

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009
CITY OF PHARR
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
118 SOUTH CAGE
PHARR, TEXAS**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, City of Pharr, Council Chambers Room, 118 South Cage, Pharr, Texas.

In attendance were:

Board Members

Mr. Dennis Burluson, Chairman
Mr. Rick Perez, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Ramiro Salazar, Secretary/ Treasurer
Mr. Ramon Garcia
Mr. Ricardo Perez
Mr. Joe Olivarez

Others

Honorable Angie Garza, City of La Joya
Ms. Maria Champine
Ms. Flor Koll, HCRB
Mr. Jody Ellington, TxDOT
Mr. Gerry Pate, HCRB
Mr. Jacinto Garza, L & G Engineering
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, TRPSA
Mr. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting
Mr. Reza Badiozzamani, L & G Engineering
Ms. Velma Garcia

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Chairman Burluson called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm and established there was a quorum present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Elizondo, City of Pharr welcomed the board and thanked them for choosing Pharr for their meeting.
2. Ken Jones thanked the board for allowing the COG to provide their staffing needs. Mr. Jones discussed changes in personnel at the COG and the potential impact for the RMA.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS:

- A. Consideration and approval of outstanding invoices and travel requests.

Maria Champine gave a short briefing regarding invoices. Maria also explained to the board that RBC invoice had been previously submitted, presented, approved but not paid. **Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the outstanding invoices, Ricardo Perez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously**

4. CONSIDER AND DISCUSS UPDATED PROPOSALS FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES AND SELECTION OF A FINANCIAL ADVISOR.

Rick Perez, Vice-Chair, stated that he would recuse himself on this issue due to possible conflict of interest based on his work with various financial advisors. Mr. Perez noted that he will file an affidavit of his recusal with the RMA. Blakely Fernandez made a brief presentation regarding the two agencies that responded to the request for updated information. There were three originally, one dropped out. The two left are First Southwest and Estrada Hinojosa.

Ramiro Salazar asked why one respondent showed an hourly rate and the other did not? Blakely Fernandez responded that typically financial services are billed by contract under a percentage fee. **Ramiro Salazar made a motion to nominate First Southwest as first choice and Estrada Hinojosa as second choice, Ricardo Perez second the motion, upon a vote, the motion was carried by all with the exception of Rick Perez, Vice-Chair who opted not to vote due to a possible conflict of interest.**

5. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS: DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. Jody Ellington for Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation
Mr. Jody Ellington gave a brief summary.
 - 1. There is no current activity on schematics. TxDOT has been working with HCRB on the Pass-Through application, including the analysis for tolls.
 - 2. The petition for the presentation to the Transportation Commission had been submitted and it was a good time for the presentation.

- B. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting
Mr. Everett Owen gave a brief summary.
 - 1. The working group met with PBSJ and that meeting was very productive, leading to a good strategy for next steps.
 - 2. Tracy Hill, PBSJ was unable to attend this meeting due to another commitment, but will be the focus of the May meeting.
 - 3. There is a follow up meeting with the team to plan approach for FHWA and TxDOT and that approach will be presented in May.
 - 4. Next meeting will have more specifics on exact plan and how it fits with new rules.

- C. Gerry Pate, Hidalgo County Road Builders
Mr. Gerry Pate gave a brief summary.
 - 1. The Pass-Through application is still in process. Road Builders is working with the Pharr District on finalizing it. Whatever we submit, TxDOT (Pharr District) has to agree with.
 - 2. At this time, Roadbuilders recommends we submit 3 separate applications for distinct projects versus one comprehensive application.
 - 3. Jacinto Garza gave a brief summary on alignments E and F, continue with work on E and F.

- D. Chairman Dennis Burleson
 - 1. The Chairman requested a special meeting on May 7th to consider the final pass-through application and noted that the next regular meeting would be May 14th. Maria Champine briefed the board of directors on a stimulus presentation.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551:

- A. Section 551.071. Consultation with Attorney
- B. Section 551.072. Deliberation Regarding Real Property
- C. Section 551.074. Personnel Matters

No executive session was undertaken.

7. NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDA

This item was discussed during Item 5. D. 1.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ramiro Salazar made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rick Perez, Vice-Chair seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer