

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

**BE IT REMEMBERED** on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 2007, there was conducted a **REGULAR Meeting** of the **Honorable Commissioners' Court of Cameron County, Texas, at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.**

**THE COURT MET AT:**

**PRESENT:**

**5:30 P.M.**

**CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA**  
**COUNTY JUDGE**

**SOFIA C. BENAVIDES**  
**COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 1**

**JOHN WOOD**  
**COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 2**

**DAVID A. GARZA**  
**COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3**

**EDNA TAMAYO**  
**COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4**

**JOE G. RIVERA**  
**COUNTY CLERK**

**Aide A. Trejo** **Deputy Clerk**

**ABSENT:**

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The meeting was called to order by Judge Cascos at 5:30 P.M. He asked Reverend Bob Clark for the invocation. Mr. Richard Santillana then led the Court and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge of Allegiance to the State Flag.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on July 27, 2007 at 8:21 A.M.:

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(1) **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

None were presented.

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## **ACTION ITEMS**

(42) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW SELECT COMMITTEE TO NEGOTIATE “BEST AND FINAL OFFER” FROM QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS TO RFP #070602 FOR EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS AND RFP #070604 FOR EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP). (MV-HUMAN RESOURCES) (TABLED)**

Commissioner Wood motioned to **TABLE** this item.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

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## **PRESENTATIONS**

(2) **PRESENTATION OF 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER OPERATIONAL REPORT FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT. (JM-PARKS)**

Mr. Javier Mendez, Parks Director, reported that overall the Cameron County Parks System experienced a .69% increase in revenue over last year’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.

Judge Cascos questioned whether there is any type of internal controls in place to monitor the toll collections at Isla Blanca Park.

Mr. Mendez replied that the currently all revenue is collected on the “Honor System”.

Commissioner Wood asked if those cars that pay the toll are provided with a receipt.

Mr. Mendez replied that each car is provided with a receipt and are instructed to place the receipt on their car windshield to verify to park rangers that they have paid the toll fee.

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator, informed the Court that he has looked at integrating the Parks System with that of the Bridge Toll System and noted that preliminary costs have come in at \$1 million.

Judge Cascos suggested allowing Veterans free access and a reduction in fees for those ages 65 and over.

Mr. Mendez responded that Veterans currently receive a half-price discount to all Cameron County Parks.

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Operational Report for the Parks and Recreation Department was acknowledged.

**The Report is as follows:**

# **CONSENT ITEMS**

**ALL ITEMS UNDER THE CONSENT AGENDA ARE HEARD COLLECTIVELY UNLESS OPPOSITION IS PRESENTED, IN WHICH CASE THE CONTESTED ITEM WILL BE CONSIDERED, DISCUSSED, AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TAKEN SEPARATELY.**

DISCUSSION CONCERNING CONSENT ITEMS:

**Consent Item No 8:**

Judge Cascos inquired as to the funding source for this item.

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator, stated that \$100,000 would be borrowed from Fund 900.

**Consent Item No. 27:**

Mr. David Betancourt, County Treasurer, asked to TABLE this item.

**Travel Item No. 28 (B):**

Mr. Roger Ortiz, Elections Administrator, informed the Court that this item should read "Elections Administrator and Elections Office Staff (3) to Travel to Austin, Texas ...".

Commissioner Garza motioned to approve the "Consent and Travel Items", with the correction to Travel Item No. 28 (B) and tabling Consent Item No. 27.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

- (3) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GRANT FROM THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AVIATION DIVISION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)(Resolution No. 2007R07085)**  
**The Resolution is as follows:**
- (4) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO ALLOW THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO REQUEST RFQ'S FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES TO CONDUCT A SURVEY AND DEVELOP PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TERRA COTTA AT THE DANCY BUILDING. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)**  
**The Documentation is as follows:**
- (5) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH CENTENNIAL CONSTRUCTION FOR THE ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT THE RESTITUTION CENTER UTILIZING THE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING NETWORK (TCPN). (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)**
- (6) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO REQUEST RFQ'S FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR OF THE JUDICIAL BUILDING. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)**
- (7) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR IMPROVEMENTS ON BROWNE ROAD. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (Contract No. 2007C07151)**  
**The Contract is as follows:**
- (8) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO DESIGNATE FUNDING SOURCE AND APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATES FOR THE REMODELING OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOORS OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)**

- (9) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE THE HOUSTON/GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2 15-PASSENGER VANS FOR THE RESTITUTION CENTER. (RS-ADULT PROBATION)**  
The Documentation is as follows:
- (10) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FROM MAY 9, 2007 TO MAY 9, 2008 FOR PROVIDING SEWER FACILITIES (SEPTIC SYSTEMS) AT BASS ACRES SUBDIVISION, PCT. 4. (EH-CCDoT)**
- (11) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FROM MAY 25, 2007 TO MAY 25, 2008 FOR PROVIDING SEWER FACILITIES (SEPTIC SYSTEMS) AT BLUM ESTATES SUBDIVISION, PCT. 4. (EH-CCDoT)**
- (12) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FROM JULY 21, 2007 TO JULY 21, 2009 FOR PROVIDING SEWER FACILITIES (SEPTIC SYSTEMS) AT ZILLOCK RANCH SUBDIVISION, UNIT 3, SECTION I, PCT. 3. (EH-CCDoT)**
- (13) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE THE DRAWING PROCESS ON LETTER OF CREDIT FOR STONE NO. 3 SUBDIVISION, PCT. 4, FOR UNBUILT SEPTIC SYSTEMS. (EH-CCDoT)**
- (14) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR PRELIMINARY PLAT APPROVAL FOR COOK LANE ESTATES SUBDIVISION, PCT. 4, BEING 10.197 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, COMPRISED OF ALL OF BLOCK 19 AND BLOCK 45, STUART PLACE SUBDIVISION SURVEY 295, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS. (EH-CCDoT)**  
The Documentation is as follows:
- (15) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR PRELIMINARY PLAT APPROVAL FOR THE SANTOS SUBDIVISION, PCT. 3, A 6.390 ACRE TRACT OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, BEING OUT OF SURVEY 286, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS. (EH-CCDoT)**  
The Documentation is as follows:
- (16) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL PLAT APPROVAL FOR CACTUS ESTATES SUBDIVISION, PCT. 3, BEING A 47.088 ACRE TRACT OF LAND BEING ALL OF BLOCK 56, SAVE AND EXCEPT THE WEST 75 FEET AND SOUTH 75 FEET OF SAID BLOCK 56, FRESNOS LAND AND IRRIGATION COMPANY SUBDIVISION, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS. (EH-CCDoT)**  
The Documentation is as follows:
- (17) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL PLAT APPROVAL FOR LA CANTERA SUBDIVISION, PCT.2, BEING 31.45 ACRES ALL OF LOT 15, BLOCK 13 AND THE EAST 10.00 ACRES OF LOT 16, BLOCK 13, BARREDA GARDENS NO. 3 SUBDIVISION, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS. (EH-CCDoT)**  
The Documentation is as follows:
- (18) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO CORRECT ORDER NO. 2007005015 AND AUTHORIZING APPRAISALS AND SALE UNDER V.T.C.A., LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 272.001. (RB-CIVIL LEGAL) (Order No. 2007O7020)**  
The Order is as follows:
- (19) **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION NO. 2007R07084 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE SALE OF THE HEALTH CLINIC TO THE CITY OF SAN BENITO. (DJV-CIVIL LEGAL)(Resolution No. 2007R07084)**  
The Resolution is as follows:
- (20) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXEMPT FROM THE COUNTY PURCHASING ACT, SPECIFICALLY THE REQUIREMENTS OF V.T.C.A., LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 262.023, THE CONTRACT FOR THE VICTIM INFORMATION & NOTIFICATION EVERYDAY PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY GRANTED IN SECTION 262.024 (A) & (7). (AV-DA)(Order No. 2007O7023)**  
The Order is as follows:

