

August 28, 2017  
Budget Workshop

August 29, 2017

Court Reconvened at 9:10 a.m. at the County Judge's Office, 576 West Main, in the City of Raymondville, Texas.

THE COURT MET:

PRESENT:

Aurelio Guerra, Jr.,	County Judge,	
Eliberto Guerra,	Commissioner, Precinct 1,	
Oscar De Luna,	Commissioner, Precinct 2,	<b>ABSENT</b>
Henry De La Paz,	Commissioner, Precinct 3,	<b>ABSENT</b>
Eduardo Gonzales,	Commissioner, Precinct 4,	
Annette Hinojosa,	County Attorney,	<b>ABSENT</b>
Ida Martinez,	County Auditor,	
Elizabeth Rios,	County Clerk Deputy,	

WHEREUPON, the Court was opened to the following proceedings were had to wit:

PERSONS VISITING THE COURT:

No one signed the sign in sheet.

Chairman Guerra, continues with discussion on reference to the 2017-2018 Budget Workshop. Discussion continues on reference to the Budget for the following departments:

Chairman Guerra, proceeds on telephonic call with Joe Jimenez with the Sheriff's Department on one of their major expense. Last year needed to show good faith and good effort to show by the County to qualify for a Grant on purchasing some vehicles.

Although, Mr. Jimenez states that Grant didn't go through when it was sent apparently due to lack of communication on when to purchase or authorization to purchase those vehicles. Commissioner Gonzales asks about the monies if they were used, records show that some of the monies were utilized to purchase one (1) vehicle. Mr. Jimenez was given authorization back then by the County Judge to purchased one (1) vehicle. So, that let them through and allowed them to apply to purchase three (3) vehicles for this coming year. This vehicle was more less purchase sometime in March, 2017.

The new Grant for 2017, will go into effect September, 2018. For this Grant, the Sheriff's Department are asking for three (3) vehicles. Ida Martinez, County Auditor states on Capital it

shows they had purchased a van for the Jail and the other vehicle was the one they purchased on March.

Mr. Jimenez states they would like to purchase Tahoes, due to the fact they are heavy duty and are "Police Package" safety for patrol.

Commissioner Gonzales, asks what is the oldest vehicle they have? Mr. Jimenez states it's a 2008 Crown Victory driven by Isabel Salinas, Civil Warrants Officer and will be trying to get some vehicles.

Chairman Guerra, asks what would happen if they would only approve one (1) vehicle like last year. Instead of the two (2) vehicles as how they are requesting on the wish list. Mr. Jimenez states that will be fine, but the only thing he doesn't know up to when those Chevrolet will be available to keep up with them. Also, other concern is on other vehicles needing maintenance.

Chairman Guerra, states maybe they can help with one (1) vehicle, instead of two (2) vehicles as how they are requesting on their wish list.

### **Commissioner De Luna arrives at the meeting at 9:24 a.m.**

Commissioner Gonzales, asks if it's a one-time purchase if it may be paid from the LGC Monies. Chairman Guerra, says that it's where it might come out from.

Ida Martinez, County Auditor mentions the following numbers:

Tentative:

PFC BALANCE	\$2,700,000.00	
GF	(695,000.00)	
CH RESTRAT	(400,000.00)	replace multi-purpose funds
CAP FD	(615,000.00)	
SELF-FUNDED	<u>(200,000.00)</u>	in lieu of \$550 premium
FY 18	790,000.00	
GF FY 19	<u>(400,000.00)</u>	
FY 19	\$390,000.00	

Mrs. Martinez, states the County has committed already \$400,000.00 for the Courthouse.

Chairman Guerra, states they would like to leave the monies aside, so they won't miss out on any Grants for the Courthouse. Commissioner Gonzales, states the \$400,000.00 was committed for the Courthouse from the Duke Energy, now going to pull it from there. Actually, they change their minds not getting it from Duke Energy, now it will be from the LGC. Chairman Guerra, states just to put it aside, for an opportunity, but do not rely on same monies twice by mistake. Otherwise, not leaving a sum of money out and then missing out an opportunity.

Mrs. Martinez, states she believes there was a resolution were the County had agreed that they had the monies to this commitment on the Courthouse, but did not stated where those monies were coming from. Commissioner Gonzales, advises to put it from LGC to the Matching. Mrs.

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Martinez, states they already have it in the Courthouse Restoration to see that money has been put aside.

Chairman Guerra, says based on actions they need to reach back to the Historic Commission again and assure them that the County is ready to procure and not allowing the Courthouse to reiterate any further.

Commissioner Gonzales, states that they should get together and visit in person at Austin, Texas to talk about the Courthouse.

Chairman Guerra, states that monies can only be pull from the LGC it will have to get approve through the LGC Court, not through the Commissioners Court. Chairman Guerra, has to see what satisfies them on the Grant. Although, the bottom line is that it will be coming from the LGC.

**Commissioner De La Paz arrives at the meeting at 9:45 a.m.**

Discussion continues with Commissioner De Luna having some concerns about graffiti going on at the Fred Stone Park.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna that Court Recess at 11:00 a.m. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners Guerra, De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

There being no further action,

Court Recessed.

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Court Reconvened at 11:05 a.m. at the County Judge's Office, 576 West Main, in the City of Raymondville, Texas.

THE COURT MET:

PRESENT:

Aurelio Guerra, Jr.,	County Judge,
Eliberto Guerra,	Commissioner, Precinct 1,
Oscar De Luna,	Commissioner, Precinct 2,
Henry De La Paz,	Commissioner, Precinct 3,
Eduardo Gonzales,	Commissioner, Precinct 4,
Annette Hinojosa,	County Attorney,
Ida Martinez,	County Auditor,
Elizabeth Rios,	County Clerk Deputy,

**ABSENT**

WHEREUPON, the Court was opened to the following proceedings were had to wit:

PERSONS VISITING THE COURT:

No one signed the sign in sheet.

Chairman Guerra, continues with discussion on reference to the 2017-2018 Budget Workshop. Discussion continues on reference to the Budget for the following departments:

Chairman Guerra, proceeds with Sally Velasquez since she was present at the Workshop. If Commissioners Court would consider about renovating her agreement, which will be expiring by the end of September. Chairman Guerra, states half of her salary is from Hotel/Motel and the other half is from Capital Fund. Although, with the new budget this will change due to hiring the new full-time employee at Port Mansfield, Texas. Also, the Capital Fund no longer has any more funds.

Sally Velasquez, proceeds with a presentation how she been assisting the County.

Chairman Guerra, updates Ms. Velasquez that the County is about to hire the full-time employee at the Nature Center at Port Mansfield, Texas. Also, the other employee they have working at the Park. They are being paid through Hotel/Motel Tax, which Ms. Velasquez discovered and made the County aware that those were taxes the County could generate. The State had already tapped into it, but not the County. Chairman Guerra, states those are some accomplishments that should be acknowledge. The Chairman's interest is to find revenues that

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are generated from outside sources, like tourism. Although, at this point the County is unable to accommodate/facilitate the full-time employee at the Resource Center and also paying Sally Velasquez.

Commissioner De La Paz, states that the more people they have working on the Grants the better it is for the interest of the County.

Discussion continues with Sally Velasquez on reference to the Restore Act. There was some confusion and questions asked by the Commissioners why Ms. Velasquez was unable to work together with Grantworks.

Chairman Guerra, mentions that he had talked to Ms. Velasquez if she was willing to serve on a lesser amount than she was getting paid. Although, need to review the budget and see where they will be standing.

Commissioner De La Paz, states they want projects that are being related by the County. Also, would like to see more activities funneled through the County and not being the second plate nor second position. The idea is for the County to apply for Grants and create some jobs, but the main idea is not to depend on anyone else.

Ms. Velasquez, states that she just wants to bring the opportunities here to South Texas. Commissioner De La Paz, advises Ms. Velasquez to get together with the County Judge to get something created for the benefit of the County.

Chairman Guerra, states that for budget purposes right now they can't offer her a specific amount, until they review the budget. Ms. Velasquez, states that she will be willing to work with the County Judge and Commissioners on reference to her salary because her goal is to assist leadership.

**Commissioner De La Paz leaves the meeting at 12:00 p.m.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna that Court Recess at 1:15 p.m. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners Guerra, De Luna and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

There being no further action,

Court Recessed.

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Court Reconvened at 1:25 p.m. at the County Judge's Office, 576 West Main, in the City of Raymondville, Texas.

THE COURT MET:  
PRESENT:

Aurelio Guerra, Jr.,	County Judge,	<b>ABSENT</b>
Eliberto Guerra,	Commissioner, Precinct 1,	
Oscar De Luna,	Commissioner, Precinct 2,	
Henry De La Paz,	Commissioner, Precinct 3,	<b>ABSENT</b>
Eduardo Gonzales,	Commissioner, Precinct 4,	
Annette Hinojosa,	County Attorney,	<b>ABSENT</b>
Ida Martinez,	County Auditor,	
Elizabeth Rios,	County Clerk Deputy,	

WHEREUPON, the Court was opened to the following proceedings were had to wit:

PERSONS VISITING THE COURT:  
No one signed the sign in sheet.

Presiding Chairman Commissioner Eliberto Guerra, continues with discussion on reference to the County Park at Port Mansfield, Texas. Commissioner De Luna, is concern about the prier it's a hazardous to the Public. The Commissioners ask Sally Velasquez what they can do on reference to the prier. Ms. Velasquez will be checking into it and getting back with the Commissioners.

**County Judge, Aurelio Guerra, Jr. arrives at the meeting at 1:25 p.m.**

Chairman Guerra, states they need to find a solution how to repair the prier and keeping it open. The main concern is safety purposes and find a way to restore it.

Chairman Guerra, continues with discussion on reference to the 2017-2018 Budget Workshop. Discussion continues on reference to the Budget for the following departments:

**Constable Precinct 3:**

Discussion starts with Constable Ben Vera on reference if the Court would consider Radars, Vests and Body Cameras for the Constables. Due to the fact, they had their vests since 2009.

Commissioner Gonzales, asks Constable Vera if he had a priority what will be his priority on his wish list? Constable Vera, states his priority would be the Vests, Radars and then the Body Cameras. There will be a total of six (6) items for each. Constable Vera, will get back on Friday with a price quote.

**Justice Of The Peace Technology:**

Discussion starts with Ida Martinez, County Auditor mentioning there is not enough money on the Technology Fund. As per Mrs. Martinez calculations \$8,922.81 is the beginning balance, have already used \$9,711.00. The new Revenue is \$6,384.30 and the remaining budget as of today is \$5,596.11. So, for the new budget they need a funding source through the I-Docket for the Admin. Fee and the difference of \$2,500.00 for the Maintenance Agreement. Mrs. Martinez, states she deducted the \$2,500.00 from Account Number 385- Machinery and Equipment > \$500.00.

Discussion continues with the Commissioners on reference to the Fire Calls. The Raymondville Fire Department calls are \$45.00 per call.

Discussion continues on Contracts and Legal Services. Account Number 401- Engineering Services at \$9,000.00, UTRGV at \$33,000.00, LRGVDC-EI Murillo Drain. \$3,070.00, Attorney \$4,000.00, TAC-CIRA \$3,340.00, TX Comp-COOP Annual \$100.00, TAC Assigned Attorney \$4,000.00, Fifth Administrative Jud. \$3,250.00.

Account Number 407- Texas Department License & Regulation \$20.00 (Elevator Inspection), Thyssendrup Elevator \$450.00 Safety Test, Thyssendrup Elevator \$650.00 (Maintenance).

Account Number 430- Autopsy Service \$16,000.00, County Doctor \$3,600.00. A Breakdown is attach.

**Raymondville Fire Department:**

Chairman Guerra, continues with discussion with the fire calls they had \$6,200.00. Commissioners' discussion is about paying \$45.00 a call either to reduce the call to \$25.00. Chairman Guerra, suggests to up it to \$7,000.00 and Commissioner Gonzales states to note down (\$25.00/call).

Discussion continues with Commissioner Guerra, asking Jacob Quilantan on the calls if the other Departments' requests for them to assist for fire calls/accidents. Mr. Quilantan, states it depends on the jurisdiction, so if it's outside the City of Raymondville they respond due to the fact the other Departments don't respond. Commissioner Guerra, states their concern is that there been too many calls and would like a report submitted to Commissioners Court from Chief Gutierrez. Mr. Quilantan, states the calls are from bee calls and service calls. Chairman Guerra, states that he just would like a report from the Chief, to see the expenses. Mr. Quilantan, states

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the County Leaders should be more involved with the Departments as well to see what their necessities are, plus they are all Volunteers.

The other discussion with the Commissioners is about the fuel expenses.

Commissioner Gonzales, states the County doesn't want to under fund anyone. For Example, like for this year if we say for this budget if we tell the Fire Department we can afford giving you \$7,000.00 for fire calls and \$20,000.00 for fuel. The question is what happens when it's all gone?

Chairman Guerra, states a budget is set for an amount, which they will need to budget within budget.

Commissioner Guerra, states the Fire Department should turn in like a spread sheet about their fuel expenses, like the Precincts have to do. Mr. Quilantan, states as a Fire Man and not a County Employee if the County going to pay \$25.00 for calls that is not going to do it. The other Firemen will turn in their radios, also including himself.

Chairman Guerra, mentions they have to set some guidelines when the purchase of the fuel is made, the person making the purchase has to sign the receipt. Commissioners agree that all departments should have signatures on receipts and agreeable to be \$7,000.00 for Fire Calls (\$25/call).

Chairman Guerra, updates Raymondville Fire Chief, Oscar Gutierrez about accountability to gas/fuel comparing with the Precincts. Chairman Guerra, asks who has the authority to use the three (3) cards they have? Chief Gutierrez, states they are used only by himself and his two (2) Assistant Chiefs and is documented at the Police Department for each vehicle. Chief Gutierrez, says he can turn in a report about the logs to the County. Although, does not have the time to be very detailed on research on previous receipts because it takes a lot of his time. Also, have invested on Inspection Stickers, interaction in the Fire Department during on the remodeling, repairs on the Fire Trucks keeping them clean. This takes time from his full-time job from the school.

Chief Gutierrez, states if the County goes below the \$45.00/\$150.00 won't be able to make it. The Volunteers spend a lot of their own time assisting at the Fire Department. The Chief will be submitting a report stating how the \$45.00 per calls have been spent and a detailed spreadsheet. Also, the Chief states a lot of the money comes out from his own pocket.

Chairman Guerra, says they would like for the Fire Department to testify on paper/report like the way the Precincts do for audit purposes and budget purposes. The Chief agrees he can work on the information the Court needs from this day forward with a spreadsheet where the fuel was spent attached with the receipts signed by him. The reports will be turned in to Melisa at the County Judge's Office. Although, will not be able to do any researching from the past because it's too much time consuming.

Chairman Guerra, says they might wind up around \$12,000.00 to \$16,000.00. If they would budget to, so then they can have this available and utilize it at the Chief's discretion. The Chief states he leaves it on the Judge's hands, but whatever he doesn't complement the Chief will.

**Sheriff's Department:**

Chief Deputy, Joe Jimenez walks into the meeting and lets the Court know that the invoice is for the total amount of \$624.82 more for the repair of a fuse box on the truck that had given up at the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Guerra, tells Mr. Jimenez to turn in the paper work.

Discussion continues with some of the wish lists from the Departments for the following:

The Commissioners agree on the County Clerk's Office Budget on reference to the Record Preservation and Record Archive changes. A draft copy is attach.

The Commissioners agree on the new one for Constable Salazar's Budget showing that it balances out given to him through a Grant.

The Commissioners agree on the Insurance to show \$400.00 on the budget and leave the Insurance Fund \$500.00 or \$550.00 for each Employee coming out from PFC, but would have to be posted as an agenda item.

Discussion purposes General Fund (Insurance) was \$682,308.00 so it was deducted to \$496,224.00 and left \$40,000.00 on Matching Fund for Grants.

Discussion continues on Veteran's Office asking for a salary raise of \$14,424.00. The Commissioners suggest how about maybe half of the amount he requesting, which will be \$7,212.00 being a total of \$32,778.31 with the increase. The Commissioners only agree to add \$250.00 on Repairs and Maintenance.

Commissioners agree to leave the Sanitation Person's Salary and \$600.00 for Phone Allowance under Constable Garza, but in terms with the Maintenance and Gas put it under Administration. Constable Garza has two (2) vehicles. Also, agree to add \$500.00 more for the Constables for Gas.

County Clerk's Office and District Clerk's Office were fine.

District Court was asking for the part-time position to be a full-time position. Commissioner Guerra, states not for now maybe until next year. Chairman Guerra, states they still need to review it.

Election's Administration was asking \$2,075.00 on Account Number 210- Rentals. The Commissioners agree to add the amount of \$2,075.00.

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Judge Yesenia Rosas was asking for her part-time to be a full-time. The Commissioners did not agree for this request. Chairman Guerra, states he agrees Judge Rosas needs her full-time employee and a part-time, but maybe not until the next budget.

Reber Library, Rose Sanchez was asking for a part-time employee and asking an increase for the full-time employee. Chairman Guerra, states Ms. Sanchez wanted a part-time employee, due to the fact the plus fifty (50) program was going to end. The Commissioners say they can't give the raise. Chairman Guerra, says they will need to revisit the program to see if it might be extended.

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Chairman Guerra, states at this point and time can't afford any increases nor open/fill any other positions if there not in their budget.

Chairman Guerra, states they would need to check the statute if it allows them to put like a temporary personnel item for the Departments that were asking for the part-time or full-time personnel requested from the District Court, Library and Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 maybe have it there as needed.

Jail Department was already given Advertising, the County Auditor will be getting with Mr. Garcia. Gas was given to them under Account Number- 115 increase from \$68,990.00 to \$85,000.00. Account Number 200- Repairs and Maintenance increase from \$36,245.00 to \$46,000.00.

Extension Office on Account Number 105- Operating Supplies difference of \$60.00. Account Number 110- Office Supplies difference of \$85.00. Account Number 155- Association Dues and Subscription increases from \$140.00 to \$150.00. The Commissioners agree on their changes totaling a difference of \$155.00.

Discussion continues on reference to the Jail Department on the positions of the Jail Sargent and the Corporal. As per Ida Martinez, County Auditor states that one of the Jailer was given up and the second Jailer was what was left over from the other one. Maintenance Technician was for \$5,000.00 and the balance to be allocated for the Nurse on call. This was on the Amendment Budget, there was no increase from the Amendment Budget. Chairman Guerra, states he had told them that Maintenance will fall under Administration because on Repairs and Maintenance they had \$38,000.00, even though they are keeping the same budget the County is taking expense away from them. The Jail Department will still have monies left over from Repairs and Maintenance, but will be reflecting on Administration.

Juvenile Probation on Account Number- 210 Rentals changes from \$3,745.00 to \$3,645.00, decreases by \$100.00. The Commissioners agree to this change.

County Treasurer, Ruben Cavazos had asked for a full-time position. The Commissioners did not agree for this request. There were no other changes.

Auditor's Office, Ida Martinez states her budget gets approved by an Order, upon the District Judge, Migdalia Lopez' approval. Chairman Guerra, asks if the District Judge told the County Auditor to do this request, or if it was Mrs. Martinez' request? Mrs. Martinez, states if it really matters? Chairman Guerra, states it does matter because if the District Judge is requesting this request. Then this means the District Judge knows what is going on at Mrs. Martinez' Department, or maybe she doesn't. Mrs. Martinez, states that the District Judge does know. Chairman Guerra, states he needs to get together with the District Judge on reference to the Order and what will be agreeable/follow guidelines.

Commissioner Precinct 4, Eduardo Gonzales was fine with his budget.

Road and Bridge/Fund 62- Precinct 2, Commissioner Oscar De Luna is requesting for Improvements for Building on Account Number- 370. An attachment is attached.

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Discussion continues with Ida Martinez, County Auditor on reference to \$2,000.00 was for the County Visiting Judges and \$21,200.00 for the County Court Reporters.

Fund 36 and Fund 37 an attachment is attach.

Fund 35, Fund 30, Fund 18, Fund 49, Fund 52 and Fund 56 all the Funds stay the same.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna that Court Adjourn. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners Guerra, De Luna and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

There being no further action.

Court Adjourned.