

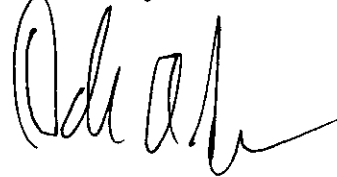
Magistrates

2

A new power under the Act is that the Magistrates, with the consent of the J.P. for the precinct where a nonjailable misdemeanor offense occurs, may now take pleas of guilty or no contest and impose fines and sanctions. The existing municipal judges must release these persons with a promise to appear in front of the J.P. (a promise that is often broken). In addition, a Magistrate who meets the requirements for statutory county court judges may be appointed by one of the County Court at Law judges to hear routine matters pending in that court. A qualified Magistrate could also serve as a Master to hear certain aspects of civil and family cases pending before either the district or county courts. The elected judges could use the Magistrates in a variety of other creative ways, limited mostly by imagination.

I hope this answers your questions. If not, please contact me immediately.

Sincerely,



Dale A. Rye,
Of Counsel to
The County Attorney

AGENDA ITEM # 19**OCTOBER 5, 1999**

Consider declaring an emergency and approving a budget amendment from the reserve funds of Self Funding Insurance Fund-885:

to: 885-885-4050

\$91,000.00

Moved: Judge Doerfler

Seconded: Commissioner Heiligenstein

Motion: To declare an emergency and approve a budget amendment from the reserve funds of Self Funding Insurance Fund-885:

to: 885-885-4050

\$91,000.00

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0

COMMISSIONERS COURT ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:37 A.M. ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1999.

AGENDA ITEM # 20**OCTOBER 5, 1999**

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Discuss personnel - County Court at Law #3 (EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED as per VTCA Govt. Code sec. 551.074 pertaining to personnel).

No action was taken in executive session.

COMMISSIONERS COURT RECONVENED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:03 A.M. ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1999.