- (21) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH APPRISS FOR VICTIM INFORMATION & NOTIFICATION EVERYDAY PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY GRANTED IN SECTION 262.024 (A) & (7) . (AV-DA)
- (22) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION TO UTILIZE THE HOUSTON/GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO INTERFACE EQUIPMENT AND REPEATERS UTILIZING MOTOROLA EQUIPMENT. (JC-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT)  
The Documentation is as follows:
- (23) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN THE CAMERON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. (YS-HEALTH)(Contract No, 2007C08155)  
The Contract is as follows:
- (24) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CAMERON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES TO PROVIDE CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS IN CAMERON AND WILLACY COUNTIES. (YS-HEALTH) (Contract No. 2007C08156)  
The Agreement is as follows:
- (25) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO PURCHASE INFLUENZA VACCINE FROM SANOFI PASTEUR, INC. (AVENTIS) THROUGH THE TEXAS BUILDING AND PROCUREMENT COMMISSION (TBPC) FOR “INFLUENZA CAMPAIGN 2007/2008” IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,124.00. (YS-HEALTH)  
The Documentation is as follows:
- (26) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, THE CAMERON COUNTY TAX ASSESSORS-COLLECTOR’S OFFICE, THE CAMERON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE, THE CITY OF MCALLEN, TEXAS, THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS, AND THE CITY OF EDINBURG, TEXAS REGARDING A MUTUAL AID (BURGLARY AND THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE) LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE TO COOPERATE IN CERTAIN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. (TY-TAC/AV-DA) (Contract No. 2007C08157)  
The Agreement is as follows:
- (27) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS STATE BANK ON THE ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER DEBIT. (DAB-TREASURER) (TABLED)

## TRAVEL ITEMS

- (28) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL/OR APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENSE FOR THE FOLLOWING (PLEASE NOTE: TRAVEL REQUESTS ARE SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE COUNTY POLICIES):
- (A) CONSTABLE PCT. 6 STAFF (2) TO TRAVEL TO FORT WORTH, TEXAS, ON 8/27 TO 8/31/07, TO ATTEND A TRAINING SEMINAR “CRIMINAL HIGHWAY INTERDICTION FOR UNIFORMED PATROL OFFICERS” EPIC OPERATIONS AND EPIC ACCESS.
- (B) ELECTIONS OFFICE STAFF (3) TO TRAVEL TO AUSTIN, TEXAS, ON 8/14 TO 8/17/07, TO ATTEND THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ELECTION LAW SEMINAR FOR VOTER REGISTRARS/ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATORS. (RO-ELECTIONS)
- (C) EXTENSION OFFICE STAFF (1) TO TRAVEL TO THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS, ON 7/30 TO 8/1/07, TO ATTEND THE 2007 TEXAS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS ASSOCIATION STATE MEETING.

- (D) EXTENSION OFFICE STAFF (1) TO TRAVEL TO ROMA, TEXAS, ON 8/11/07, TO ATTEND THE “SPARKLING EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING” CONFERENCE.**
- (E) JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE STAFF (4) TO TRAVEL TO DETROIT, MICHIGAN, ON 8/20 TO 8/23/07, TO ATTEND THE COMMUNITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (CCDO) 2007 NATIONAL CONFERENCE.**

- (3) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GRANT FROM THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AVIATION DIVISION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COUNTY AIRPORT. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)(Resolution No. 2007R07085)**  
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**The Documentation is as follows:**

- (26) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, THE CAMERON COUNTY TAX ASSESSORS-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, THE CAMERON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, THE CITY OF MCALLEN, TEXAS, THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS, AND THE CITY OF EDINBURG, TEXAS REGARDING A MUTUAL AID (BURGLARY AND THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE) LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE TO COOPERATE IN CERTAIN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. (TY-TAC/AV-DA) (Contract No. 2007C08157)**

**The Agreement is as follows:**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 6:07 P.M. to discuss the following matters:

**(29) EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- (A) DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 29, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FM 732, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.**
- (B) DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 10, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FOR DIXIELAND ROAD, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.**
- (C) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO REPRESENT COSME MARTINEZ AND OTHER INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS IN CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-CV-52, JAVIER ALEJANDRO GARZA VS. THE U.S. MARSHAL'S SERVICE, CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, COSME MARTINEZ, MICHAEL DAVID SAAVEDRA, SGT. JOSE ALEJANDRO GARCIA, JOHN ROY HARRIS, JOSE YBARRA, AND LETICIA ANDRADE, INDIVIDUALLY AND IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (A) & (2).**
- (D) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING PETER A. VILLARREAL VS. CAMERON COUNTY, CAUSE NO, 2007-CCL-1154-B; FOR DISCUSSION AND AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT AS NECESSARY, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (1)(A).**
- (E) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING JULIA CASTRO VS. CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT., EEOC CHARGE NO. 451-2007-000743, FOR DISCUSSION ON STATUS OF CASE AND POSSIBLE SETTLEMENTS, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (1)(A) & (B).**

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Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened into Regular Session at 6:24 P.M. to discuss the following matters:

**(30) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- (A) DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 29, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FM 732, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072. (Contract No. 2007C08194)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously, authorization to pay the appraised value of \$1,690 was approved.

**The Documentation is as follows:**

- (B) DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 10, FOR RIGHT OF WAY FOR DIXIELAND ROAD, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, authorization to pay the appraised value of \$50,489 was approved.

- (C) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO REPRESENT COSME MARTINEZ AND OTHER INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS IN CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-CV-52, JAVIER ALEJANDRO GARZA VS. THE U.S. MARSHAL'S SERVICE, CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, COSME MARTINEZ, MICHAEL DAVID SAAVEDRA, SGT. JOSE ALEJANDRO GARCIA, JOHN ROY HARRIS, JOSE YBARRA, AND LETICIA ANDRADE, INDIVIDUALLY AND IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (A) & (2).**

Commissioner Garza motioned to deny hiring of outside counsel for Cosme Martinez.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

- (D) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING PETER A. VILLARREAL VS. CAMERON COUNTY, CAUSE NO, 2007-CCL-1154-B; FOR DISCUSSION AND AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT AS NECESSARY, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (1)(A).**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously, the Status Report by Legal Counsel was acknowledged.

- (E) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS' COURT LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING JULIA CASTRO VS. CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT., EEOC CHARGE NO. 451-2007-000743, FOR DISCUSSION ON STATUS OF CASE AND POSSIBLE SETTLEMENTS, PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (1)(A) & (B).**

Upon motion by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously, authorization for Legal Counsel to proceed along the terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session was approved.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**(31) BUDGET AMENDMENTS, LINE ITEM TRANSFERS AND/OR SALARY SCHEDULES.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously, the Budget Amendments, Line Item Transfers and/or Salary Schedules were approved.

**The Budget Amendments, Line Item Transfers and/or Salary Schedules are as follows:**

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**(32) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR:**

**(A) JUNE 12, 2007 – REGULAR MEETING**

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously, the Minutes for the June 12, 2007-Regular Meeting were approved.

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**(33) APPROVAL OF CLAIMS.**

Commissioner Tamayo motioned to approve the Claims.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried as follows:

AYE: Commissioner Tamayo, Commissioner Garza, Commissioner Benavides and Commissioner Wood

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Judge Cascos as to Warrant No. 00185051, made payable to the Brownsville Independent School District, in the amount of \$500.50 and Warrant No. 00185115, made payable to Harlingen Waterworks System, in amount of \$187.32 and Warrant No. 00185158, made payable to the Los Fresnos Consolidated School District, in the amount of \$302.00.

**The Claims and Affidavits are as follows:**

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(34) **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 BUDGET AND TAX RATE. (XV-BUDGET)**

Mr. Xavier Villarreal, Budget Officer, presented the Court with a spreadsheet of preliminary figures for the 2007-2008 Budget. He informed the Court that at the current tax rate, after factoring in the deficit and the new revenues, there will only be a surplus of \$452,756. He noted that the surplus does not include any requests as presented to the Court from various departments.

Mr. Villarreal stated that a \$1,000 salary increase for each employee and all elected officials amounts to approximately \$1.4 million and the increase of \$8.00 an hour for part-time employees equals \$63,000. He advised the Court that the reverse split for each Commissioner from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund amounts to \$168,000, the request for the Constables equals \$107,095, the request from the Justice of the Peace equals \$143,296, the request from the County Clerk is listed at \$59,456 and the request for Juvenile Probation equals \$98,762. He noted that the increase in salary for each jailer by \$1,000 equals \$312,000 and includes fringe benefits. He advised the Court that all requests factored in equals to a deficit of almost \$1.9 million.

Commissioner Garza recommended that a legal opinion be obtained as to whether the Commissioners' Court is obligated to fund (2) new District Courts this coming fiscal year.

Commissioner Wood mentioned that the original request was for a District Court in 2009 and the second District Court in 2011. He noted that House Bill 1 may give the Court latitude not to fund the new District Courts until that time and recommended that the County review that option.

Judge Cascos asked Mr. Villarreal to present budget projections minus the new District Courts next week.

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Report regarding the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget and Tax Rate was acknowledged.

**The Documentation is as follows:**

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**(35) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PUBLISHING OF ELECTED OFFICIALS COMPENSATION FOR THE 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR. (XV-BUDGET)**

Mr. Xavier Villarreal, Budget Officer, asked for direction from the Court as to the maximum compensation for each elected official and noted that the Public Hearing date will be set for August 14, 2007.

Judge Cascos recommended publishing the Notice as presented with a \$1,000 increase for each elected official. He asked that the \$1,000 increase for himself not be included.

Commissioner Tamayo, Commissioner Garza, Commissioner Benavides and Commissioner Wood all declined their \$1,000 increase as well.

Commissioner Garza motioned to approve the Publishing of Elected Officials Compensation for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year as presented with a \$1,000 increase for all elected officials excluding the County Commissioners' Court.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

**The Documentation is as follows:**

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**(36) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH PUBLIC NOTICES AS REQUIRED WITHIN THE TIME REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT AS STATED IN THE PROPERTY TAX CODE FOR THE SETTING OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 TAX RATE. (XV-BUDGET)**

- |            |                                     |                         |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>(A)</b> | <b>NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE</b> | <b>TO RUN 08/05/07</b>  |
| <b>(B)</b> | <b>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</b>     | <b>TO BE DETERMINED</b> |
| <b>(C)</b> | <b>NOTICE ON VOTE ON TAX RATE</b>   | <b>TO BE DETERMINED</b> |

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, Authorization To Publish Public Notices As Required Within The Time Requirements And Format As Stated In The Property Tax Code For The Setting Of The Fiscal Year 2008 Tax Rate was approved.

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**(37) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING VEHICLE VIDEO RECORDERS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ON CURRENT YEARS EQUIPMENT LIST. (XV-BUDGET)(TABLED)**

Commissioner Garza motioned to **TABLE** this item with the stipulation that this item be placed on the Equipment List.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

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**(38) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TEMPORARY CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE PERFORMANCE OF AUTOPSIES FOR CAMERON COUNTY. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED**.

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**(39) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE COUNTY PROPERTY THAT IS BEING VACATED WHEN THE HARLINGEN ANNEX IS OPEN. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR) (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED**.

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**(40) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A LOAN FROM THE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS TO PROJECT ROAD MAP. (PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)**

Commissioner Garza motioned to approve a Loan from the Settlement Proceeds to Project Road Map.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously.

**The Memorandum is as follows:**

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**(41) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CAMERON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PRENATAL PROGRAM. (YS-HEALTH)**

Ms. Yvette Salinas, Health Administrator, reported that on July 25, 2007 her office received a letter from the Texas Department of State Health Services informing Cameron County that they are currently reassessing their position regarding the possibility that they would no longer be providing grant funds for the Prenatal Program. She summarized the letter and noted that it appears that grant funds may be provided for FY 2008 and possibly for FY 2009. She stated that there is no financial decision related to the letter and mentioned that historically Cameron County has received \$524,000 in grant funds for the Prenatal Program.

Ms. Salinas added that on July 26, 2007, Commissioner Garza and herself hosted a meeting at the San Benito Annex with the volunteer physicians, hospital representatives and key staff to discuss the Prenatal Program and how they could work together to provide funding for FY 2008. She noted that the hospitals have committed to working with the County and possibly funding any shortfalls the County experiences with the Prenatal Program.

Ms. Salinas stated that on July 27, 2007, County officials participated in Operation Lone Star in San Juan, Texas and Judge Cascos has the opportunity to speak with the Texas Department of State Health Services Associate Deputy Commissioner of Family and Community Health Services regarding the County's Prenatal Program.

Commissioner Garza encouraged the public to enroll in the Superior Health Plan.

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo seconded by Commissioner Wood and carried unanimously, the Report by Yvette Salinas regarding the Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services Prenatal Program was acknowledged.

**The Documentation is as follows:**

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**(43) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE  
COUNTY'S STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.  
(PSJ-ADMINISTRATOR)**

Mr. David Garcia, Deputy County Administrator, reported that the Water Resources Development Act has moved out of the Conference Committee without the language to de-authorize the Arroyo Colorado. He noted that \$50,000 is available in the Commerce Justice State Appropriations Bill for Interoperable Communications System.

Upon motion by Commissioner Tamayo, seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously, the Report by David Garcia regarding the County's State and Federal Legislative Agenda was acknowledged.

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There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Garza and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 7:47 P.M.

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**APPROVED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of **September 2007**

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**CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA**  
**COUNTY JUDGE**

**ATTEST:**

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**JOE G. RIVERA,**  
**COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK**  
**OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF**  
**CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS**