

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016 AT 9:00 A.M.**

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

<i>Eleazar R. Cano</i>	<i>County Judge</i>
<i>Luc Novovitch</i>	<i>Commissioner Pct. 1</i>
<i>Hugh Garrett</i>	<i>Commissioner Pct. 2</i>
<i>Ruben Ortega</i>	<i>Commissioner Pct. 3</i>
<i>Mike "Coach" Pallanez</i>	<i>Commissioner Pct. 4</i>
<i>Berta Rios-Martinez</i>	<i>County Clerk</i>
<i>Babett Mann</i>	<i>County Treasurer</i>

**1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

*Judge Cano led the Court in an Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**2. Public Comment**

*Judge Val Beard invited the Court to a Regional Review Committee, TDA meeting on May 16, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. in Van Horn, TX. This committee reviews grants that the County participates in, informed Judge Beard*

**3. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval**

*Minutes for March 29, 2016 and April 12, 2016 presented. Commissioner Pallanez stated that on page 4 of the April 12, 2016 to change wording. Commissioner Garrett stated a name change for JP Precinct 1 last name.*

*Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the minutes for March 29, 2016 and April 12, 2016 with the changes as noted. Commissioner Garrett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

**5. Road & Bridge Department / Community Facilities**

- A. Road & Bridge Superintendent's Report, General updates on maintenance and repairs for all county roads & state of County Roads System; road materials including, fuel, supplies including usage & inventories & future needs; budgetary matters; equipment including heavy equipment, (maintenance repairs, future needs, replacement and additions), pickups, trailers and other light vehicles and accessories, and small equipment, (usage, future needs), equipment rentals; facilities (yards in Alpine, Marathon and S. County) cattle**

**guards, fences and other means of containing livestock; safety issues and equipment; and community facilities (assistance with maintenance and other related issues); assistance to other governmental entities and emergency responders; personnel issues, (vacancies, new hires, discipline, performance, safety and other general personnel matters); permits for boring or trenching for utilities across County Roads / Discussion and appropriate action**

*Commissioner Ortega reported on behalf of Superintendent Causey. Commissioner Ortega reported that Road & Bridge have been blading roads in South County. Commissioner Ortega stated that they are currently paving the road in Sunny Glen. Also, general maintenance work for the Sheriff Department and general work at the Post Park*

**B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Road & Bridge Department to go forward**

*Nothing further*

**6. County Emergency Management Office**

**A. General Report including:**

**Recent emergency responses; emergency planning update; recent work with cooperating emergency responders: (ESD #1, all VFD's and EMS); update on needs, programs, training, recent work with other governmental entities; equipment for emergency response and updates regarding needs, maintenance, repairs, replacement and additions; emergency management issues related to burn bans; emergency management issues related to communications & public information; emergency management issues related to County insurance coverage; personnel issues related to emergency response, exercises & drills; matters related to pending & future Homeland Security & FEMA Grants and other funding, matters related to 911 EMS in County and matters related to 911 & 911 addressing / Discussion and appropriate action**

*Emergency Manager Matt Van Ostrand reported*

**B. Discussion and appropriate action to pay Netdata \$960.00 to convert the RCI inventory to the Netdata database**

*Judge Cano explained the process of this in order for Netdata to match the inventory system and the cost is \$960.00.*

*Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the payment of \$960.00 to Netdata to convert the RCI inventory. Commissioner Novovitch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

**C. Request to extend Burn Ban / Discussion and appropriate action**

*Emergency Manager Van Ostrand recommended extending the burn ban for another 90 days with the same restrictions. Van Ostrand informed the Court this was based on a few fires that have occurred in the area.*

*Commissioner Ortega moved to extend the burn ban for 90 more days. Commissioner Novovitch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

**D. Discussion and appropriate action for general administrative work of the Emergency Management Department to go forward**

*Nothing further at this time.*

**7. Treasurer’s Office**

**A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action**

*Treasurer Babett Mann provided the monthly report and informed the Court of a change under Non-Departmental. This change is a payment to Hudson & O’Leary in the amount of \$5,899.70 to be taken out of the total amount, informed Treasurer Mann. The total general fund total \$57,626.88 stated Treasurer Mann.*

*Walk-in bills were handed to members of the Court.*

*Judge Cano encouraged the Court to look at the invoices that are provided to them.*

*Commissioner Pallanez asked if she was able to look into the amount of the Trash bill.*

*Treasurer Mann informed the Court that it has to do with the number of pickups that are provided at each location. Treasurer Mann also informed the Court that she will need to look into it further as the Reata shares the location at the Tax Office and wants to verify that it is being billed properly.*

*Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the general bills of \$132,591.57 and all walk-ins as presented. Commissioner Garrett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

*County Clerk Berta Rios-Martinez asked if numbers will be reported on the record. Treasurer Mann stated that she could read the numbers into record.*

**B. Financial Reports / Updates, Discussion, Review and appropriate action concerning the following:**

**Cash Receipts & Disbursements  
Statement of Revenue & Expenses  
Receipt Register  
Other Financial Reports  
as requested by Commissioners**

**Payroll Reports  
Check Register  
Grant Reports**

**C. Other general administrative & procedural matters related to Treasurer's Office / Discussion and appropriate action for work of Treasurer's Office to go forward**

**8. Officials' Monthly Reports**

*Commissioner Ortega read into record.*

*Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Official's Monthly Report as read. Commissioner Novovitch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

**9. County Judge / Announce upcoming renovations to the Brewster County Upstairs Courtroom**

*Judge Cano informed the Court of the updates that will take place in the District Courtroom and that it will not cost the County any extra money. This work will begin in mid-summer and this has been discussed with the appropriate people to renovate a historical building, informed Judge Cano. Judge Cano explained that it will be an expensive process but will be paid through a fund in the Tourism Council.*

*Commissioner Ortega asked if an itemized list of the repairs. Judge Cano said he will provide that as they develop the plan.*

*Commissioner Novovitch asked how many times a year the District Courtroom is used. District Clerk JoAnn Salgado responded by stating at least 25 times this year.*

*John Waters asked if this remodel will be using Hotel/Motel tax. Judge Cano said yes and explained. Judge Cano then asked to let Ron Sanders further explain.*

**10. Brewster County Tourism Council / Announce the Tourism Council has approved to earmark \$100,000.00 for upcoming renovations to the Brewster County Upstairs Courtroom**

*Ron Sanders of the Brewster County Tourism Council explained where the money will come from and the proper use of the funds. Sanders explained that the Hotel/Motel Tax can be used for economic development but a percent can be used for historical preservation. This amount will be taken from the economic development and needs to be limited, stated Sanders. Sanders stated that the use of the funds are legal to use for this renovation as the District Courtroom is not in a historical state.*

*Judge Cano stated that updates will be provided and the Tourism Council agreed to this as a whole.*

*Commissioner Novovitch asked what the cash reserve is for the Tourism, Sanders stated about \$700,000.00. Sanders explained that it is recommended to have about a year supply in reserve and it takes about \$500,000.00 to run the Tourism Council.*

**11. Update on 2014 Audit Compliance requirement regarding frozen funds for the Homeland Security Grant Program and Operation Stonegarden Grant Program**

*Judge Cano reported that an email was provided from Mr. Lara with an attachment from Mary Medina. This indicates that the funds have been released, stated Judge Cano. This is with stipulations of reporting and accounts being overseen.*

*Judge Cano stated that all department heads have been notified that were affected by this.*

**12. Announcement of funding for FY 2017 Operation Borderstar Grant No. 2817303, DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program for \$52,524.12**

*Judge Cano explained that on April 19, 2016 at the Rio Grande Council of Government was awarded the grant to pay for the position of Deputy Rusty Taylor. Commissioner Ortega explained that this funding strictly is for this position and is good that we received it. Commissioner Garrett asked that all costs be reported to the Treasurer Office in order to insure the grant covers the cost of the positions.*

**13. Preliminary review for an Interlocal Agreement between Brewster County, Alpine Hospital District and the City of Alpine to provide Emergency Medical Services to North Brewster County, including the town of Marathon**

*Judge Cano informed the Court that the contract with West Texas Ambulance will expire in September of 2016 and preparation for 2017 needs to go forward. Judge Cano further explained how to improve Ambulance Care in the area using other Taxing entities such as the Hospital District and the City of Alpine.*

*Commissioner Novovitch asked if there was a draft and/or an Interlocal Agreement in place. Commissioner Novovitch suggested to review the process before the money goes out to pay legal fees for a draft of something that may not be approved.*

*Judge Cano stated that this is just an informational item and look at the pros and cons of an Interlocal Agreement. Judge Cano introduces Alan Haley of the Hospital District.*

*Mr. Haley informed the Court of the concerns of Big Bend Regional Hospital and stated that the name of the form was changing from Interlocal Agreement to Memorandum of Understanding.*

*Mr. Haley explained what the Memorandum of Understanding would consist of and the roles each entity would have.*

*Commissioner Novovitch acknowledge the work that went into the current ambulance service in Alpine.*

*Commissioner Ortega is concerned the longevity of the Memorandum of Understanding and what is in place for a new court should that happen. Mr. Haley explained that the creation of the Memorandum of Understanding will with stand any future Commissioner Court, City Council and Hospital Board.*

*Commissioner Ortega asked if the Hospital District will step up for the remaining funds to make this happen. Mr. Haley voted to receive and accept the Memorandum of Understanding and are hoping that a significant amount of funding will be grant approved.*

**14. Schedule a Called Commissioners Court Meeting (Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 5:30 P.M.)  
In re Insurance Health Insurance for Retirees and Future Retirees**

*Memorandum of Understanding draft at a recent Hospital District Board meeting and added that they are committed to see the agreement and subsequent RFP through.*

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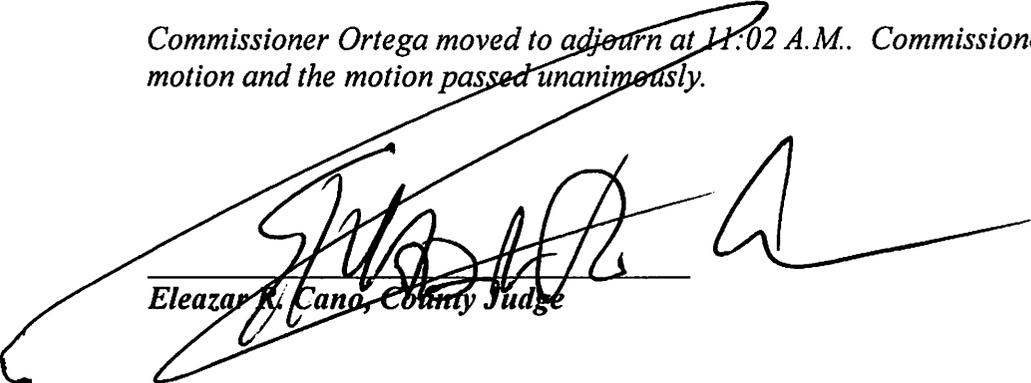
*Judge Cano encouraged any and all employees and retirees to attend this meeting as it will review options. Judge Cano informed the Court it would be held on May 17, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. This was done so all who work can be in attendance, informed Judge Cano.*

**15. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting (Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.)**

*The next regular Commissioner Court will be on May 24, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. in the County Courtroom in Alpine.*

**16. Adjourn**

*Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn at 11:02 A.M.. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

**ATTEST:**

*Berta Rios-Martinez*  
Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk