is \$2,878,288.93. A discussion ensued with regards to the low funding that this County has received lately versus the growth in population. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit V)

13/E

Mr. Covacevich indicated that no action would be required on this item at this time.

NO ACTION.

(See Exhibit V)

13/F

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the testing standards for all Urban County Program construction projects.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit V)

13/G

A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the HOME "First-Time Homebuyer" contract agreement with Eleazar Garza and the letter of commitment with Frontera Mortgage Company.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit V)

13/H

Mr. Covacevich was requesting approval of an increase in the HOME Owner Rehab Deferred Loan/Grant. He was requesting that the grant amounts be increased from \$12,000.00 up to but not to exceed \$15,000.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit V)

ITEM 14. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

A. PCT. #3

1. Recommending award of bid for surplus/scrap metal for "Railroad Track Material" to high bidder, Recycling Industries
2. Recommending award of bid for "Approximately 59,500 Sq. Ft. of (60) MIL High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Membrane Liner Material and Installation of same for Cell J at Penitas Landfill to low bidder
3. Approval of contract for Approximately 59,500 Sq. Ft. of 60 MIL High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Membrane

Line Material and Installation of same for Cell J. at Penitas landfill with Envirocon of Houston Texas.

B. COUNTY WIDE SHOP

1. Requesting authority to advertise for "One (1) 1997 or Newer Extended Cab ½ ton pick-up truck"

14/A/1

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to award bid to Recycling Industries for surplus/scrap metal for "Railroad Track Material" from Precinct Three. Bid price is \$100.00 per net ton.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit W)

14/A/2

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to award the bid for "Approximately 59,500 Sq. Ft. of (60) MIL High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Membrane Liner Material and Installation of same for Cell J at Penitas Landfill to the low bidder being Envirocon of Houston, Texas at a bid price of \$32,511.00. Award is contingent on the budget amendment to fund this contract.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit W)

14/A/3

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve a contract with Envirocon of Houston, Texas for "Approximately 59,500 Sq. Ft. of (60) MIL High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Membrane Liner Material and Installation of same for Cell J at Penitas Landfill. Approval is contingent on the budget amendment to fund this contract.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit W)

14/B

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to authorize the advertising for "One (1) 1997 or Newer Extended Cab ½ Ton Pick-up truck" for Precinct Two.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit W)

ITEM 15. HIDALGO COUNTY NEW JAIL PROJECT

Valde Guerra, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge, informed the Court that they were submitting a progress report to the State Commission on Jail Standards. They would be holding a meeting on Thursday and the report was to inform them that this Commissioners' Court has ranked and is in the process of negotiating a contract.

NO ACTION.

ADD. 1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE RAHC - Support of the Extension of the March 31, 1998 RFP deadline

Lisa Saucedo, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge, informed the Court that she, along with the County Judge, had attended a RAHC meeting with the Cameron County and Hidalgo County delegations. Each entity had taken official action to extend the deadline until March 31, 1998. They would be presenting this resolution to the State for consideration. After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy that this Commissioners' Court supports an extension of the March 31, 1998 RFP deadline for the RAHC proposal.

MOTION CARRIED.

ITEM 7. COMMISSIONER PCT. 3

A. Discussion and possible approval of budget amendment in General Fund

Steve Crain, County legal counsel, informed the Court that as per statute there were five findings that this Commissioners' Court had to make:

- 1) a majority of the Commissioners' Court votes for it;
- 2) the association exists for the betterment of County government and the benefit of all County officials
- 3) the association is not affiliated with a labor organization
- 4) neither the association or any employees of the association attempt to influence legislation
- 5) neither the association or any employees of the association directly or indirectly contributes any money or valuable thing to a political campaign or endorses a candidate or group of candidates for public office.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the budget amendment, subject to approval by legal counsel of the legal parameters of this organization.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit P)

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

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to come before said Court, the meetings of the Commissioners' Court and the Drainage District #1 Board are hereby adjourned.

RENATO CUELLAR _____
COUNTY JUDGE

SYLVIA HANDY _____
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

ABELARDO "LALO" ARCAUTE _____
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

JUAN ROSEL _____
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

GUADALUPE "LUPE" GARCES _____
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Dated this the 7th day of October, 1999.

**JUAN D. SALINAS, III, County Clerk
Hidalgo County, Texas**

**By: _____
Jennifer Castillo, Deputy**

**Minutes approved by the Commissioners' Court and the
Drainage District #1 Board on the 19th day of October, 1999.**