

COUNTY OF HIDALGO COMMISSIONERS' COURT

**BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 7th day of
May,
1999 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 JOSE ELOY PULIDO
COUNTY JUDGE**

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

**HONORABLE HECTOR (TITO) PALACIOS
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2**

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

**HONORABLE OSCAR L. GARZA, JR.
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4**

and where the following proceedings were had to-wit:

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

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

ITEM 1. ROLL CALL

The County Judge called roll and announced that all members of the Commissioners' Court were present with the exception of Commissioner Oscar L. Garza.

NO ACTION.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3. PRAYER

The County Judge asked Liza Aguilar to lead the Court in the Pledge of Allegiance and to also give the invocation.

NO ACTION.

ITEM 4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING NEW JAIL FACILITY INCLUDING DESIGN BUILD METHODOLOGY

Judge Pulido stated that this Court has been in discussions about this project for some time and they had received a letter from the Office of the Attorney's Office indicating that this Commissioners' Court may utilize the design-build method of construction for the proposed Adult Detention Facility. This was being brought about because of media coverage announcing that the federal government needed some bed space for its prisoners. He then proceeded to begin the discussion in order to get the process going. Commissioner Rosel felt that if they did not begin then the County could lose revenues from the housing of federal prisoners. He was also recommending that they build two thousand new beds and remodel the existing four hundred beds and contract out approximately eight hundred beds in order to offset some of the cost associated with the construction. Commissioner Palacios agreed with him and voiced his approval of using the design-build method in this

project. Commissioner Handy commented that she also felt that the design-build method would be the best way to go in this project. The County Judge then stated that any and all architectural work that has already been done be included as part of the specifications for the construction phase. During discussion Judge Pulido stated that whomever could incorporate the schematic that has been done by Santopetro would be one that this County would want to negotiate a contract with. Martha Salazar, the County Purchasing Director, had a concern about whether or not the unfinished documents could be forwarded by the architect and Mr. Crain stated that they would have to check the contract. Judge Pulido remarked that Commissioner Rosel was proposing a two thousand-bed scenario with sixteen hundred new beds and the renovation of the four hundred-bed existing facility scenario. Commissioner Rosel agreed and added that this proposal may cost more, but it would allow for more revenue to come into the County coffers. After further discussion, Mrs. Salazar reported that that the initial plan was to build twelve hundred new beds, renovate the existing four hundred beds and allow space for an additional four hundred beds in the future. She felt that because of the change in site that this Court should still go for the two thousand beds. After further discussion regarding the bed space of the new facility and the possible renovation of the existing facility and possible costs to be incurred, a motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Palacios to use the design-build construction method to include a two thousand bed facility with infrastructure for two thousand with alternate one being the renovation of the existing four hundred facility and alternate two being the additional construction of sixteen hundred beds with the renovation of the existing jail; and to authorize the Purchasing Department to advertise for RFPs for such projects.

MOTION CARRIED.

ITEM 5. HIDALGO COUNTY'S HEALTH PLAN

Martha Salazar, the County Purchasing Director, announced that the County had been put on notice that Certus HealthCare would terminate service as of June 30, 1999. She stated that as a result of this the County had gone out for RFQs for consultants, but she mentioned that the biggest concern would be the lack of coverage on July 1, 1999. Mrs. Salazar mentioned that Certus had indicated that they would stay on for a period of ninety days but at a rate increase of 55%. She had asked that the first ranked health consultant look at this issue and possibly address the Court on a possible thirty-day extension. She then turned the podium over to Gerald Edwards, of Edwards Risk Management Inc., who gave a proposal as to how to deal with this situation. A discussion then ensued with respect to what has been done up to now with regards to trying to find out what kind of health coverage is best for the employees and also other plans that are available to the County. During this discussion, the County Judge indicated that he would like to

be included in the negotiations and this resulted in further discussion on the feasibility of his participation and whether there would be any conflict when this issue was ultimately put to a vote. Mrs. Salazar then stated that she would go ahead and complete the contract negotiations with Mr. Edwards in order to have a consultant in place when the negotiations with a health care provider began. After further discussion, no action was required on this item at this time.

NO ACTION.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

JOSE ELOY PULIDO _____
COUNTY JUDGE

SYLVIA HANDY _____
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

HECTOR (TITO) PALACIOS _____
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

JUAN ROSEL _____
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

OSCAR L. GARZA _____ ABSENT _____
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Dated this the 4th day of January, 2000.

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 10th day of January, 2000.