

**CALLED MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M.**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order and the following were present:

*Eleazar Cano
Hugh Garrett
Ruben Ortega
Mike Pallanez
Steve Houston
Ruth Staton*

*County Judge
Commissioner Pct. 2
Commissioner Pct. 3
Commissioner Pct. 4
County Attorney
County Treasurer*

To discuss and take action as appropriate on the following:

- 1. Discuss and consider approval for Brewster County FY'15 SHSP Grant Project(s)
- Investment Justification must be submitted to Rio Grande Council of Governments by
February 25, 2015**

Commissioner Garrett provided a brief background of the grant process and stated that a list of projects for Brewster County would need to be submitted. Commissioner Garrett stated that after discussion with Commissioner Ortega and Sherriff Dodson on their recommendations the following projects would be on the list: Marathon Community Center – Generator, Terlingua Red Pattillo Community Center – Generator, Alpine Police Department and Volunteer Fire Department – upgrade the communications and a service contract for the P-25 communication system in the Sherriff Department. Commissioner Pallanez asked why there was a short deadline and Commissioner Garrett stated that it was announced from the State late and as soon as the Rio Grande Council of Government received notification, Brewster County was notified. Judge Cano asked for the breakdown and Commissioner Garrett stated that no one knows the breakdown and explained the process based on how he understood it to be presented to him. Judge Cano asked if there was a dollar amount assigned per identified project or could it be used for other projects. Commissioner Ortega stated in the past it has been used for that project. Commissioner Ortega explained the project on the Marathon project and the changes that were discovered with the estimate. Brief discussion took place on some of the process of the payment to the county.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to move forward on the grant projects for Marathon Community Center, Terlingua Red Pattillo Community Center, Communication System upgrade for APD and AVFD and the service contract for the communication system at the Sherriff Office. Commissioner Garrett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Discuss the operational status of Marathon Volunteer Fire Department and consider for action any Brewster County support for necessary equipment repairs**

Commissioner Ortega informed the court on the fire truck at the Marathon Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that during the fish fry in Marathon it was discovered that the fire truck was dismantled, and upon this discovery it was taken to Sixto's in Marathon and he informed Commissioner Ortega it was electrical and he could not get

it into gear and was taken to International in Midland on a big rig, which is expensive, to see if it could be fixed. County Attorney asked if the insurance would cover the towing. Treasurer Staton had her office look into that and came back and stated that if a wreck occurs then it will cover it but otherwise the County would be responsible. Commissioner Pallanez asked if there was any knowledge of who may have dismantled the fire truck. Commissioner Ortega stated that there was no way to know and explained that he is working on getting the Fire department back on line and on track with setting up training program with Paul Leffler.

3. Discuss the Corrective Action Plan required by the Texas Homeland Security State Administration Agency due to deficiencies noted during the May 7, 2014, homeland security grant monitoring and compliance review

Judge Cano stated that he had asked Commissioner Garrett to look into the deficiencies found in May and then let him report his findings. Commissioner Garrett informed the court that the Texas Homeland Security came and found that the January 07, 2015 deficiencies for cap was not met and we asked for an extension in the deadline. The deadline was extended and an inventory will need be done and completed by March 23. Commissioner Garrett informed the court that with the inventory currently taking place there should not be any problem meeting the requirements set by Texas Homeland Security State Administration.

4. Emergency Management Coordinator / Discuss and consider for action collaborative effort between Brewster County and the City of Alpine to create a joint County/City EMC position consistent with County and City goals and objectives; discuss shared costs for the position, to include salary range/benefits package, and office, equipment, travel, training, communication, and vehicle operation expenses

Judge Cano provided a brief explanation of what has been discussed at the prior meeting and informed the Court that Commissioner Johnson is attending a training and asked Commissioner Garrett to explain if the County stands with the process. Commissioner Garrett stated that not much has changed and continued by stating that his recommendation was to move forward with the City of Alpine for the joint County/City EMC position. Judge Cano explained that this position would be employed by the County and supervised by both the County and the City Manager.

Commissioner Garrett made a motion to proceed with the City of Alpine to enter into a joint agreement to create a County / City EMC. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss and consider approval for grant funded recycling/waste removal projects

Judge Cano stated the Commissioner Ortega and Garrett have been working on the details of this program. Commissioner Ortega stated that there is \$3,000 in the budget to have the tires from dump day cleared. Commissioner Ortega continued by informing the court that with the funds available it will not clear out all of the tires and recommended using the \$3,000 to purchase a dry trailer and use it for the storage of the tires until the tires can be dumped and the county can use it whenever needed since the county had a truck to pull the trailer. Commissioner Ortega said he confirmed that he had cleared this with the Rio Grande COG to make sure the grant money could be used to purchase trailer instead of hauling the tires off. Commissioner Ortega felt that having a trailer would benefit the County. Commissioner Garrett asked if a trailer could be rented to take care of the initial problem. Commissioner Ortega said he could look into it and asked the Courts permission to take lead on looking into what the cost would be to rent a trailer or purchasing a trailer for the disposal of the tires. Judge Cano asked when the money had to be used by and Commissioner Ortega stated April 20, 2015.

Commissioner Garrett moved to allow Commissioner Ortega to look into renting/leasing or purchasing a dry trailer for County purposes. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Garrett stated that another item to discuss under recycling/waste removal was the recycling in South County and if there was a way to get them included in the City Electronic Recycling. After discussion with the City of Alpine on this matter they were in agreement. Commissioner Ortega strongly stated that if this was going to be extended to South County then it needs to be offered to Marathon and those who live outside the City. Commissioner Garrett stated that the city was in agreement that all Brewster County residents can participate in the Electronic Recycling project during March 11-14, 2015, he also stated that the Road & Bridge would help.

Commissioner Garrett moved to extend the City of Alpine Electronic Recycling project to South County, Marathon and Brewster County residents outside of the City Limits. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Review current policy for use of county facilities and consider revision and additions

Judge Cano explained that he received an email from Maria O'Bryant of the Big Bend Regional Hospital District in reference to possibly receiving a key to the Terlingua Red Pattillo Community Center for the Indigent program and asked the Court if they knew of any policies in place for using County facilities. After research for policies discovered that there was not one, stated Judge Cano. After discussion with the Court they discovered no policy. Commissioner Ortega stated that he handles use of the buildings in his precinct by using a calendar and marking the event down and having it open or getting the key to those using the facility. Commissioner Pallnez asked about the liability and drinking during the events. Treasurer Staton stated her experience in using the facility in Terlingua. Commissioner Garrett suggested to have the County Attorney and the County Judge to research this and put a policy in place. Steve Houston stated that he would start with the City and the policy they have in place and go from there. Treasurer Staton asked the court the all the money come through the Treasurer office instead of going into other organization. Commissioner Ortega stated it comes to the treasurer office. Commissioner Ortega stated that some thought need to go into this because in Marathon there is the Post Park. Steve Houston recommended sitting with Judge Cano and putting together a draft and put together a committee and have a workshop. Commissioner Ortega provide the reason for the delivery of the keys being specific to Terlingua. Commissioner Pallanez asked for clarity on who has procession of the keys in Marathon and Terlingua, He could only comment on the Marathon location and stated that TCSD was the only one he knew of who had a key. Treasure Staton stated that Larry Staton would have the key at the Motor Inn if the TCSD was not able to get the key to the person using the facility. Jerri Jones asked that while the court discussed and drafted a policy to remember that the building is used as a polling location. Judge Cano expressed his concerns with having no policy in place and what could happen and stated he will do research and Steve Houston to do research and come up with a draft.

7. Schedule budget workshop to amend 2015 budget

Judge Cano stated there needs to be a workshop for the budget due to the Tax Rollback Election. Judge Cano would like to have all members there and talked with Commissioner Johnson on dates and he could to it the first week in March. Budget workshop was set for March 03, 2015.

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn at 10:37 A.M., Commissioner Garrett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Eleazar Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:

Berta Rios- Martinez, County Clerk