

## **DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1**

The Honorable Renato Cuellar, County Judge, called the Drainage District #1 Board of Directors 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 TRANSFER**  
(See Exhibit A)

**ITEM 3. 1998 LINE ITEM TRANSFER**  
(See Exhibit A)

**ITEM 4. PERMIT - CITY OF WESLACO - CABALLERO SUB. #1**  
(See Exhibit B)

The County Judge stated for the record that all the Commissioners were present, with the exception of Commissioner Handy who was not present at the meeting. He then introduced the Consent Agenda and a motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve it as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibits A&B)

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. DISCUSSION ON WALKER SUBDIVISION**

Godfrey Garza, the Drainage District Manager, asked that the Board take no action on this item at this time.

NO ACTION.  
(See Exhibit C)

**ITEM 2. BUDGET AMENDMENT**

On the next item he indicated that they had sent a memorandum to the Board for their review and he would be glad to answer any questions that the Board may have. There being none a motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$253,108.00.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit D)

**ITEM 3. REPORT OF SALE - Order Confirming Sale and Authorization to execute deed**

Mr. Garza explained that this next item was regarding two pieces of land that were declared surplus just west of Hwy. 107. Vona Walker, the Right of Way Director, then came to the podium and indicated that they had an appraised for the property of \$1,000.00. She added that for tract one, Four "S" Orchards Inc. offered \$500.00 and for tract 2 Shary Farms Inc. offered \$500.00. She stated that she was reporting and she needed an order confirming sale and authorizing the County Judge to execute the deed. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit E)

**ITEM 4. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT FOR D.D. #1:**

- A. Recommending to award bid for Uniforms for Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 - AmeriPride
- B. Requesting approval of contract for Uniforms - AmeriPride
- C. Requesting authority to advertise for Lubricants (Grease, Oil, Hydraulic Fluids) and Anti-Freeze Products

4/A

Martha Salazar, the Purchasing Director, came before the Court and recommended the bid award for uniforms for the Hidalgo County Drainage District #1. She reported that a bid opening was held on December 17, 1997 and there were two bidders; AmeriPride Services and UniFirst. The overall low bidder was AmeriPride Services and they were recommending this firm for the award of contracts for uniforms for Drainage District #1. Commissioner Rosel brought up a concern regarding the quality of the products and Mrs. Salazar informed him that that had been addressed in the new specifications. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to accept the Drainage District proposal of the AmeriPride for the uniforms.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit F)

4/B

Mrs. Salazar continued by requesting approval of the contract for the uniforms with AmeriPride for Hidalgo County Drainage District #1. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the contract with AmeriPride.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit F)

4/C

Mrs. Salazar was requesting authorization to advertise for Lubricants, which are grease, oil, hydraulic fluids and anti-freeze products for the Hidalgo County Drainage District #1. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to authorize the advertisement. A discussion ensued with regards to the anti-freeze and Mrs. Salazar indicated that they had put some parameters on meeting certain specifications and Mr. Garza explained this issue in more detail. Commissioner Handy came into the meeting at this time. The motion was then put to a vote and it carried.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit F)

There being no further business to come before the Drainage District #1 Board of Directors, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel 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 - HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR**

#### **ITEM 2. 1997 LINE ITEM TRANSFERS:**

- A. Commissioner Pct. #1 - Administration - \$2,000.00
- B. Commissioner Pct. #1 - Parks - \$813.37
- C. Commissioner Pct. #1 - Road & Bridge - \$6,410.00
- D. Commissioner Pct. #4 - Landfill - \$1,500.00

E. J.P. Pct. 2 Pl. 2 - \$11.49  
(See Exhibit G)

**ITEM 3. 1998 LINE ITEM TRANSFERS:**

- A. Commissioner Pct. #2 - Paved/Unpaved - \$4,000.00
  - B. J.P. Pct. 2 Pl. 2 - \$21.00
  - C. J.P. Pct. 3 Pl. 1 - \$50.00
  - D. Historical Commission - \$1,500.00
- (See Exhibit H)

**ITEM 4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:**

- A. Subdivisions:
    - 1. Hidalgo County Housing Authority Subdivision Unit #1 - Pct. 1
    - 2. Inspiration Point Phase I - Pct. #3
    - 3. Palazzo at Cimarron - Pct. #3
    - 4. D & J Estates Subdivision - Pct. #4
    - 5. Sprague Meadows Phase III - Pct. #3
  - B. Release of Letter of Credit:
    - 1. Texas Valley Estates #6 - Pct. 1
- (See Exhibit I)

**ITEM 5. RIGHT OF WAY DEPARTMENT:**

- A. Permits:
    - 1. Pct. #1 - Southwestern Bell Telephone
      - GTE
    - 2. Pct. #3 - Southwestern Bell Telephone
    - 3. Pct. #4 - Southwestern Bell Telephone
- (See Exhibit J)

**ITEM 6. URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM:**

- A. HOME First Time Homebuyer Contract Agreement and letter of Commitment to Mortgage Company - 1 Family

Commissioners Rosel and Garces asked if there were any changes on the Consent Agenda and Manuel Cavazos, the County Auditor, replied that there was one with regards to the check register in Item 1. The correction was regarding General Fund check number 140490, they were withdrawing an amount of \$726.40 from payments. The reason for this was that the item was being returned. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the consent agenda with the change in the check register and payment of claims/bills, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit K)

**EXECUTIVE AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. CLOSED SESSION:**

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

- A. Property
  - 1. Potential Acquisition of Real Property - City of Weslaco

**ITEM 2. OPEN SESSION:**

- A. Property:
  - 1. Potential Acquisition of Real Property - City of Weslaco

**ITEM 3. CLOSED SESSION:**

Commissioners' Court may reconvene into Closed Session for the discussion regarding the agenda items listed

The County Judge and Commissioners went into Closed Session accompanied by Mr. Steve Crain, the County Legal Counsel, and Mr. Barry Evan Jones.

**ITEM 4. OPEN SESSION:**

Commissioners Court may reconvene into Open Session for the discussion regarding the agenda items listed

NO ACTION.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:**

- A. Woodland Heights S/D Unit II - Pct. 1

Emilio Garcia, the Chief Planner, came before the Court requesting approval of Woodland Heights S/D Unit II. He explained that this subdivision was located on the northwest corner of Nebraska Road and Bellman Road, in the City of Donna. The subdivision consisted of 76 half acre lots and North Alamo Water Supply Corporation would provide the water services. The cost estimate for the improvements of the road were approved by Melden & Hunt and it was \$232,302.34; out of this a 2% inspection fee or \$4,646.05 was paid to the Planning Department. He was recommending preliminary approval subject to the street signs, traffic control devices, testing of the streets and the final letter from the water corporation. Godfrey Garza informed the Court that this was one of the subdivision that had a ditch and the developer had agreed to place a section of the ditch under ground to remove that safety hazard. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit L)

**ITEM 2. CENTER FOR ECONOMIC OPP. - GUADALUPE GONZALEZ:**

- A. Consideration and approval to apply for a \$500,000.00 grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife to create a recreational facilities in said colonias and appropriate matching CDBG funds for construction of community centers

Mr. Guadalupe Gonzalez, from the Center for Economic Opportunity, came before the Court and stated that they had applied for and received grants from the Kellogg's Foundation to assist colonia residents north and south of the City of Alamo. He mentioned that they had two projects in the works, one was to get parents involved, as far as encouraging the attendance of small children to stay in school. The other project involves at-risk youth from the ages of 16-21 and they are training to either get them back in school or to teach a building trade. He added that they also go out to the colonias to find out what the residents feel is needed and he presented two petitions, one from colonias south of Alamo and the other from colonias north of Alamo, to the Commissioners' Court to apply for grant monies from the Texas Parks and Wildlife and if needed matching monies from the CDBG funds. Commissioner Arcaute asked him to specify his request, because he said that he had informed Mr. Gonzalez that a hearing had been rescheduled to consider the request for CDBG funds. Mr. Gonzalez replied that he was aware of that, but they felt that they needed some type of approval to apply for these funds. Commissioner Arcaute asked if this request would involve County monies and Mr. Gonzalez stated that if there were matching funds required, they would hope that the County could appropriate CDBG monies. Commissioner Arcaute again stated that this would have to go through the hearing process and Mr. Gonzalez was wanting if they could consider the Texas Parks and Wildlife funds at this time. Commissioner Garces came into the discussion and stated that sometime back in 1995, Precinct Four had applied for some of these monies and they found out that there were some non-complying areas of a prior funding of monies in Precinct One that needed to be corrected. Until this was done and confirmed by the State Parks and Wildlife then the County could not apply for these monies. He did add that as soon as some of the non-compliance areas were corrected then the County could solicit these monies and he did agree with Commissioner Arcaute that it would have to go through a public hearing. Commissioner Handy then added that the non-compliance had to do with a park in her Precinct and her crew was working on it and it would probably be completed sometime in May. After further comments, Mr. Gonzalez introduced Mrs. Patricia Mejia, who was one of the residents and she indicated that the colonias desperately needed community centers and parks in order to give the children in the colonias a place to play. She also mentioned that she had initiated a program whereby the children were helping non-English speaking parents learn to read and speak the English language. Mr. Gonzalez then introduced Alex Castillo, a youth participant, and he also agreed that a recreational facility would benefit the youth in these colonias. Judge Cuellar then reiterated Commissioner Arcaute's comments about procedure.

NO ACTION.  
(See Exhibit M)

**ITEM 3. OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING:**

- A. Discussion and Possible action on Request for Proposal for Customized Training
- B. Discussion and Possible Action to approve and authorize the creation of permanent and temporary Title IIB positions and set salaries for OET
- C. Discussion and possible action to approve the OET and Training's Amended organizational chart

3/A

Dick Dickinson, OET Director, came before the Court requesting approval of a request for proposals for customized training. He stated that this request had been brought before the Court about two and a half weeks ago and there had been substantial conversation between OET and TAA, the trade unit for the State and they had agreed on a generalized customized training program. They had originally produced this RFP for a specific employer and a specific service provider, but there had been some glitches with the employers. What they were doing with the fund balances that they have in the specific titles, and have agreed to go out on a general RFP, where any service provider and/or company that might have a need for customized training may respond to this RFP. He is asking that the Commissioners' Court approve subject to a revision that needs to be made that relates to one portion of that. Commissioner Rosel asked him what he hoped to accomplish through this type of customized training and Mr. Dickinson explained that they were trying to provide training for a company if the company was willing to secure jobs. Commissioner Garces wanted to know if the department would be satisfying jobs within this area or outside this area and the response was that it would provide employment through training locally. Commissioner Rosel commented that on the request they had specified customized for a minimum of thirty-five participants and Mr. Dickinson replied in the affirmative. Commissioner Rosel asked if this was for the "eligible dislocated worker, trade effective worker, economically disadvantaged, hard to serve individuals and basic skilled efficient person" and Mr. Dickinson stated that it was. He was at this time recommending approval of the request for proposals. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Garces to authorize the submittal of the RFP.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit N)

3/B

Mr. Dickinson was also requesting approval and authorization for the creation of permanent and temporary Title IIB positions. He added that right now they were at \$17.7 million in current monies available in this current program year. In the IIB Plan the actual allocations had not come out yet but they have been told by the State to begin working on their IIB plan at a figure of \$8 million. He added that because of this and carry-overs they could expect to be working with a budget of approximately \$22.4 million. After a lengthy discussion the program, the services provided, the funding, numbers of participants served and placement of the additional staff, a motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve and authorize the creation of the temporary and permanent positions to be able to carry the Title IIB program.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit N)

A motion was then made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Handy to set the salaries as per the attachment.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit N)

3/C

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioners Garces and Arcaute to approve the amended organizational chart to reflect the additional positions.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit N)

**ITEM 4. ADULT PROBATION:**

- A. Approval to credit Mr. Leo Acosta, Restitution Center Employee two months of service to his retirement benefits for the months of December 1995 and May 1996

Mr. Joe Lopez, Adult Probation Director, came before the Court requesting authorization to credit an employee with two months of service to his retirement. He explained that back in the latter of 1995 they had a situation where an employee of the center was charged with a criminal offense by one of the residents. At that time this individual had been suspended without pay pending those allegations. Subsequently those allegations had been dismissed by the complaining party and his attorney. He had come back and had paid the individual for the time that he was on suspension after this was cleared up. He had received his money and there were deductions made for his portion of the retirement but in order for him to receive credit for these two months he had to come before Commissioners' Court and get approval. He added that the monies were already in place and all he needed was approval from this Court. Commissioner Rosel asked legal counsel if this matter was supposed to go to closed session, since it named a particular individual and Steve Crain, the County Legal Counsel, stated that the Director was not proposing to penalize the employee, but that he would not go into any specifics about the incident. Commissioner Rosel asked if they would have to name the employee and Mr. Crain pointed out that he had already been named in the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioners Garces and Handy to approve the request to give the employee two additional months of service in order for him to receive the retirement benefits.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit O)

Commissioner Garces commented that in the future the department heads should try to word these requests properly and Mr. Lopez interjected and told him that the procedure now what that they submit the request and the County Judges office takes care of placing it on the agenda.

**ITEM 5. COUNTY FREE LIBRARY:**

- A. Approval and acceptance of the telecommunications infrastructure fund statement of grant award in the amount of \$57,405.00 for the period of February 1, 1998 to April 30, 1999
- B. Approval to telecommunications infrastructure fund grant budget in the amount of \$57,405.00

5/A

William McGee, Project Director, came before the Court requesting approval of the acceptance of the telecommunications infrastructure fund statement of grant award in the amount of \$57,405.00. He explained that these funds were made available to them in order to place internet connectivity into libraries in Hidalgo, San Juan and La Joya and he was requesting approval of the contract papers. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioners Garces and Rosel, to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit P)

5/B

Mr. McGee explained that this next item was for approval of the budget papers as far as the appropriation of these funds in the amount of \$57,405.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit P)

**ITEM 11. LIBRARY SYSTEM:**

- A. Approval to adjust salaries at the Library System Office - Re-allocate \$1,750.00 to Secretary and Technician slots

Mr. McGee informed the Court that they had a cataloger position vacant at the end of last year and at the beginning of this year. They were able to fill the position in January of this year and now they have found that they would like to shift the surplus into two other slots. He added that these individual had taken on additional duties and this action did not entail any budget amendments. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces, to approve the request as presented. Valde Guerra, from the County Judge's Office commented that the amount being moved was the 5% that was allocated for the cataloger's slot. Commissioner Garces asked if the position was filled at the old salary and the response was that it had been. Commissioner Rosel stated that he felt that this Commissioners' Court had taken the position that the 5% was across the board and Commissioner Garces added that during the hiring process the department head should be allowed to set a range. Commissioner Arcaute asked what the Personnel Department's stand on this was and Mr. McGee stated that he had not received a firm answer from them.

Commissioner Arcaute indicated that maybe the 5% issue should be researched. Mr. Guerra indicated that he just brought the item to the attention of the Court, it was the Court's discretion what they did and he added that he had also noticed that if approved the setting of the salaries was not made a part of the agenda and this would also have to come back to Court.. Mr. McGee indicated that he could bring the adjustment of the salaries back at a later date. Commissioner Garces then withdrew his second until this matter was clarified. Commissioner Rosel made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to table this item until they have an opportunity to review this item. He also brought up the issue of his wanting to have a representative from the Personnel Department, whenever there are personnel items on the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED. (to Table)

(See Exhibit V)

**ITEM 6. COMMISSIONER PCT. 1:**

A. Appropriation of funds and payment of monthly building rental fee for Pct. 1 Justice of the Peace Courts

Commissioner Handy reported that she had put an item on the agenda for appropriation of funds and payment of monthly fees for one of the Justices of the Peace in Precinct No. One. She indicated that there appeared to be some sort of problem with that and at this point she turned the podium over to the County Auditor. Mr. Cavazos stated that his office had reservations on approving the building rentals since the rental of this building had not gone through the Purchasing Department and some of these JPs were renting buildings from themselves or family members and they would not allow this. He also added that the salaries have not been adjusted as discussed when the \$9,000.00 allowance was put into salaries. He stated that the decision at that time was that when proper lodging was found for these JPs this Commissioners' Court would adjust the salaries accordingly and he was at this time asking for guidance. Commissioner Garces felt that the more important issue was the procurement of the rental space and the County Judge added that the deal was that the County would furnish office space and the JPs would still receive the \$9,000.00 increase. Mr. Cavazos reported that this Commissioner's' Court would adjust the \$9,000.00 allowance and the Commissioners stated that they never agreed to this. Commissioner Handy stated that the \$9,000.00 would become a part of their salary, but they would be housed in a County building. Commissioner Garces intervened by saying that it was an either or, either the County would provide the housing or give them a rental allowance and the stance in the past has been to give them a rental allowance and letting them do with it what they could. Mr. Cavazos reported that the injustice of the matter was that some of the JPs would be getting just the \$9,000.00 and other would be getting the \$9,000.00 plus a rental allowance. Commissioner Handy indicated that another problem was that they had anticipated being in the new substation and there were three JPs in the Commissioner Precinct One, two own their building and one rents. Commissioner Rosel indicated that they discussed this issue that they can perform this function in one of two ways, one is that they can go ahead and make room in the Precinct warehouses, when available; the second avenue was to go ahead and advertise for office space. He did not see a problem with this item coming before the Court in next weeks agenda, to advertise for office space for the JPs so that they can go out and secure these services

and possibly alleviate the whole problem. The County Judge stressed that they had raised the issue that if they have to go and rent then they must go out for bids. Commissioner Rosel pointed out that Commissioner Arcaute had stated that under certain parameters the JPs could pay their fathers or brothers for office space and he did not see any problem with that during the time that this process was being straightened out. Mr. Cavazos said that he did have a problem with renting from a family member in that it would create a conflict. Commissioner Garces posed the question of kinship to the Purchase Director and she stated that her office was presently preparing a grid so that they could see the situation for each Precinct and each JP and she is hoping that they will have it ready sometime this week. She did say that there is the possibility that locally there may not be that much available for these people to move in especially if they are already set up. Commissioner Handy then indicated that she would recommend that no action be taken at this time. Commissioner Arcaute brought up a meeting that was held sometime in October and was wanting to know what was going to be done with the rent that his due for January and February and Commissioner Rosel stated the fact that the JPs requested that they have the \$9,000.00 in salary rather than in the rental and they agreed to it but they had told the JPs that they didn't want them coming back to Commissioners' Court about the expenses and on a technicality they agreed to give the JPs \$1.00 on the rental and they all agreed to it. The County Judge added that his understanding was that the County would furnish their office space and Commissioner Garces indicated that he felt that they were taking a step in the right direction and he commented on his experiences as a JP.

NO ACTION.  
(See Exhibit Q)

The discussion continued with Commissioner Arcaute asking what would happen to the January and February rents and Raul Hernandez came in and stated that they presently had a problem with one JP who was in the process of getting evicted. He mentioned that they had the funds available, for two months, and they just needed approval from this Court. Commissioner Garces indicated that he had talked to several of the JPs and it was his understanding that the \$9,000.00 for rental allowance was going into their salary and they would make whatever arrangements they could to house that court. The County Judge begged to differ with him in that his understanding was that the County would furnish them office space and they more or less went to the Commissioners and they in turn agreed that these monies would be given to them as an increase in salary, unless there were other arrangements made. He added that to cover the issue of any JP owning his own office space, there would be a \$1.00 rental, so that there would be no double dipping. Commissioner Garces then stated that they would need to go back to the minutes as they had three different interpretations of the proceedings. Judge Cuellar pointed out that there was a JP in the courtroom and he asked that he step forward and give the Commissioner his views. Justice of the Peace Arnaldo Corpus came before the Court and he indicated that Commissioner Rosel had agreed to furnish him with office space. He also said that the \$9,000.00 would go towards their salaries to help with the retirement. The County Judge then made a suggestion that they review the minutes and then he felt that they would have to come back and take care of the request that Commissioner Handy was trying to do there today. A discussion then ensued with regards to what was to be done with the present

situation and Commissioner Rosel indicated that that issue would be addressed accordingly.

**ITEM 7. HIDTA TASK FORCE:**

- A. Requesting approval to budget \$123,500.00 from the HIDTA Program Income Account
- B. Approval to enter into an Interlocal Governmental Agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety

7/A

A gentleman from the County Auditor's Office came before the Court requesting approval of a budget in the amount of \$123,500.00 to be used to give a 5% salary increase to the HIDTA personnel. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request for the budget of \$123,500.00 from the HIDTA Program Income Account.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit R)

7/B

The next item was for authorization to establish an interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety, concerning the use of a television, a video cassette recorder (VCR) and a trailer. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the interlocal agreement.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit R)

**ITEM 8. SHERIFF'S OFFICE:**

- A. Authorization and approval for Hidalgo County to donate up to \$25,000 to the Hidalgo County Crime Stoppers, Inc. Program pursuant to Local Government Code 351.901(B)
- B. Authorization to transfer and appropriate \$2,895.14 I the Sheriff's budget for monies received from the auction of department vehicles and equipment

8/A

Lt. Fidel Jasso came before the Court requesting authorization and approval for Hidalgo County to donate up to \$25,000.00 to the Hidalgo County Crime Stoppers Program. He mentioned that they had been asking the public and private sector for assistance but they were at a point where they were having to pay out rewards on at least ten arrests and the confiscation of 250,000 pounds of illegal drugs. Commissioner Arcaute asked what the Local Government Code 351.901(B) said and Mr. Crain responded that it provided that the County "may donate in any one calendar year up to a maximum of \$25,000.00 to a Crime Stoppers Organization if there is a contract". He added that the only thing that they would need for this action would be a contract. Commissioner Garces pointed out that there may also be some Criminal Justice Department monies that may also be used to assist this program. Commissioner Arcaute asked how many crime stopper organizations there were in the

County and Commissioner Garces replied that almost every city had one. Commissioner Rosel asked if this was just for the County and Lt. Jasso indicated that it was. Commissioner Rosel indicated that they could approve the request contingent on legal counsel reviewing the documents. Commissioner Arcaute announced that he would like to see a budget and also find out what these monies would be used for. Lt. Jasso informed him that these monies would be used strictly for rewards. Efrain Garza, the treasurer for the organization, commented that they have people participating from throughout the County. Most of these people feel that they do not belong within a city and these people are wanting to participate. None of these monies are used for administrative purposes and all these monies will be used in paying out rewards. Commissioner Arcaute then addressed the fact that they should indicate whether the approval is for "up to \$25,000.00" or for the \$25,000.00 total and it was confirmed that it was for the \$25,000.00 total. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to authorize and approve for Hidalgo County to donate \$25,000.00 to the Hidalgo County Crime Stoppers subject to the contracts being reviewed by legal counsel.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit S)

8/B

A motion was made by commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to transfer and appropriate \$2,895.14 in the Sheriff's budget for monies received from the auction of department vehicles and equipment.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit S)

**ITEM 9. YOUTH VILLAGE:**

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

A representative from the Youth Village came before the Court requesting acceptance of Cameron County's contract for residential services for fiscal year 1998. He added that there were no changes from the previous year and legal counsel has reviewed the contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit T)

**ITEM 10. AUDITOR'S OFFICE:**

- A. Consideration and approval of the Standard Business Mileage rate increase
- B. 1998 General Fund Budget Amendment for Health Department based on 1997 purchase order

- C. 1998 Pct. #1 Budget Amendment for Heavy Equipment based on 1997 purchase orders

10/A

Manuel Cavazos, the County Auditor, announced that the IRS had increased the Standard Business Mileage rate from \$.315 to \$.325 and he was requesting consideration of the change. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the change.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit U)

10/B

Mr. Cavazos also reported that the next item was for a roll-over of the 1997 Purchase order encumbrances and they are asking that they be approved. The total amount is \$1,811.04. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit U)

10/C

Mr. Cavazos stated that the next item was for approval of a budget amendment need to make the note payments on the previous year's heavy equipment purchases. The total amount was \$93,127.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit U)

**ITEM 12. URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM:**

- A. City of La Villa - PFI Water/Sewer Improvements Year 8-1995 - Approval of a construction contract with Sascon, Inc.
- B. Pct. #3 - Approval of a Change order pertaining to UC-9 (Street Improvements)
- C. City of La Joya - HOME/Housing Rehabilitation Change Order (1 family)
- D. Approval of a budget amendment to budget \$8,000.00 to pay for County Clerk fees under the HOME Program

12/A

Anthony Covacevich, Urban County Director, came before the Court and reported that the City of La Villa was requesting approval of a construction contract with Sascon, Inc.. The amount of the contract is \$6,333.00 and it was a low bid. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit W)

12/B

Mr. Covacevich informed the Court that precinct Three was requesting approval of a change order pertaining to Urban County Year 9 under the Street Improvement line item. The change order involved the elimination of two streets, Glasscock Road and Taylor Road, from their street improvement project. Commissioner Rosel pointed out that they were not being eliminated, just postponed, as he intended to place them in another year's street improvement project. A motion was then made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit W)

12/C

Mr. Covacevich continued by stating that the next item was for a request by the City of La Joya for approval of a housing rehabilitation change order for a family. The change order is for an increase of \$717.67 and it will be for the addition of a handicap bathroom. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioners Arcaute and Handy to approve the request as presented

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit W)

12/D

Finally, Mr. Covacevich was requesting approval of a budget amendment from the 1997 budget of \$8,000.00 to pay for recording fees to the County Clerk's Office under the HOME Program. He pointed out that back in April 1997 this Court had budgeted \$13,000.00 to allow for the recording fees and previous to this the Urban County Program was not being charged for this service. Commissioner Rosel indicated that the reason that they were having to pay for these costs was because the County Clerk could not statutorily waive them and Mr. Covacevich confirmed this. The Commissioner then asked if the costs were waived for other departments and the response was that they did not know. A motion was then made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve a budget amendment of \$8,000.00 for the County Clerk fees under the HOME Program.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit W)

**ITEM 13. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:**

## A. Hidalgo County:

1. Discussion and action on award of RAP for Hidalgo County's Group Health Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance Project
2. Authority to direct legal counsel to negotiate a contract for Hidalgo County's Group health, Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance

3. Requesting authority to advertise for Humane Services
  4. Recommending to award bid for Uniforms for Hidalgo County - AmeriPride
  5. Requesting approval of contract for Uniforms - AmeriPride
  6. Requesting authority to exercise option to renew for one additional year contained in original contract under same terms & conditions for Biohazardous Medical Waste to Enviro Tech
  7. Requesting approval of renewal contract for Biohazardous Medical Waste
  8. Requesting cancellation of authority to advertise approved on January 6, 1998 for Biohazardous Medical Waste as a result of contract approval
  9. Discussion and selection of a negotiating committee for the Architect Contract (Jail) Project
- B. Pct. #1:
1. Requesting authority to readvertise for "Playground Equipment and Installation for Delta Lake"
  2. Requesting numerous items of office equipment as detailed on EXHIBIT "A" pages 1-3 be declared surplus
- C. Pct. #3:
1. Requesting authority to exercise option to renew Solid Waste Collection Services for one additional year contained in original contract under same terms and conditions
  2. Requesting approval of contract for Solid Waste Collection Services with ABC Waste Collection
- D. Auditor's Office:
1. Discussion and action on Best and Final Offer negotiated and received on a Request for Offer for the purchase of an Upgrade of the Central Processing Unit for Hidalgo County Auditor's Office
  2. Authority to direct legal counsel to finalize terms and conditions on the contract for Purchases for the upgrade referenced above
- E. District Attorney:
1. Requesting three (3) Seized vehicles be declared surplus
- F. Mr. Pete Leal Project Director
1. Requesting authority to advertise for Medal of Honor Memorial Project - Project will be bid and awarded on a Phase Basis

13/A/1

Martha Salazar, Purchasing Director, came before the Court requesting action on the award of RFP for the County's Group Health, Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment. She reported that during last week's meeting Mr. Ken Wethe had done an in-depth presentation of the RFPs. Commissioner Rosel indicated that they had looked at two types of programs, the self-funded and the fully-funded. In self-funding the County was the insurer and one of the issues that was brought to his attention was that this Commission was the one who set the premium and Mrs. Salazar pointed out that during the last four years the County had worked the program with a fund balance. Commissioner Rosel noted that it had also been stated that the trend across the state of counties and other government entities moving away from self-funding because of the market for fully-funded being very aggressive. He continued by saying that he had looked at this issue very carefully and his own personal opinion was

that this county did not have a drug card, Mrs. Salazar agreed with that, but she added that they were presently looking at acquiring one under the present self-insured program. The Commissioner also brought up the \$500.00 hospital admission under some programs while in other companies there was no fee. Commissioner Rosel then pointed out that if the County decided to go fully-funded then there would be a savings of between \$800,000.00 to \$1 million that the County could use to set up some type of special incentive for the employees for bringing in their spouse or family. Commissioner Arcaute established the fact that that \$800,000.00 was left there so that the claims that come in between this period and the period of transition to settle the claims that are pending. Mrs. Salazar continued by saying that Mr. Wethe had also stated that anything left in the fund balance after all the run-off claims were paid would be toward employee benefit wellness programs. Commissioner Garces came into the discussion by saying that he believed that there were three figures mentioned to cover the transition period. Commissioner Rosel then made a motion that the County contract with Certus, which is an HMO, for three years and also with an option on the County to be able to renew for an additional one year, depending on the negotiation of the County. Commissioner Garces seconded and continued with the discussion regarding the monies that would be left over. Commissioner Arcaute interjected by saying that he believed that Mr. Wethe was very clear when he didn't recommend the Certus. Commissioner Rosel pointed out document in the presentation report that stated that if the County decides to go and contract with Certus that the contract negotiations include the parties that he mentioned there. Mrs. Salazar indicated that she believed that he was trying to tell them that an HMO would be a very different change from what the rank and file of the County has been used to and he had also mentioned the ranking of the dual choice which was the Certus/Sierra Plan, which gave the employee the opportunity to chose. Commissioner Rosel stated that he felt they would be going into something that was new to this area. Commissioner Arcaute commented he had heard that HMO's on serve to hook you and then your stuck with them. Commissioner Rosel responded by saying that there were some companies listed that had also given proposals that have lost millions of dollars in the last year or so, being in that business, so it was not new for some of these people to have lost money. He felt that this company was coming in with some innovative programs in prevention. Commissioner Garces emphasized that he had looked at Certus and also the combination of Certus and Sierra and there were significant benefits. Commissioner Arcaute confirmed that the present self-insured program has worked for ten years, this County has been under fully-insured before and it failed and premiums kept going up. It has been shown that for the last four years this County has been doing really well and he felt that instead of a big company making the profits, those profits should stay within the County and because of this he felt that they should stay with the present program. Commissioner Handy came into the discussion by posing the question of whether this County should stay self-insured or go fully-insured. Commissioner Arcaute asked how much the County would be saving if they were to go fully-insured and Mrs. Salazar indicated that they would be saving approximately half a million to \$1.3 million depending on what kinds of costs he was referring to. Commissioner Handy brought to the attention of the Court, some of the concerns that the employees had with the main one being whether they would be able to go to the local hospitals and their own doctors. Mrs. Salazar stated that under the HMO there was a network that had to be followed and Commissioner Handy indicated that they did not know who all was on the network because it had not been provided to the Court. She also brought up the \$500.00 deductible with respect to hospital admission and emergency room services. Mrs. Salazar pointed out that this company had indicated

that they would be very liberal in allowing a person to make their own judgment on what is considered an emergency. Commissioner Garces touched on the fact that some people would go straight to a specialist rather than through their family doctor and Commissioner Handy commented on this situation also. Mrs. Salazar stated that there were three categories of physicians, these being a general practitioner, your internist and your OB/GYN. Commissioner Arcaute voiced his stance on staying with the present insurance program and Commissioner Rosel indicated that he did not like the fact that the insurer has to fill out claim forms, he believes that that is the insurance's job. Commissioner Handy asked for clarification on the motion and Commissioner Rosel indicated that it was for approval of Certus for three years with a renewal option of one year. Commissioner Garces stated that he had also looked at the combination of Certus/Sierra and Mrs. Salazar gave a brief explanation of the savings with Certus versus Certus/Sierra and the present program. There being no further discussion the motion was put to a vote and it carried.

MOTION CARRIED. (COMMISSIONER ARCAUTE VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION)  
(See Exhibit X)

Mrs. Salazar indicated that action had just been taken on the Group Health. She still needed action on the Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment. Commissioner Rosel asked her what kind of coverage the County had presently and Mrs. Salazar responded that she did not know. Commissioner Rosel informed the Commissioners that they should look at a \$25,000.00 policy. Commissioner Handy made a motion that they look at the \$25,000.00 increase and that they award to Blue Cross/Blue Shield. This award is for a two year period. Upon a second by Commissioner Garces it carried unanimously.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/A/2

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel, to direct legal counsel to negotiate a contract for both the Hidalgo County's Group Health and the Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance contracts.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/A/3

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to authorize the advertising for Humane Services.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/A/4

Mrs. Salazar reported that she was recommending the awarding of bid on uniforms for countywide Hidalgo County. The low bidder was AmeriPride Services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/A/5

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the contract for uniforms with AmeriPride with Hidalgo County.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/A/6

Mrs. Salazar informed the Court that she was requesting authority to exercise option to renew for one additional year contained under original contract under same terms & conditions for biohazardous medical waste. The present contract is with Enviro Tech. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/A/7

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the renewal contract for biohazardous medical waste with Enviro Tech.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/A/8

She then mention that in light of the fact that they have renewed the contract for biohazardous medical waste, she is requesting that they cancel the authority to advertised as approved on January 6, 1998. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/A/9

Mrs. Salazar continued by saying that this next item called for a discussion and selection of a negotiating committee for the architect contract on the jail project. The County Judge indicated that they were ready to go into negotiations with the contractor and the County Judge was the one who had been negotiating these contracts and he is requesting the same authority with the addition of one Commissioner, as well as legal counsel. Commissioner Garces asked legal counsel if it would be feasible to have another architect in the committee to help in setting standards and Mr. Crain indicated that that would not be a legal issue but he did not feel that this is

what was needed. Commissioner Rosel mentioned that he would like to bring in members from the public, such as bankers or people in construction and the County Judge recommended that the County Auditor be a member, as well as the County Sheriff. A motion was then made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Rosel that they select the negotiating committee for the architect contract consisting of the County Judge Renato Cuellar and County Commissioner Lupe Garces, County Commissioners' Attorney Steve Crain, Manuel Cavazos, the County Auditor, Henry Escalon, the County Sheriff.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/B/1

Mrs. Salazar stated that she was requesting authority to readvertise for playground equipment and installation for Delta Lake. She mentioned that this was a project that had been placed on hold due to the finalization of specifications dealing with parameters with ADA compliance. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/B/2

Mrs. Salazar reported that there was request from Precinct One to declare numerous items surplus as detailed in the accompanying exhibit. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/C/1

On the next item, Mrs. Salazar was requesting authority to exercise the option to renew Solid Waste Collection Services for one additional year contained in original contract under the same terms and conditions. The contract is with ABC Waste Collection. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/C/1

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the contract for solid waste collection services for the additional year with ABC Waste Collection, who is the present vendor.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/C/2

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the contract for solid waste collection services between ABC Waste Collection and the County of Hidalgo.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/D/1

Mrs. Salazar explained that this was for discussion and action on best and final offer negotiated and received on a request for offer for the purchase of an upgrade of the central processing unit for the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office. She explained that this was being done under the QISV purchasing program and it would be taken care of by a company called IDI for a total not to exceed \$47,731.18; with a \$400.00 maintenance charge. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/D/2

She continued by saying that the next item was to authorize and direct legal counsel to finalize the terms and conditions on the contract for purchase for the upgrade referenced before. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Garces and Arcaute to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/E

Mrs. Salazar indicated that the District Attorney's Office was requesting that the listed seized vehicles be declared surplus. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioners Garces and Arcaute to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

13/F

Finally, Mrs. Salazar informed the Court that the last item was a request for authorization to advertise for Medal of Honor Memorial Project. This project will be bid and awarded on a Phase Basis. Commissioner Garces asked if this project had been properly funded and Mrs. Salazar indicated that not fully and that is why it was going to be done on a phased basis. She mentioned that there would be phases that would require advertising and phases that would not because it would go below the \$15,000.00. Commissioner Garces then briefed the Commission on a situation where the military department that had de-militarized the cannons and guns for the memorial had given Mr. Pete Leal, the Project Director, a deadline of May 10<sup>th</sup> to put them out on display. Mr. Leal had to get this project moving and he would possibly be coming back for the cement work for the bases for these cannons and guns. A motion was made by

Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioners Garces and Arcaute to give the authority to advertise.

MOTION CARRIED.  
(See Exhibit X)

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

MOTION CARRIED.